Brief submission

The Penrith Homelessness Interagency (PHI) is a professional community forum committed to addressing homelessness issues in the Penrith LGA. In response to the information presented on the proposed social housing reform, the PHI reiterates the importance in strengthening the current housing system through increased government investment particularly to facilitate asset replacement & increased growth in current stock levels. Increased funding for an improved and integrated service response would ensure better access and clearer pathways to housing. An increased choice of diverse housing options would lead to more sustainable tenancies as people would be matched appropriately to properties both within the social housing system & private rental. It is evident that good working relationships & collaboration between housing and support providers are imperative in achieving long-term outcomes that reduce homelessness. Services that provide support, information and advocacy are essential to the implementation of a person centered approach as vulnerable people including youth will require support in exercising their choice both in social housing and private rental market. The concurrent management of housing & services can present challenges when controlled by a range of organisations both government, community & private business as the various approaches to service may differ considerably. Increasing competition amongst organisations will have negative impact on the service system through eliminating collaboration and shifting focus to short term goals. The dire impact of a competitive environment cannot be underestimated - a fragmented service system cannot adequately support people or assist them to achieve the best outcomes. A competitive environment is not compatible with good service delivery, i.e a lack of consistency in service providers leads to people not accessing accessing the right support & service providers not having working relationships with each other.

Penrith Homelessness Interagency (PHI)