Proving the Loop Can Be Broken

Economic modelling as a lever for achieving investment in prevention

Preventing the Fall | AHURI Conference
Vee Blackwood, Policy & Advocacy Director, Homelessness NSW

Where modelling stops

$200M

NSW Temporary Accommodation cost, 2024–25

Diagnostic evidence. It establishes urgency — it doesn't direct action.

- Doesn't tell government what to do next
- Risks new funding going to crisis, not prevention
- Can leave the problem looking too big to solve

What our modelling should do instead: demonstrate the system is solvable — show the mechanism, and show what happens if you change it.

A system that reinforces itself



A loop, not a gap — and new investment doesn't automatically break it.

Building Crisis Housing Plan

New crisis accommodation — but no funding for support services. New money, arriving inside the same structural bias.

“Our modelling’s job isn’t to prove the problem is big — it’s to prove the loop can be broken.”

Vee Blackwood — Policy & Advocacy Director, Homelessness NSW