

PILBARA
REGIONAL HOMELESSNESS PLAN PORT HEDLAND
2011 - 2012



INTRODUCTION

The Pilbara Port Hedland Regional Homelessness Workshop was held at Lotteries' House on 13 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 18 representatives from a range of government agencies and non-government service providers in the Karratha 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.

Stage I

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

The issues and ideas raised in Stage I provided the basis for prioritising actions in subsequent stages.

Stage II – Workshop participants voted to indicate three key priority actions from the issues raised in Stage I.

Stage III – In a second process workshop participants then voted to indicate two key priority actions that could be carried out in the next 12 months.

From stages II and III it was possible to determine the consensus on which top three actions would be worked on over the next 12 months.

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

1. **Grass Roots decision making for local resource allocation and policy directions.**
2. **Transient and transitional housing and hostels and camping style facilities to required standards**
3. **Better coordination of services and shared resources with Mobile service delivery options**
4. **Funds for refurbishment and retention of Aboriginal public housing**

Grass roots decision making for local resource allocation and policy directions relates to the ongoing commitment of both government and non-government agencies supporting regular meetings on the priority actions. A strong project management approach with sound local evidence and information bases will be fundamental to achieving the actions from the plans. It seemed the Pilbara Association of Non-Government Organisations (PANGO) would be the appropriate peak body representing the non-government sector and that it could engage with the Human Service Managers' Group for biannual discussions on the progress of the Regional Homelessness Plan. Partnership will benefit the outcomes and to this end it will be essential that the Human Service Managers ensure their agencies are represented to work with PANGO on a regional Homelessness Action Group to achieve the above priority actions.

Transient and transitional housing and hostels and camping style facilities are part of the mix of responses required in the regional centres. Matching housing and facilities to the styles of accommodation required could form part of audit information to promote the case for funding applications or influencing planning decisions. Development of local guidelines to better manage the flow of people through the continuum of accommodation/ housing will assist agencies and ultimately clients to find their home place.

Better coordination of services and shared resources with Mobile service delivery options will be built on the partnership between government and non-government at regular Homelessness Action Group meetings, the development of guidelines identified above will articulate how we work together for the client's best interests. This sort of collaboration may be modelled on a Strong Families styled approach. In addition trust building through scheduled joint agency visits to places where clients gather can build good will, cooperation and the opportunity for positive change.

Funds for refurbishment and retention of Aboriginal public housing were identified as important in the strategy to support the health of tenancies and communities in the Pilbara and to assist the return of housing stock to the rental/ownership market. The inter-agency support for the building and refurbishment of Remote Indigenous Housing under the National Partnership would benefit from a clearer understanding of what has been done so far and what is planned. Letters to the Department of Housing and Landcorp seeking clarification are considered appropriate initial steps.

Pilbara Regional Homelessness Plan Priority Actions and Time Frames Port Hedland

PORT HEDLAND REGIONAL HOMELESSNESS PLAN				
PRIORITY ACTIONS Insert your priority actions below	TASKS Insert the tasks involved in achieving the Priority Action	DURATION (How long will it take to do/complete – be realistic	START AND FINISH When will the work be done	AGENCY and RESOURCE-Human or financial Which agency/ies /staff will be involved in doing which work
1. Grass Roots decision making for local resource allocation and policy directions.		1 year	August 2011-August 2012	PANGO Pilbara Aboriginal Health Forum Pilbara Industries Consultative committee Pilbara Regional Development Commission Pilbara Regional Council Human Services Management Group (HSMG)
2. Transient and transitional housing and hostels and camping style facilities to required standards	Direct request to government departments. NAHA /DCP to have discussion on how to implement changes in the Pilbara, process in place but at a standstill	1 year	July 2011 – August 2012	Dept. Of Indigenous Affairs Dept. Housing & Aboriginal Hostels HSMG to link with ICC and FaHCSIA
3. Better coordination of services and shared resources with Mobile service delivery options	HSMG- PANGO to have joint meetings twice per year, PANGO & DCP sharepoint website to be on offer.	1 year	August 2011 – August 2012	
4. Funds for refurbishment and retention of Aboriginal public housing	Attention a letter to dept. housing & Landcorp to highlight and identify these concerns	1 year	August 2011 – August 2012	HSMG Pilbara Development Commission PANGO Dept. Housing Regional Development Australia