



## **MEDIA RELEASE: EMBARGOED Thursday 22 February 2018**

### **Adelaide commits to Functional Zero Homelessness by 2020**

An Action Plan has been collaboratively developed to implement a bold new target for the implementation of the Adelaide Zero Project, aimed at achieving Functional Zero<sup>1</sup> homelessness in Adelaide's CBD within two years.

More than 30 organisations have committed to the 2020 target, developed as part of a rapid design process over the past 90 days.

Today, politicians from all political parties will be signing on to support the Zero Project's 2020 target.

In Adelaide's CBD, about 120 people are sleeping rough on any given night.

The Don Dunstan Foundation's Executive Director David Pearson says the 2020 commitment follows extensive consultation to set an achievable and sustainable goal.

"We can now start implementing a plan to make Functional Zero homelessness a reality in our city," Mr Pearson says.

The Adelaide Zero Project's Implementation (Action) Plan includes:

- Hutt Street Centre to run a Connections Week to confirm the names of all the people sleeping rough on any given night in Adelaide's CBD.
- Neami National to establish and maintain a 'by name list' of every person sleeping rough throughout the year.
- Don Dunstan Foundation to develop an online Dashboard to track the number of people sleeping rough and those moved to secure housing.
- Anglicare SA to develop an Aligned Housing Plan to ensure housing is prioritised for people on the 'by name list'.
- City of Adelaide to form a Business Alliance to End Homelessness.

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<sup>1</sup> Functional zero homelessness is reached when the number of people who are homeless in a city on any given night is no greater than the housing placement availability for that night – and is reduced over time. This focuses on the need for housing supply to match demand in the short term, and in the longer term.

- End Homelessness SA to develop a Charter that can be signed on to by project partners, community organisations, businesses and individuals wanting to demonstrate their commitment to the Adelaide Zero Project.
- Don Dunstan Foundation to establish a number of Solutions Labs to provide a platform for those with lived experience, concerned citizens and relevant community organisations to share their knowledge about any ongoing problems the sector continues to face and how together innovative solutions can be developed.

“We will also be doing more work so that we can better respond to the needs of homelessness among Aboriginal people in Adelaide’s CBD,” Mr Pearson says.

Since its inception in August last year, The Adelaide Zero Project has been based on a highly successful approach being rolled out across the United States.

Community Solutions first developed the Functional Zero approach, which since January 2015 has seen 75 communities across the United States house more than 75,000 people, including more than 40,000 veterans. Seven US communities have achieved Functional Zero homelessness for veterans, and four communities for chronically homeless people.

“The release of this Action Plan marks a significant step forward to developing long-term solutions to homelessness which isn’t focussed on crisis accommodation,” Mr Pearson says.

“We live in the fifth most liveable city in the world, and it is simply unacceptable that too many of our fellow citizens have nowhere to live – the Zero Project is our collective response to say ‘no more’,” he says.

Adelaide was recognised late last year by the Institute for Global Homelessness as one of 12 cities in the world leading the way in tackling street homelessness.

For more details on the Adelaide Zero Project’s Implementation Plan - <https://www.dunstan.org.au/projects/homelessness/>

**Adelaide Zero Project Implementation Plan launch - Thursday 22 February, 10am at the Adelaide Town Hall (David Spence Room), 128 King William Street, Adelaide.**

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**FOR MEDIA ENQUIRIES OR TO ARRANGE INTERVIEWS CONTACT: The Message Bureau, (08) 8223 7703 or 0419 754 564.**

## **Adelaide Zero Project Partners**

### **Presented by**

Don Dunstan Foundation

### **Principal Partner**

Bendigo Bank

### **University Partners**

Flinders University

University of Adelaide

### **Government Partners**

City of Adelaide

Government of South Australia – Department for Communities and Social Inclusion

Government of South Australia – Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Government of South Australia – Department for Correctional Services

### **Major Partners**

Aboriginal Sobriety Group

Anglicare SA

Baptist Care

Broadley Trust

Catherine House Inc

Common Ground

Community Bank

Hutt St Centre

Life Without Barriers

Neami National

OARS Community Transition

Salvation Army

St John's Youth Services Incorporated

SYC

Uniting Communities

### **Supporting Partners**

Australian Alliance to End Homelessness

Community Solutions

Institute of Global Homelessness

Mental Health Coalition of South Australia

Message Bureau

Shelter SA

Shiny Ideas

Together SA

Women's Safety Services SA

## **Adelaide Zero Project Partner quotes:**

**City of Adelaide Lord Mayor Martin Haese** says the Implementation Plan marks an important step in responding to this complex issue and towards achieving functional zero homelessness in the City of Adelaide.

**AnglicareSA CEO Rev Peter Sandeman** says collective action is the only way to approach Adelaide's homelessness and housing challenges and it's heartening to see the number of organisations signing up to the 2020 target.

**CEO of Catherine House Louise Miller Frost** says this is solvable and Catherine House is pleased to be part of a multi-agency approach to end street homelessness in Adelaide's CBD by 2020.

Bendigo Bank is the Adelaide Zero Project's Principal Partner and **State Manager SA/NT Joe Formichella** says working for the benefit of our customers and the community is an integral part of how we do business.

**Advisory Committee Chair of the Institute of Global Homelessness Dame Louise Casey** says ending street homelessness is a problem which can be solved, and I'm very encouraged by the commitment shown by local politicians, the not-for-profits and private sectors to work together to take action in Adelaide.

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