

SOUTH EAST METROPOLITAN  
REGIONAL HOMELESSNESS PLAN  
2011 – 2012



## INTRODUCTION

A Regional Homelessness Workshop was held at the Agonis Centre in Gosnells on 4 October 2011. Its purpose was to explore 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) see appendix four.

The workshop brought together approximately 24 representatives from a broad range of government agencies and non-government service providers. The direction of the workshop was to review all issues that contribute to homelessness from a local and South-East metropolitan area's perspective, with a focus on identifying priority actions to address identified homelessness issues. It is intended that these actions will be carried out in the next 12 months.

A four stage process was used. In Stage 1, workshop participants formed groups to discuss "What is working well"; "What are we worried about"; and "What needs to happen" on four key areas:-

- 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 used stickers to indicate three key priority actions from the issues raised in Stage I.

Stage III – In a second process, workshop participants used new stickers 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.

Stage IV – Workshop participants provided further comment on the priority actions and suggested which agencies should be involved to progress each item. It was agreed that a fourth enabling priority would be to commit to regional level meetings to discuss progress in achieving the priority actions of the Regional Homelessness Plan.

Overall agreement was reached on four priority actions for the South-East metropolitan Regional Homelessness Plan:

1. Ongoing Regional Interagency Meetings;
2. Create and maintain an updated website of services and programs;
3. Expand life skills training to maintain tenancies;
4. Conduct regular public Connect Events with homeless people and those at risk with agencies.

## **REGIONAL INTERAGENCY MEETING**

The formation of the South East Metropolitan Homelessness Action Group (SEMHAG) is seen to be fundamental to driving and achieving the priority actions of the regional plan. A regular monthly meeting of government and non-government agency and service representatives would work together to achieve an integrated response to the homeless people and those at risk. In addition, the group would engage with and attend the South-East Metropolitan Human Services Manager's Group meetings, at least biannually, to discuss and ensure progress on the Regional Homelessness Plan. SEMHAG should involve representatives from Department of Health, Mental Health Commission, Department for Child Protection, Department of Housing, Centrelink, Disability Services Commission, Department of Corrective Services including Youth Justice Services, Police with invitations being extended to all accommodation and casework programmes, general employment and training agencies, generic services responding to homeless people and their issues as well as private real estate agents.

## **UPDATED WEBSITE OF SERVICES AND PROGRAMS**

A range of information about services needs to be readily available throughout the corridor to respond to those working with the homeless. The intention is to explore the opportunities to either build on existing websites or to develop a homelessness specific site. This would greatly improve the access to accurate information about services and may illustrate where services overlap and the need for new services to respond to emerging needs.

## **LIFE SKILLS TRAINING TO MAINTAIN TENANCY**

A practical life skills training package is to be identified for clients to assist them in obtaining and retaining a tenancy in either the public or private rental market supported by an integrated case-management approach between government agencies and non-government services to achieve better use of existing programs and funded places.

## **REGULAR PUBLIC CONNECT EVENTS**

Regular community based events for homeless people and those at risk will be held with agencies throughout the region. These informal events will present a 'one stop shop' opportunity for people 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.

**SOUTH EAST METROPOLITAN REGIONAL HOMELESSNESS PLAN 2011-2012**

<b>PRIORITY ACTIONS</b>	<b>WHO IS INVOLVED</b>		<b>WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE</b>	<b>TASKS</b>	<b>RESOURCES</b>
<b>1. LIFESKILLS TRAINING TO MAINTAIN TENANCY</b>	Education ie. Schools. Foundation Access Housing SHAP. Jacaranda Parkerville Centrelink, financial counselling services. DCP – Best Beginnings, RPO, child centred family support team. Ruah Tenancy Support. Strong Families	The Gowrie Centre (CALD Support) Coolabaroo South Care Centrecare Communicare Homeswest Mission Australia Income Management youth services	Effective case management to identify families. Financial counselling, income management advocacy, referrals to appropriate services. Practical skills development – housekeeping, home maintenance, parenting skills.	Identify needs – refer to appropriate services/provide Agency profiles and limitations – who does what? Strong Families model – collaboration – being clear about roles.	People – Agencies Money Timeframe Shire – rubbish removal.
<b>2. PICNIC IN THE PARK – Connecting the homeless with the community and services</b>	Reference group Individual homeless agencies Local government State and Commonwealth government Doctors, medical, dentists and mental health workers. Church organisations. Pit Stop Health, Marnum AAD Op Shops, Cultural Groups, Legal Services		Regular Sponsorship Informal Music Sausage sizzle Open venue – near railway Transport Well promoted Follow up message board Informal one stop shop	Find a venue Organise committee Approach individual agencies for funding, donations. Seek sponsorship corp Approach various health agencies Determine the frequency March 2012 Committee December 2011	
<b>3. UPDATED WEBSITES ON SERVICES AND PROGRAMS – Family Support Network and RUAH</b>	All agencies involved in homelessness Financial counselling Mental Health Health Services	Crisis Accommodation Support Agencies Government and non-government agencies		Detailed breakdown of services provided What they do. Client base Identify in each agency who is responsible to maintain	Whereto.com Lotteries West Optus Small Grants