



# National Report Card on Youth Homelessness – where to from here?

Healthy Development Adelaide (HDA):  
Youth Homelessness in South Australia

Wednesday 20 November 2019

Dr Tammy Hand

A NATIONAL

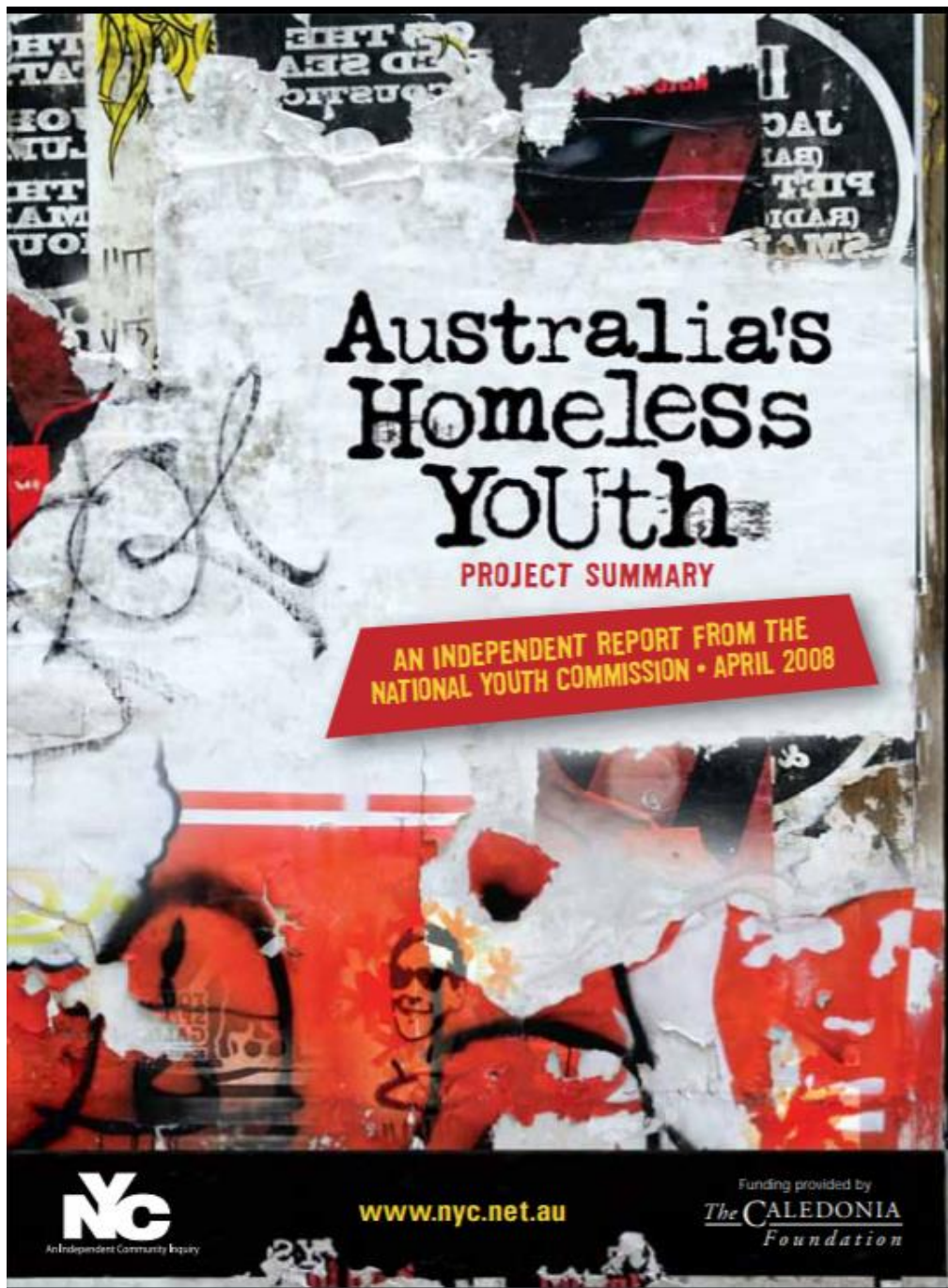
# ReportCard

ON YOUTH HOMELESSNESS



1. Develop and Implement a National Framework and National Homelessness Action Plan	★★ DEVELOPING
2. Affordable housing for young people	★ LITTLE PROGRESS
3. Refocus service provision on building and resourcing 'communities of services'	★★ DEVELOPING
4. Prevent homelessness by supporting 'at-risk' families	★★ DEVELOPING
5. Resource early intervention for at-risk young people	★ LITTLE PROGRESS
6. A new national approach for the care and protection of children in all states and territories	★★ DEVELOPING
7. Ensure supported accommodation is accessible in all communities	★★ DEVELOPING
8. Redevelop employment (1), D&A (2) and mental health (3) programs for homeless young people	★ (1) LITTLE PROGRESS ★ (2) LITTLE PROGRESS ★★★ (3) ADVANCING
9. A new form of youth housing which links housing to education, training and employment programs	★★★ ADVANCING
10. Post-vention support	★ LITTLE PROGRESS

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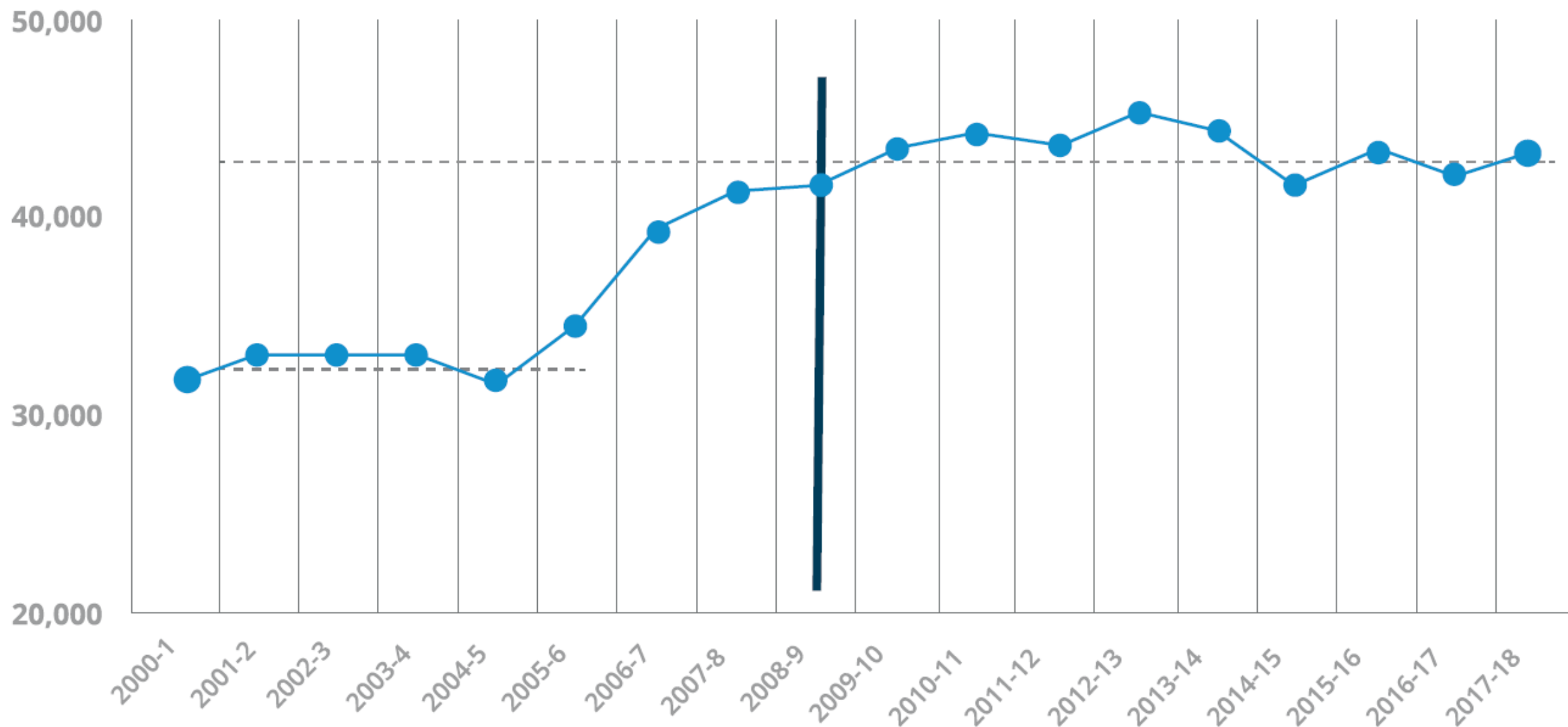


Download a copy of [The Australia's homeless youth: a report of the National Youth Commission inquiry into youth homelessness](#) - 8 APR 2008

DOWNLOAD A COPY OF THE [10 POINT ROADMAP](#)

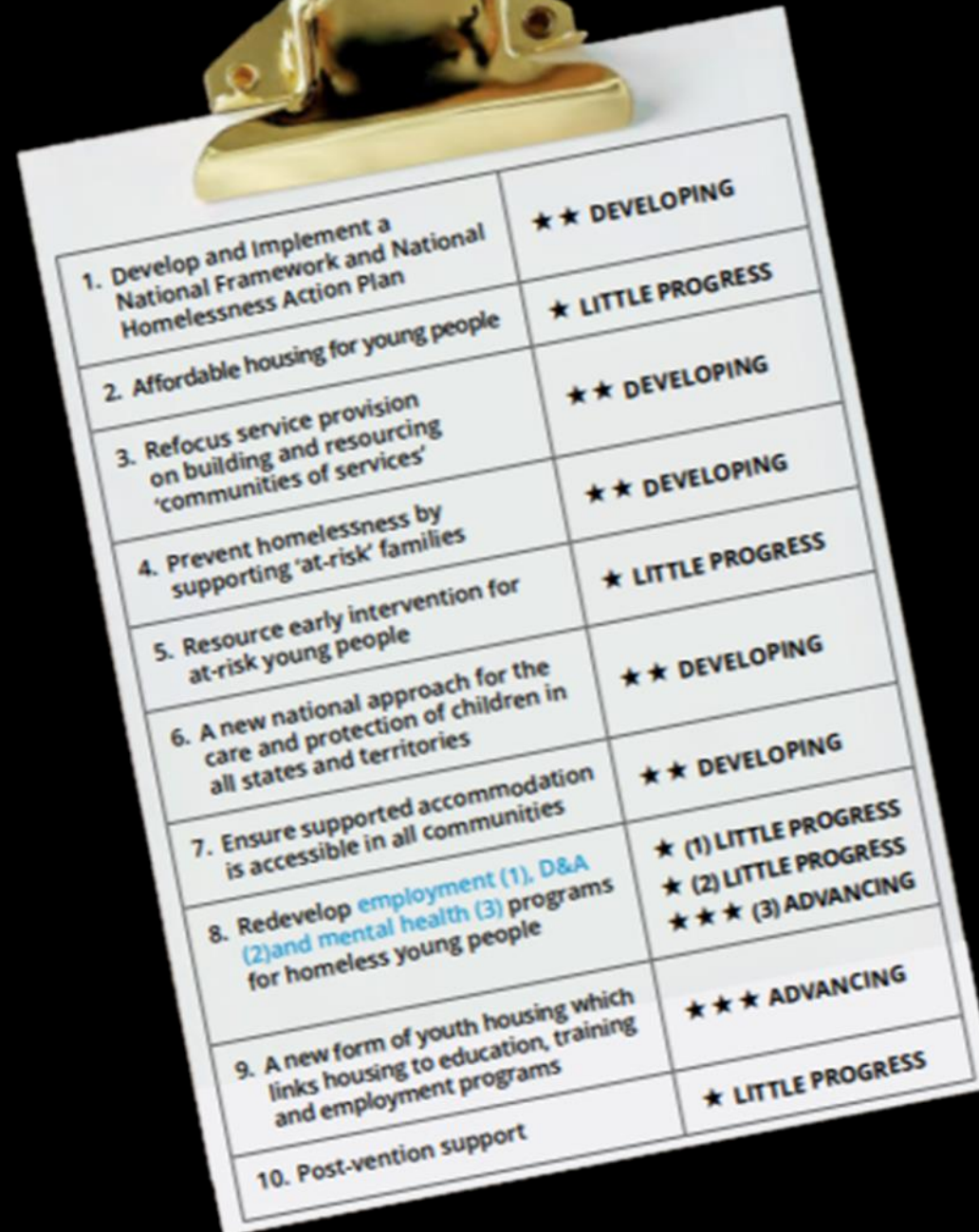
VIEW MATERIALS ABOUT [THE OASIS](#)

## SPECIALIST HOMELESSNESS SERVICES CLIENTS: 15-24 YEARS



2008 White Paper, The Road Home 'Halving homelessness by 2020' (?) 'turning off the tap' or early intervention and prevention

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THE  
SAME  
OLD  
THINKING

THE  
SAME  
OLD  
RESULTS



The status quo – the current homelessness service system



[Look beyond crisis accommodation so people like Courtney Heron aren't homeless in the first place](#), *The Conversation*, 10 June 2019.





A crisis response is  
NOT enough!

Huge investments in  
crisis responses will  
NEVER  
Turn Off the Tap



### THE FOUR PROPOSED STRATEGIC REFORMS ARE:

#### 1. Early Intervention

Without early intervention to stem the flow of young people into homelessness, the problems will continue as has been the case over the past decade. We need to arrest incipient issues leading to homelessness before crises arise. Rather than the status quo of disconnected programs running out of different department siloes, there is mounting evidence that an adequately funded place-based 'collective impact' approach to early intervention has the potential to be a game-changer. The internationally recognised Geelong Project or 'community of services and schools' COSS Model has demonstrated what is achievable on the ground and offers community-driven and community-based system reform

#### 2. Rapid Rehousing

There is a need for a youth housing and homelessness strategy that delivers rapid rehousing for homeless young people; incorporates a major rethink of social housing as a viable transitional option for young people; and invests significantly in youth-specific and youth-appropriate housing options, including youth-specific social housing.

Housing alone is often not enough for homeless young people. Many also need to be supported through a successful transition to independence and well-being

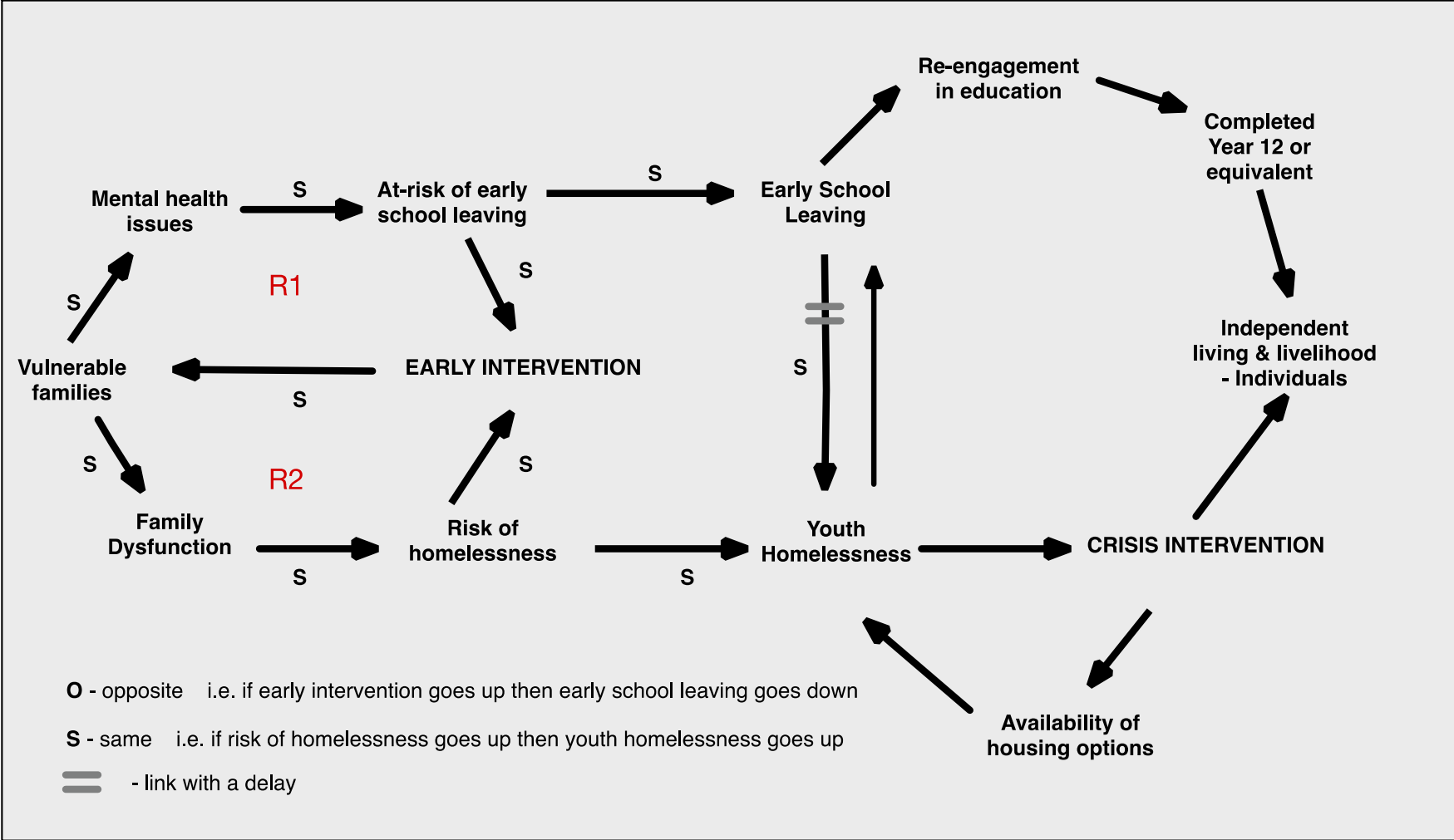
#### 3. Engagement

Everything we do to support disadvantaged young Australians has to address how to ensure they are sufficiently educated and trained up for a viable livelihood in a rapidly changing economy. Rather than the kinds of programs that have been rolled out for unemployed young people, a different way forward is called for - a place-based community approach that brings together employers, schools, training organisations, local government and other stakeholders to ensure that all young Australians are supported to achieve the best education, training and employment outcomes possible.

#### 4. Extending State Care

Urgent reform to the support provided to young people leaving the care and protection system. Experience in the Care and Protection system is a major driver of youth homelessness. These young people are possibly the most vulnerable cohort in terms of homelessness and further lifetime disadvantage. An urgent reform that will have a major impact is to adequately fund the support to young people in care until 21 years of age, with the Commonwealth providing 50 percent of the cost of extended care and on the basis of an agreed adequate national standard.

# Adolescent Homelessness – Causal Loop Diagram

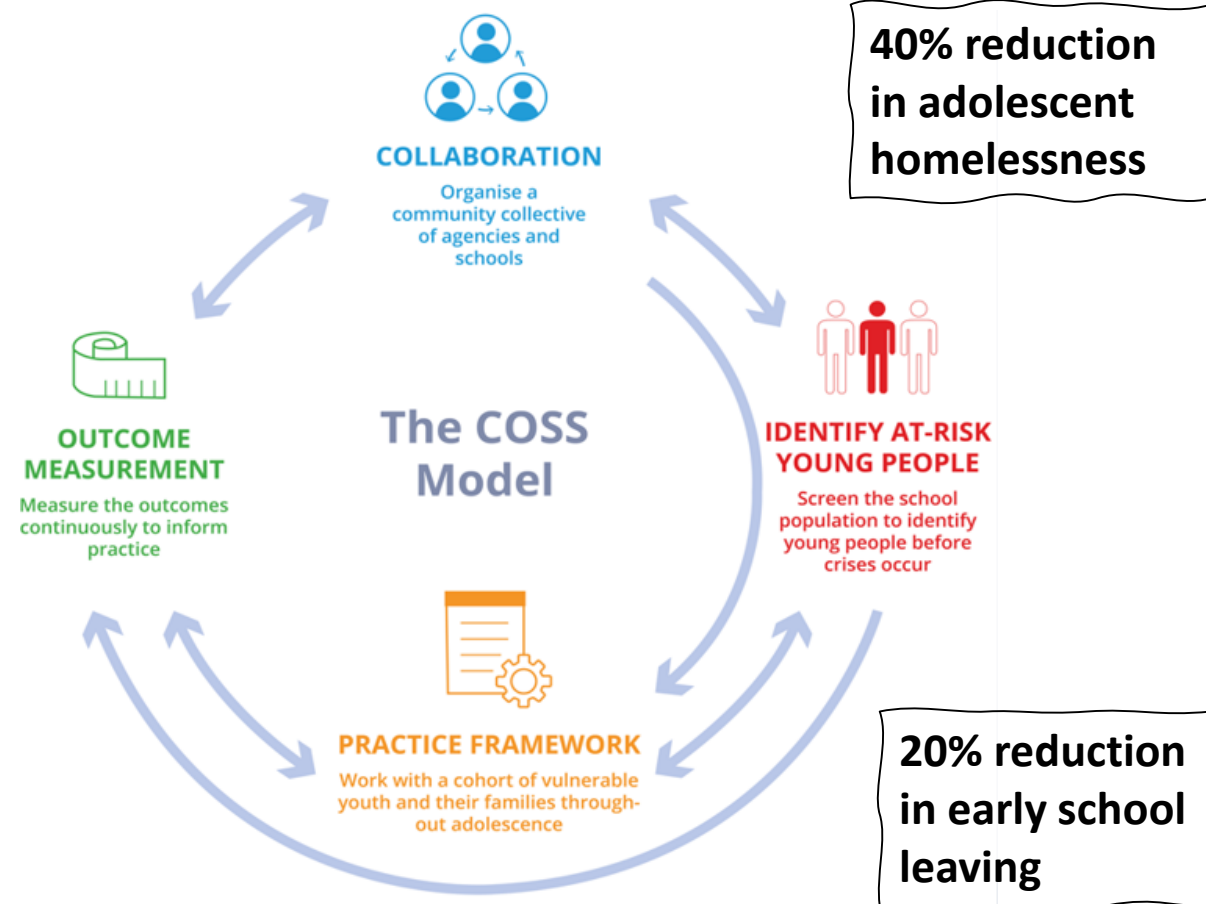


# Early Intervention for Youth Homelessness

## What lies beyond Reconnect?

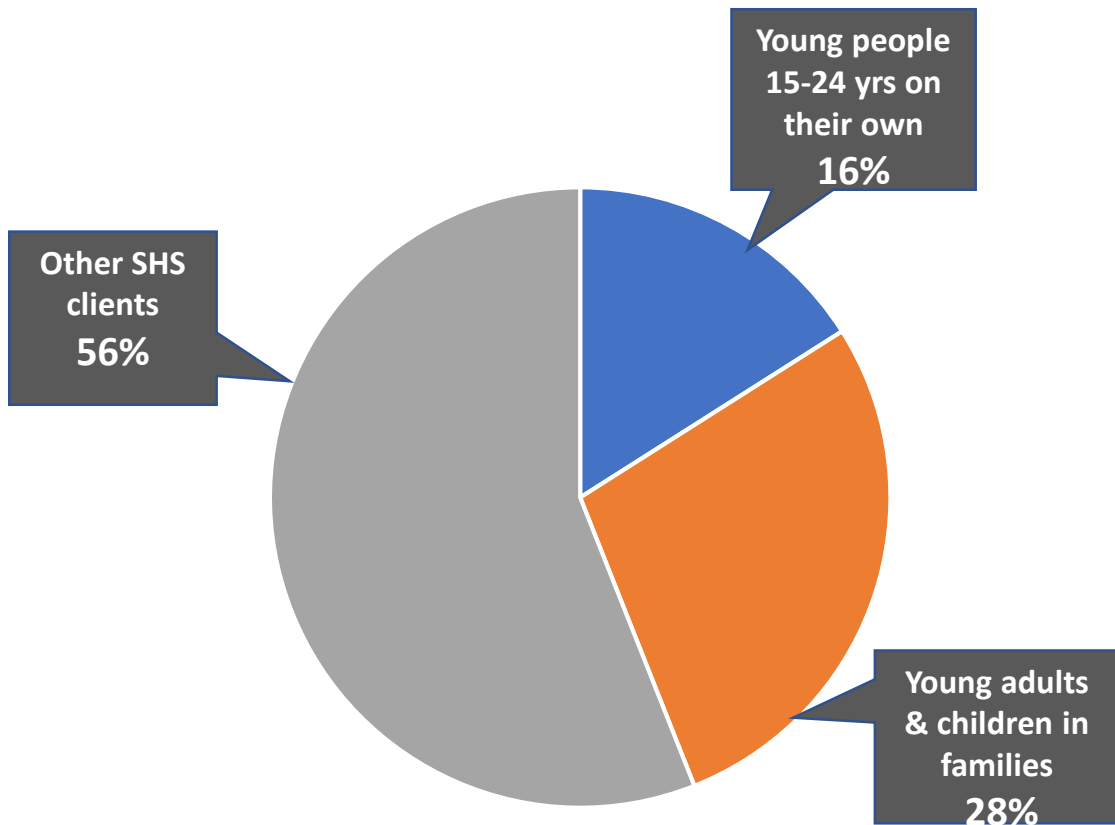
*Can early intervention be done more effectively? Are there reforms in the way schools and agencies interact that should be pursued? ... The impetus for reform is not because Reconnect is failing, but as a way of strengthening early intervention as not only a response to homelessness but a more robust multi-issue response that is capable of dealing with whatever adolescent issues arise and in a way that can deal with both early school leaving and youth homelessness* (MacKenzie & Thielking 2014: 15).

## The Community of Schools and Services Model

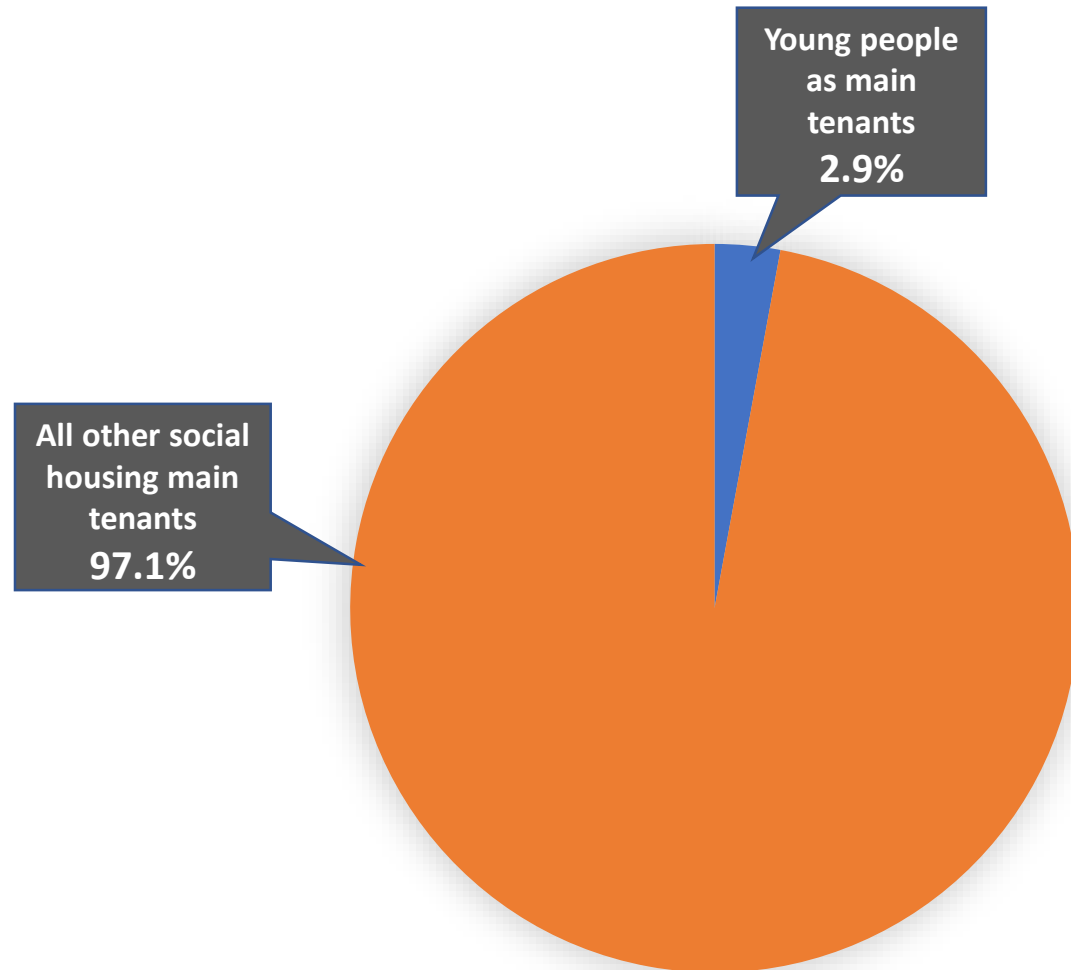


# Backend Status Quo

## SHS Clients

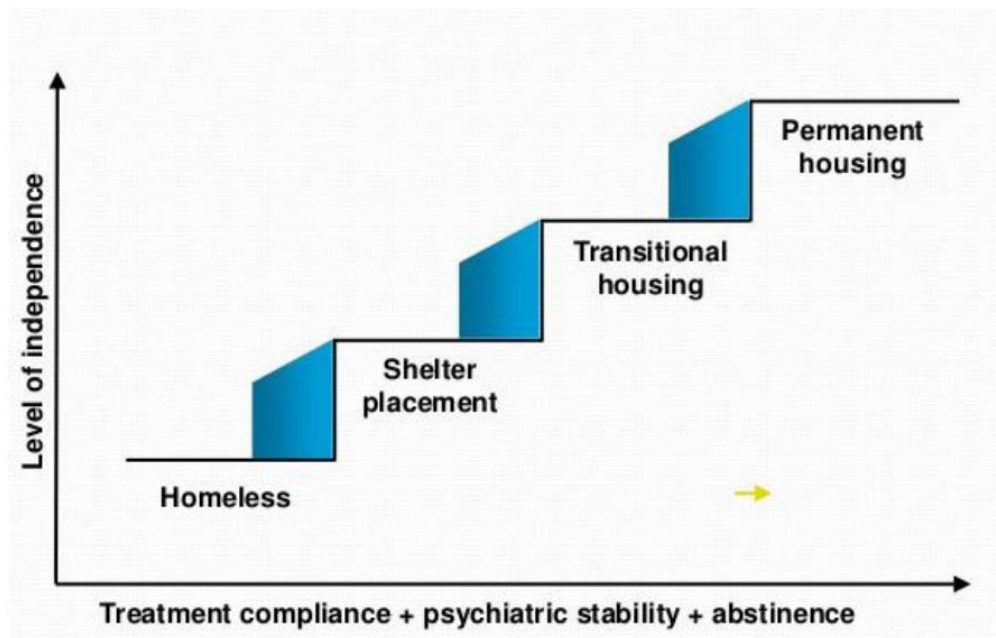


## Main Tenants in Social Housing



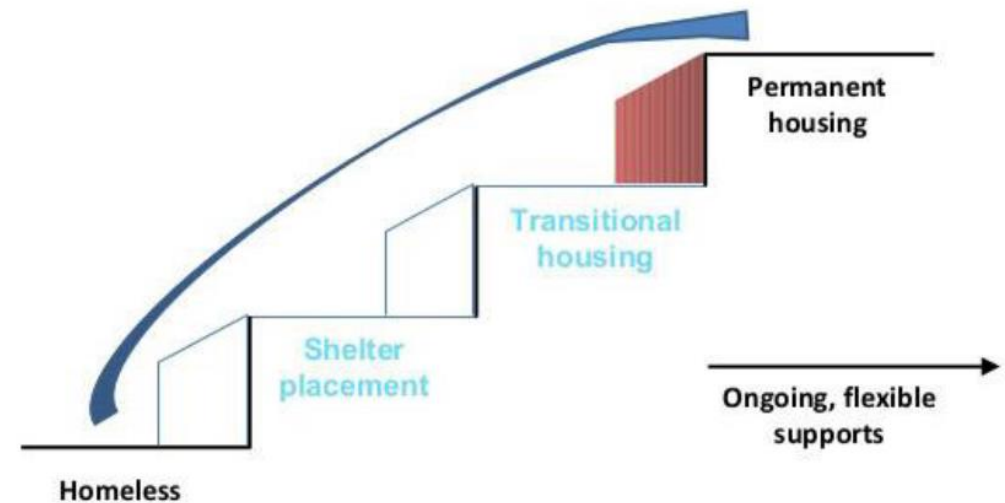
# Backend Change – Rapid Rehousing

## Treatment as usual

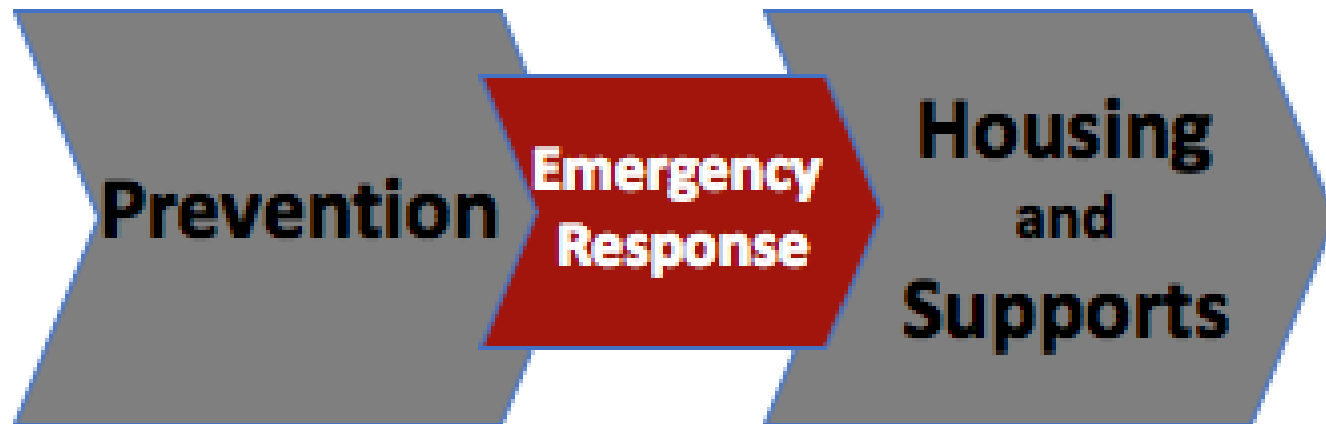


Gaetz & Redman Slide, 2019

## Rapid Rehousing (Housing First)



Tsemberis slide,  
2010



A rebalanced  
future youth  
homelessness  
service  
system

# Youth Homelessness & Early School Leaving are EXPENSIVE

## The cost of youth homelessness in Australia

The average costs per person per year due to homeless *per se* was \$14,986 in health and justice costs alone.

This amounts to an annual cost to the community of \$626m, which is more than the \$619m spend on providing homeless services in Australia for all people using these services each year.

These costs are apart from the cost of providing support and accommodation through SHS.

## Counting the costs of lost opportunity in Australian education

Early school leavers cost the government-community a fiscal annual cost of \$8,400 per person and a social cost of \$15,400 per person. Over a lifetime, this becomes a fiscal cost of \$334,600 per person and a social cost of \$616,200 per person.

For the entire Australian early school leaver cohort, the annual fiscal cost is \$315.3 million, and the annual social cost is \$580.7 million.

Scaled up over a lifetime period, the costs of early school leaving amount to a fiscal cost of \$12.6 billion and a social cost of \$23.2 billion.



A clear implication from the finding of high cost offsets in health and criminal justice for homeless youth is that efforts to successfully achieve early intervention have the potential to save significant public expenditure into the future. If only five percent of the young people entering the homelessness system every year could be diverted from becoming homeless at the outset, then the saving to the budget bottom-line in reduced health and justice services and Specialist Homelessness Services usage and would be approximately \$60m annually. If these same young people could be at the same time supported to remain in school and finish Year 12, there would be another major saving for the Australian community over the long-term.

Clearly there is an economic incentive to invest in more effective early intervention.

# Early Intervention – the cost savings of Turning Off the Tap

“One of the hardest things we had to do in the original [Burdekin] Report was to convince government, the pragmatists, the bean counters in Treasury and Finance that the costs of not addressing the issues are much higher than the costs of having appropriate policy settings.”

Professor Brian Burdekin, Launch of the National Youth Commission Inquiry into Youth Homelessness, 8th March 2007.

