

Integrated Pathway – Bridging the Release & Housing Gap

SA Health and DHS can discharge or refer individuals to an environment under the Second Steps program instead of extended hospital stays or crisis motels.

Second Steps provides an alternative independent housing model to bridge this gap.

Outreach and specialist services gain a real placement option instead of cycling people between homelessness, prison and a hospital Emergency Department.

This pathway directly reduces avoidable custody, homelessness and crisis responses reducing costs to the public sector and releasing pressure on the public system.

43%

People entering prison in 2022 were homeless in the four weeks prior to incarceration.

(Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2023)



Transforming Crisis into Stability

A collaborative initiative for sustainable housing and community wellbeing



Second Steps
Forward

Program Overview – A Crisis Meets a Solution

The Second Steps program is designed to break the cycle of:

- Homelessness
- Unnecessary incarceration
- Crisis health care
- Recidivism

Current Challenge

Homelessness and the cycle of reoffending:

Breaking the cycle of recidivism is a constant challenge for those released into the community. Almost half (48%) of prison discharges are expected to be homeless once released. Further, 43% of people entering prison in 2022 were homeless in the four weeks prior to incarceration. It is evident, without structured housing support, the chance of re-offending is greater.

The Solution

This program provides a structured pathway from intensive intervention to long-term stability, ensuring sustainable outcomes for individuals and communities. Independent, compliant rooming houses with transparent leases, safeguards, and light-touch oversight.

The Problem We Are Solving

A small cohort repeatedly cycles through:

Prisons and police custody, including people held longer due to no fixed address or safe release option.

Ambulance, ED and hospital beds used as crisis shelter.

Rough sleeping, couch-surfing and unsafe, unregulated rooming.

These people are not ‘too hard’—systems lack a safe, structured alternative. Second Steps directly provides that alternative.



Second Steps – Rooming House Model

Second Steps is a structured rooming house model providing safe, affordable, managed housing for people who can live semi-independently.

Target cohort:

People leaving state incarceration facilities and people on low incomes suitable for shared, semi-independent living.

Key features:

Fully furnished, 5-bedroom rooming homes, private lockable rooms and shared facilities.

Transparent leases, bonds, arrears and inspection processes.

CCTV in appropriate external and common areas for safety and accountability.

Weekly cleaners and regular gardeners engaged by Second Steps as an early-warning indicator that staff are obligated to report to the management team.

Regular inspections, SACAT applications, tenancy enforcement, maintenance coordination and administration.