Government Ensures Future of Key Homelessness Program

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NT Shelter’s *Homelessness Response Group* program has been awarded funding to continue to assist homeless people and people at risk of homelessness, secure accommodation and connect with support services, the Minister for Housing and Community Development Gerry McCarthy announced today.

Mr McCarthy said sadly the Northern Territory has the highest homelessness rate in the nation and these projects are critical to support people during challenging times.

“Just over $245,000 has been awarded to the *Homelessness Response Group* to help people secure emergency and medium term accommodation, access mental health programs, reconnect with mentor programs and access funds to help with essential household items,” Mr McCarthy said.

“The *Homelessness Response Group* connects 11 non-government organisations (NGO) so people only need to tell their story to one case manager who works on behalf of the client to coordinate services to help break the cycle of homelessness.”

NT Shelter Executive Officer Tammy White said the announcement was fantastic news.

“We are very grateful that Minister McCarthy approved this grant, because without the funds we would not be able to continue this program,” Ms White said.

“The *Homelessness Response Group* has demonstrated the NGO sector can work closely together to help people in all different situations to overcome or avoid homelessness.

“We can continue to deliver integrated wrap around services to clients with high end needs, through joining up services and working in partnership.”

The *Homelessness Response Group* was due to wind up on 30 December 2016, but can now continue for another 18 months.

NGOs who are part of the *Homelessness Response Group* include St Vincent de Paul Society, YMCA, YWCA of Darwin, Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation, Mission Australia, The Salvation Army, Anglicare NT, TEAMhealth, Council for Aboriginal Alcohol Program Services, Dawn House Women’s Shelter; and NT Aids and Hepatitis Council.
For more information on homeless services for Territorians visit the ShelterMe website at www.shelterme.org.au.

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