

# Councillor Cabada - MoN - Advocacy to State Government for increased homelessness response

Tuesday, 24 February 2026  
Council

**Council Member**  
Councillor Alfredo Cabada

Public

**Contact Officer:**  
Iliia Houridis, Director City Shaping

## MOTION ON NOTICE

**Councillor Alfredo Cabada will move a motion and seek a seconder for the matter shown below to facilitate consideration by the Council:**

'That Council:

1. Notes increasing community and business concerns regarding the adequacy of supports for people experiencing homelessness in City and North Adelaide.
2. Notes that the number of homeless people in the community is not reducing and that the supply of transitional and permanent housing for individuals who are homeless does not meet the levels required to adequately manage this issue.
3. Notes Council's Strategic Plan 2024-2028 targets to:
  - 3.1 Reduce the incidences of people sleeping rough or experiencing homelessness to functional zero by 2026 in line with Council's Homelessness Strategy.
  - 3.2 Support 29 State Government housing outcomes per month in the City of Adelaide for people experiencing homelessness to 2026 in line with Council's Homelessness Strategy.
4. Notes the City of Adelaide's Homelessness Strategy seeks to work with the State Government and others on transitional accommodation options and long-term strategies to address housing outcomes.
5. Notes the City of Adelaide's comprehensive database and support for local place-based approaches to homelessness through funding support for the Adelaide Zero Project.
6. Requests that the Lord Mayor write to the Premier calling on the State Government to:
  - 6.1. Fund and deliver permanent supportive housing options for people experiencing homelessness.
  - 6.2. Fund and deliver support services to people experiencing homelessness to ensure that their transition is sustainable.
  - 6.3. Increase support for local evidence-based approaches to homelessness in the City and North Adelaide.
  - 6.4. Build on the strong foundations established by non-government organisation partners by accelerating and scaling targeted programs and pilots that contribute to sustained, long term progress toward functional zero homelessness.
  - 6.5. Institute immediate approaches to establish programs and pilots that result in long term outcomes to reach functional zero homelessness.
  - 6.6. Permanent housing outcomes that include modern methods of construction to fast-track residential building construction that could result in the timely development of new, or repurposing or existing building stock to deliver housing outcomes for people experiencing homelessness.
  - 6.7. Provide advice from the Departments of Human Services and Housing and Urban Development on programs and initiatives (including joined up proposals) that are to be delivered that progress housing and support services for individuals experiencing homelessness.'

# ADMINISTRATION COMMENT

## Homelessness in the City of Adelaide

1. The State Government is responsible for homelessness services, which are primarily delivered through an Alliance model.
2. The City of Adelaide is within the geographic area covered by the Toward Home Alliance, which services the Adelaide CBD, North Adelaide, inner and outer southern metro area and the Adelaide Hills.
3. To provide a focus on the CBD and North Adelaide, the City of Adelaide provides funding for the Adelaide Zero Project which aims to reach functional zero homelessness in Adelaide by 2030 for people who are either experiencing sleeping rough or are temporarily sheltered.
4. The Adelaide Zero Project is a partnership between the City of Adelaide, the State Government and the Australian Alliance to End Homelessness and enables additional services in the City of Adelaide, as follows:
  - 4.1. The establishment of a By-Name List that provides real-time data on the number and needs of individuals sleeping rough or temporarily sheltered in the CBD and North Adelaide.
  - 4.2. Weekly service coordination with the Toward Home Alliance and the health sector to provide a coordinated service response for people on the By-Name List.
  - 4.3. 365-day intensive assertive outreach in the CBD and North Adelaide by the Toward Home Alliance.
5. As of 31 January 2026, there were 211 people on the By-Name List.
6. Since May 2018, the By-Name List has fluctuated month to month, increasing from an initial 143 people sleeping rough to sustained levels in the high hundreds and low 200s, consistently above the original baseline.
7. In September 2025, the By-Name List was migrated to a new database platform and is undergoing six months of rigorous quality control to ensure consistent data recording and reporting across Alliance services. This is expected to be finalised in March 2026.

## Strategic Commitments

8. The State Government's commitment to reducing homelessness and achieving functional zero for rough sleepers by 2025 is outlined in its *Future Directions for Homelessness Strategy – South Australia's Homelessness Alliance*.
9. The City of Adelaide is committed to achieving functional zero homelessness, as set out in its City of Adelaide Strategic Plan 2024-2028 and *Homelessness Strategy – Everyone's Business* (Homelessness Strategy).
10. Functional zero homelessness is achieved when the number of people who are, or were, sleeping rough is no greater than the six-month average housing placement rate.
11. The City of Adelaide has advocated to the State Government a target of 29 housing outcomes per month for people experiencing homelessness as set out in the Strategic Plan 2024-2028 and Homelessness Strategy. The purpose is to establish a pathway to addressing and achieving functional zero homelessness.
12. Since the introduction of the Homelessness Strategy, the South Australia Housing Trust has not been able to provide the housing required to get closer to functional zero; and is seeking to adjust its functional zero target date from 2025 to 2030 due to the current housing crisis.
13. Additional advocacy called for in the proposed motion is consistent with Council's Strategic Plan 2024-2028 and Homelessness Strategy which seeks functional zero and supportive and transitional housing outcomes.

## Permanent supportive and transitional housing

14. Permanent supportive housing is a cost effective and proven approach to housing and supporting people with complex needs and progressing towards functional zero.
15. It combines social housing and/or affordable housing with wrap-around support services that assist in keeping people stably housed.
16. The *Supportive Housing Needs Assessment – Adelaide CBD*, conducted by Per Capita on behalf of the South Australian Alliance to End Homelessness in 2025 ([Link 1](#)), identified that 64 per cent of people on the Adelaide Zero Project By-Name List have been assessed as a cohort for whom short-term responses will not end homelessness.
17. This requires longer-term housing solutions with wrap-around support services.

18. The Assessment recommends that 156 homes are required by 2030 to achieve functional zero, necessitating the delivery of 78 new homes while pairing 78 existing homes with funded wrap-around supports.
19. To achieve this outcome, the commitment required is estimated at \$50.1 million between 2025 and 2030.
20. This expenditure is expected to be offset by \$14.1 million in State Government savings, due to anticipated reduced pressure on health and justice systems.
21. On 9 December 2025 the Australian Alliance to End Homelessness wrote to the Premier of South Australia sharing the *Supportive Housing Needs Assessment – Adelaide CBD*.
22. A response was received from the Minister for Planning that outlined the South Australian Housing Trust’s initiatives for people at risk of homelessness and the review of Crisis, Transitional and Boarding House programs ([Link 2](#)).
23. The Minister for Planning also noted Federal Government funding available as part of the National Housing Infrastructure Facility’s Crisis and Transitional program.
24. No further State Government commitments to supportive and transitional housing were provided.

**Next steps**

25. Should Council resolve to support the proposed motion:
  - 25.1 A letter will be prepared for the Lord Mayor to send to the Premier, responding to each of the seven requests in the motion.
  - 25.2 Administration will raise Council’s decision at the Specialist Homelessness Services and Department of Human Services administrative update on 27 February 2026 which has been scheduled to discuss the State Government’s Homelessness Services Review.

Should the motion be carried, the following implications of this motion should be considered. Note any costs provided are estimates only – no quotes or prices have been obtained:	
Public consultation	Not applicable
External consultant advice	Not applicable
Legal advice / litigation (eg contract breach)	Not applicable
Impacts on existing projects	Not applicable
Budget reallocation	Not applicable
Capital investment	Not applicable
Staff time in preparing the workshop / report requested in the motion	Not applicable
Other	Not applicable
Staff time in receiving and preparing this administration comment	To prepare this administration comment in response to the motion on notice took approximately 8.5 hours.

- END OF REPORT -