

2011/2012

PEEL REGIONAL HOMELESSNESS PLAN



## INTRODUCTION

The Peel Regional Homelessness Workshop was held at the West Murray Community Centre Goodooga Rd Barragup on 1 July 2011. The purpose was to discuss the broad themes and changes that have occurred with funding to address homelessness under the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH) and the National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA).

The workshop brought together approximately 36 representatives from a range of government agencies and non-government service providers in the Peel area. The direction of the workshop was to review issues that contribute to homelessness from local and regional perspectives. The aim was to identify three priority actions to move forward on local homelessness issues. The identified actions will be commenced or completed in the next 12 months.

Participants discussed local responses to people experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless in the context of their:-

- HEALTH AND WELL BEING
- CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITY, FAMILY AND FRIENDS
- EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND TRAINING
- HOUSING OPTIONS

Workshop participants discussed and reached agreement on three priority actions for the Peel Regional Homelessness Plan:

1. Form an interagency project management group to meet regularly to progress the priority actions on homelessness and to meet biannually with the Peel Human Service Managers Group.
2. Hold connect events combined with 'one stop shops' in the Peel region;
3. Develop a Collaborative Case Management model for the region supported by a Homelessness Services Intranet Website.
4. Discuss and develop a local model for 'Moving people along the continuum' - from homelessness to emergency or transitional housing to sustainable housing.
5. Improve access - Develop a 'hub' or 'one stop shop' for basic assistance, service information or supported referrals for homeless people.



## **INTERAGENCY PROJECT MANAGEMENT GROUP**

The Peel Homelessness Reference Group was well represented at the workshop. Linking the Regional Homelessness Plan with this group and its energies will be fundamental to achieving the priority actions. It is suggested that membership is cross referenced with the Strong Families Manager's Group and project teams for priority actions are formed.

## **CONNECT AND ONE STOP SHOP EVENTS**

Immediately following the Peel workshop a Homelessness Week 'Connect Event' was held by the Peel Soup Kitchen with great success. These events will be supported by this plan to continue in the Peel region. These events can provide a 'one stop shop' opportunity for homeless people and those at risk to access services to assist them in relation to accommodation, health and well-being, training and other practical matters such as identity documents while enjoying hospitality. It will be important to consider accessing venues where homeless people and those at risk tend to congregate and where possible to include access to shower facilities, second-hand clothing, internet and phone facilities as well as services.

## **COLLABORATIVE CASE MANAGEMENT AND WEB FACILITIES**

The popularity and success of the Strong Families model was recognised as a means to include homeless people and those at risk in determining the best ways to support them to obtain and retain accommodation. The means to apply the Strong Families model to meet this area of need will be a project involving the collaboration of a diverse group of agencies supported by local agreement and collaboration. It was further agreed to seek to assemble a local website with interactive search capacities to aid the accuracy of an integrated service response throughout the region.

## **A LOCAL CONTINUUM OF SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION TO INDEPENDENT HOUSING**

The establishment of emergency accommodation for single homeless people in the Peel Region was seen to be a matter of priority. It was agreed that the development of a shared understanding of the local emergency and transitional accommodation facilities/houses, the operational procedures, policies and models that apply as well as eligibility and length of stay limits would all assist in designing more accurate responses to homeless people and to young people who are suddenly homeless. These responses must be linked to pathways that lead to long term sustainable and affordable accommodation / housing.

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<b>PRIORITY ACTIONS</b>	<b>TASKS</b>	<b>DURATION (How long will it take)</b>	<b>START AND FINISH</b>	<b>AGENCY and RESOURCE-Human or financial</b>
1. Partnering between the Peel Homelessness Group and key government, non-government community agencies to project manage the priority actions of this Regional Homelessness Plan through regular meetings.	Hold regular/monthly project management meetings to progress and achieve the priority actions	1.5 hours / month	12 – 24 months	Homelessness Reference Group cross referenced with Strong Families Managers Group.
2. Hold connect events for homeless people and the community to raise awareness of the issue and the opening for services to connect with clients..	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Form a project group to action this priority.</li> <li>• A community BBQ was held in Mandurah in the National Homelessness Week of 1 August 2011.</li> <li>• Further events to be planned and held in 2012.</li> </ul>			
3. Collaborative Case Management supported by a Homelessness Services Intranet Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extend Strong Families model to apply to homeless people.</li> <li>• Explore opportunities for interactive homelessness services website and search applications.</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some additional training in the model may be required.</li> <li>• Lottery's West have Information Technology and Web grants.</li> </ul>
4. Develop a local continuum model from supported accommodation to independent housing.				

