

News Release **Premier Jay Weatherill**

Treasurer
Minister for State Development
Minister for the Public Sector
Minister for the Arts

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New national program to tackle homelessness kicks off in South Australia

The State Government is joining forces with The Big Issue, to help provide more affordable housing and support for homeless people.

Premier Jay Weatherill has announced a \$400,000 grant and city office space for The Big Issue.

This will allow the organisation to open its first office for its new national Homes for Homes initiative, being launched today.

Under the program, people and organisations involved in property transactions will be encouraged to make a tax-deductible donation of a portion of the proceeds of a property sale to the Homes for Homes program.

The donations will go towards providing affordable homes and homelessness support.

The program has the potential to deliver up to 180 affordable homes across the State and 2500 nationally.

“South Australia has been a leader in providing support for homeless people and for affordable housing,” Mr Weatherill said.

“We have the lowest percentage of homelessness per capita and the highest proportion of public housing in Australia and we are again leading the nation through this initiative.

“Housing is the single largest expense in a family budget, which is why we have made keeping South Australia an affordable place to live a priority.

“We all have a role to play in supporting the most vulnerable – Government, the private sector and the broader community.

“The Big Issue does tremendous work supporting people who are homeless or disadvantaged by helping them earn money and re-engage with the community. Homes for Homes builds on that, by enabling The Big Issue to work with property developers, home owners and the community housing sector to help people who need our support the most.

Big Issue chief executive officer Steven Persson welcomed the announcement of State Government funding for Homes for Homes.

“We applaud the SA government’s focus on supporting initiatives that help Australia’s most vulnerable people exit homelessness – “Homes for Homes” is an innovative, sustainable solution to this significant challenge.”