Health and Community Services Minister Jane Aagaard today said she was confident of reaching an agreement on meeting the needs of the homeless in Alice Springs.

Mrs Aagaard said government officials met with representatives of the Salvation Army in Alice Springs on Wednesday and Thursday. Those discussions will continue.

The discussions are focusing on what action is required as a result of the closure in June of the Red Shield Hostel in Alice Springs.

Mrs Aagaard met with the Salvation Army in Alice Springs last week to discuss options for a future service and funding agreement for accommodation support services.

"Following the closure of the Red Shield, the previous government gave the Salvation Army brokerage funding to assist in supporting homeless people to access crisis accommodation," she said.

"At that time, it was acknowledged that there would need to be some analysis and consultation about whether the changes had left some people still in need.

"The changes in funding for services operated by the Salvation Army in Alice Springs have not resulted in any loss of 'beds' or services.

"Funding was redirected towards services that provide more longer term support to assist homeless people, so there has actually been an increase in the range of services in the town," she said.

"However, consultation has indicated that there are some people who remain in need of enhanced services.

"My department is working with the Salvation Army to develop an appropriate service model that will address an area of unmet need which has been identified in the Alice Springs region."

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