# **Progressing Housing First in Victoria**

October 2023

**OFFICIAL** 





## This was our foundation



#### Victoria's first initiatives launched in 2009 and 2010

- Common Ground
- Sacred Heart Mission's Journey to Social Inclusion.



### **Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Action Plan (2018)**

 Established assertive outreach and supportive housing teams, critical components of a Housing First response



### Our challenge to expand

 To demonstrate to the community that Housing First approaches work and have an enormous long-term benefit to the whole community – which merits greater investment by governments.

# The pandemic and scaling up Housing First approaches



#### In 2020-21

- 105,000 people sought support from homelessness services.
- Over 12,000 were identified as sleeping rough.
- Return clients: 60% of clients had already accessed homelessness services in the previous five years



### **Emergency hotel response**

- In the pandemic, emergency accommodation was provided to over 30,000 households for over 1.4 million nights.
- Onsite health concierge, homelessness support at up to 24 hotels



### Catalyst for ground-breaking investment in Housing First programs

- From Homelessness to a Home
- Homes For Families
- The Victorian Government invested over \$150 million across 2020-22, and \$12 million ongoing to deliver Housing First.

## What impact did we have?





### Who did we support?

- From Homelessness to a Home (H2H) supported over 2,500 people
- Homes for Families
   (H4F) supported 170

   families
- Across both programs:
   over 800 children
   supported

# Capital investment for Housing First

- \$5.3 billion Big Housing Build: greater access to social housing
- Over 450 spot purchases

# A visible reduction in people sleeping rough

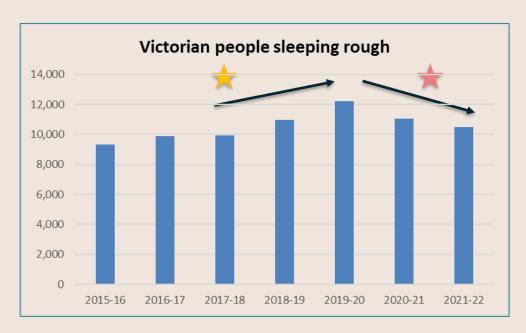
Between 2020-22, people sleeping rough declined by 14%.

Responses that ensured people did not return to rough sleeping.

Homelessness and Rough

Sleeping Action Plan
(\$45 million)





### **Lessons learned**

## **Lessons learned ensure continuous improvement**

### **Collaboration and collective impact**

- Ongoing sector engagement is critical
- Sectors working together support locally-driven responses

### Pathways to stable housing

- The scale of H2H presented challenges to rapidly source housing
- Ensuring a pathway to stable housing

### **Best practice support models**

 Some complex clients need extended support or additional support in supportive housing



We expect approx. 80% of households can sustain their housing

## What are we doing next?

### We are increasing investment for:

- Partnerships Addressing Disadvantage
- Self-determination: Aboriginal-specific entry points
- Eight supportive housing facilities: four are already operational in Melbourne, Carlton,
  Dandenong and Seddon; two are under construction in Melbourne and St Kilda, and two will
  be in regional Victoria.
- Housing First program for young people leaving care

#### Victoria's future

Making homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring through early intervention, targeted supports and **Housing First** approaches.

And self-determined interventions for Aboriginal people.

