



Cash given out for homeless

JANE HAMMOND

The State Government has given welfare agencies \$100,000 to keep homeless people off the streets during CHOGRM.

Eight homeless service groups were given extra cash to provide 24-hour services during the high security event.

There are no extra beds for the homeless being funded for the duration of CHOGRM but special services will remain open within walking distance from the central business district.

Extra mental health services will be provided during the event.

The plan relies on the homeless

moving voluntarily from the exclusion zone for CHOGRM rather than being forced to move on.

Spokeswoman for the welfare agencies, Sue Ash, from Uniting Care West, said a recent head count of "rough sleepers" in Supreme Court Gardens found 30 people living in the park — a central exclusion zone for CHOGRM.

Ms Ash said most homeless people did not want trouble and there would be little need for move-on notices.

Special cards giving homeless people dates, times and places to go during CHOGRM would be distributed before the event.