

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Rough sleepers in NSW Mid-North Coast get a new lease of life**

A landmark \$36.1 million investment by the NSW government to combat chronic homelessness will enable community housing providers to launch life-changing programs for rough sleepers across the state.

Australia's largest not-for-profit community housing provider Community Housing Ltd (CHL), which is a primary social and affordable housing provider in the Mid-North Coast, has received over \$1.6 million in funding which will help transition 24 rough sleepers into long-term affordable housing in areas including Port Macquarie, Coffs Harbour, Kempsey and Nambucca Heads.

Announced as part of the *Together Home* project, funding will support people who have been homeless specially during current times, to transition them into stable and secure accommodation.

The funding will allow CHL to head-lease properties in the private rental market and engage specialist support agencies to deliver wrap around support to some of the most vulnerable in society.

Managing Director of CHL Steve Bevington said the funding couldn't have come at a more crucial time and is a significant step in the right direction towards breaking the cycle of systematic homelessness in the region.

"It is encouraging to see the NSW government consistently prioritising funding in this area where it's so desperately needed, providing a new lease of life to those who have fallen into difficulties due to issues such as unemployment, family breakdown, illness and then have ended up sleeping rough," Mr Bevington said.

“This funding will allow CHL to prioritise housing and support to those at the hardest end of the homelessness cycle back into housing and community life.”

“In the last two months alone, CHL has assisted 28 rough sleepers in the region with one third of those offered long term secure housing with CHL whilst others were offered private rental and temporary accommodation options.”

“The demand is high and this historic funding from the NSW government will allow organisations like CHL to house even more people, giving them the foundation, they need to turn their life around”, Steve added.

The *Together Home* program supports the NSW Premier’s priority to end homelessness and halve street sleeping by 2025.

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**About Community Housing Limited (CHL):**

*CHL is a national not for profit provider of community and affordable housing to those disadvantaged in the private rental market. In Australia, the Group manages over 11,000 properties across six states through its extensive network of 22 offices. It also develops affordable housing overseas and has offices in Timor Leste, Chile, PNG, Rwanda, Peru, Indonesia and India.*

*CHL’s portfolio in NSW includes over 3,000 properties and stretches from Bega in the south to Grafton in the north, managed from five major offices in Port Macquarie, Kempsey, Coffs Harbour, Taree and Parramatta. CHL is the lead coordinator of social housing services in the Mid North Coast region of NSW.*

*CHL’s service offering is diverse from crisis and transitional accommodation to long-term housing, property development, tenancy and property management, and community development.*

[www.chl.org.au](http://www.chl.org.au)

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