



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## ADELAIDE ROUGH SLEEPER NUMBERS ALMOST HALVED

Latest figures show the number of rough sleepers in the inner city have almost halved in the last 15 months.

Social Inclusion Commissioner Monsignor David Cappo announced the figures with Families and Communities Minister Jennifer Rankine at a Common Ground dinner with Ms Therese Rein, the wife of Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and patron of the supported housing initiative.

The fourth Inner-City Rough Sleeping Count puts the number of rough sleepers at 59 individuals, down 45 per cent (from 108) since the first count taken in June 2007.

Ms Rein welcomed new figures showing a reduction in the number of inner-city rough sleepers and acknowledged the value of the Common Ground approach.

Last night, while thanking Ms Rein for her commitment to Common Ground, and the inner-city agencies which have worked to reduce homelessness within the City of Monsignor David Cappo said the job was far from over.

“We’ve been successful with our target area – inner-city rough sleepers – but there is still lots of work to be done,” he said.

Apart from the Inner-City Rough Sleeping Count, statewide ABS Census figures show reductions in three out of four areas of homelessness.

There are less people sleeping rough with a 5.5 per cent reduction across South Australia, couch surfing is down by 12.2 per cent and 4.8 per cent less people are living in sub-standard boarding house accommodation. There is a significant increase in people accessing supported accommodation.

“Our next challenge is to get those people into permanent housing and for those who need it, into supported housing with tenure, as in Common Ground and other high-needs housing,” said Monsignor Cappo.

“Another 60 Common Ground apartments are due for completion in Light Square in July next year representing a significant boost to our efforts to solve the problem of rough sleeping within South Australia.”

Minister Rankine said it was pleasing to be leading the nation in overall homelessness numbers but said there is always more to be done.

“It’s particularly pleasing to see the reduction in homelessness affecting people in the most dire circumstances,” she said.

“I think this shows that the efforts that we are putting into helping our most vulnerable end are having real impacts and delivering great results.”

**Background:**

The ABS Census figures reported in *Counting the Homeless* (ABS/Chamberlain and MacKenzie, September) showed that **across South Australia:**

- Primary homelessness (rough sleeping) has reduced by 5.5 per cent since 2001
- Unsupported secondary homelessness (couch surfing) is down by 12.2 per cent
- People living in sub-standard boarding house accommodation is down by 4.8 per cent
- Youth homelessness is also down by 12 per cent
- People accessing supported options through Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) increased by 89.5 per cent largely due to the increased number of accommodation places available through SAAP services.

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