

Councillor Martin - QoN - Rough Sleeping and Homelessness in the City

Tuesday, 10 February 2026
Council

Council Member
Councillor Phillip Martin

Public

Contact Officer:
Iliia Houridis, Director City Shaping

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Councillor Phillip Martin will ask the following Question on Notice:

‘Could the Administration advise;

1. If the City of Adelaide was able, during the recent heat waves and repeated declarations of a Code Red, to assist, either separately or through our support for the Adelaide Zero project;
 - 1.1. rough sleepers who were obliged by circumstance or preference to sleep outdoors
 - 1.2. those who were homeless, but sleeping in vehicles or other forms of shelter not including venues operated by homeless agencies
 - 1.3. homeless agencies which provide shelter and services but which were already dealing with a shortage of beds and an inability to provide basic services, and
2. Can the Administration advise if there are any measures not currently in place that it recommends Council could adopt to assist vulnerable, homeless people when a Code Red or Blue is declared?’

REPLY

City of Adelaide Response

1. During extreme weather events, including the recent heatwave, the City of Adelaide response includes:
 - 1.1. Public information distributed via social media, the City of Adelaide website, and digital bus shelters.
 - 1.2. Libraries and Community Centres:
 - 1.2.1. Inform vulnerable community members about extreme weather and extended homelessness services
 - 1.2.2. Display notices and provide information packs
 - 1.2.3. Act as heat and weather refuges during normal operating hours.
 - 1.3. City Operations and Community Safety teams:
 - 1.3.1. Refer vulnerable individuals to Homelessness Connect (State Government homelessness service)
 - 1.3.2. Promote awareness of extended homelessness services.
 - 1.4. Community Safety reviews enforcement of cease camping notices unless there are significant safety concerns (e.g. playgrounds, toilets, highly impacted areas).
 - 1.5. Customer Centre provide information about extreme weather events and referral pathways to Homelessness Connect.

- 1.6. Rundle Mall remains open during normal business hours with access to air-conditioned premises and drinking fountains.
2. Libraries and Community Centres experience increased demand for drinking water and shelter during extreme weather events. This includes people experiencing homelessness and other vulnerable community members who may be unable to cool their homes due to cost, lack of air conditioning, or social isolation.
3. Administration report increased incidents of aggressive behaviour during extreme heat, often linked to exacerbated mental health conditions.

Response by Homelessness Agencies

4. The State Government is responsible for homelessness services which are delivered primarily through an Alliance model.
5. The City of Adelaide is within the geographic area covered by the Toward Home Alliance which services the Adelaide CBD, southern inner and outer metro areas and Adelaide Hills.
6. The Toward Home Alliance comprises nine organisations, including Lutheran Care, Hutt Street Centre, and Baptist Care SA, which increase their service response during Code Red and Code Blue periods:
 - 6.1. Code Red – Tier 1
 - 6.1.1. Distribution of water, sunscreen, hats, and hydration supplies
 - 6.1.2. Extended daytime service hours and staffing
 - 6.1.3. Identification and prioritisation of heat watch clients
 - 6.1.4. Maps of air-conditioned public spaces and drinking fountains
 - 6.1.5. Heat stress education and emergency contact information.
 - 6.2. Code Blue – Tier 1
 - 6.2.1. Distribution of hot drinks, meals, bedding, blankets, sleeping bags, and warm clothing
 - 6.2.2. Maps of heated public spaces
 - 6.2.3. Emergency contact information
 - 6.2.4. Extended daytime service hours and staffing.
 - 6.3. Depending on severity, emergency accommodation may be provided through:
 - 6.3.1. Referrals to existing shelters
 - 6.3.2. Hotel or motel accommodation for high-risk clients
 - 6.3.3. Outreach support for accommodated clients.
7. The City of Adelaide partially funds the Adelaide Zero Project (AZP), with the State Government and the Toward Home Alliance, to provide direct services to rough sleepers in Adelaide and North Adelaide.

Additional measures

8. The City of Adelaide's Homelessness Strategy – Everyone's Business, identifies an active role for Council in responding to extreme weather events.
9. Under Goal 3 – Safety and Support: People are safe and have access to support – a key action is to:
 - 9.1. In partnership with the South Australian Homeless Alliance, investigate the availability of City of Adelaide community infrastructure during extreme heat and cold events, such as when the State Government declares Code Red or Code Blue conditions.
10. Goal 3 is being delivered through the current City of Adelaide response, with additional future considerations subject to budget deliberations and advocacy efforts.
11. Potential actions to further support vulnerable and homeless people during Code Red or Code Blue events include:
 - 11.1. Extending the network of public drinking fountains across the city, North Adelaide and the Adelaide Park Lands.
 - 11.2. Investigating supported mobile cooling hubs, in partnership with the State Government and Toward Home Alliance, similar to those used by the City of Sydney ([Link 1](#)).

- 11.3. Advocating to State and Federal Governments for increased provision of permanent supportive housing.
- 11.4. Advocating to the State Government for the provision of extreme weather and cold weather kits available for collection from City of Adelaide customer locations.
- 12. If the City of Adelaide was to consider increased use of community facilities to support vulnerable community members, further feasibility on the resourcing, security, and specialist expertise to manage the complexities of supporting vulnerable community members would be required.
- 13. The State Government, through the Department of Human Services, is currently undertaking an Extreme Weather Response Review, of which the City of Adelaide is a member of the Steering Committee. The State Government's review and recommendations are due to be finalised by 30 June 2026.

Staff time in receiving and preparing this reply	To prepare this reply in response to the question on notice took approximately 7.5 hours
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