

West Kimberley Regional Homelessness Plan



Priority Actions 2011-2012

INTRODUCTION

The West Kimberley Regional Homelessness Workshop was held at the Oaks Broome on 6 October 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 25 representatives from a range of government agencies and non-government service providers in the West Kimberley 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.

Stage IV – 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.

PRIORITY ACTIONS

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

1. Reinvigorate the Homeless Action Group (HAG) to meet regularly to progress the priority actions on homelessness and to meet biannually with the Kimberley Inter-agency Working Group (KIWG).
2. Establish a 'One Stop Shop' or Service Hub responding to homeless people and those at risk.
3. Increased emergency and supported accommodation options will require discussion to develop a local model for 'Moving people along the continuum' - from homelessness to emergency, transitional housing or supported tenancy to sustainable housing.

In addition commitment was made to ongoing consultation in Derby, Fitzroy Crossing and the region to better inform the West Kimberley Regional Homelessness Plan.

INTERAGENCY PROJECT MANAGEMENT GROUP

Re-convene the Homeless Action Group (HAG) for ongoing meetings, events and actions regarding homelessness and the implementation of the West Kimberley Regional Homelessness Plan. Linking the Regional Homelessness Plan with this group and its energies will be fundamental to achieving the priority actions. Biannual meetings between HAG and KWIG will assist in getting over any obstacles and provide good governance for the plan.

ONE STOP SHOP

Establish a 'One Stop Shop' or Service Hub responding to homeless people and those at risk providing an opportunity 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. Building on existing facilities where homeless people and those at risk are already engaging and where there is access to showers and facilities, second-hand clothing, internet and phone as well as a rostered attendance of services.

INCREASED EMERGENCY AND SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

Crisis accommodation is often the beginning of what needs to be a continuum. This requires a range of accommodation responses from emergency to transitional, supported accommodation and tenancy that eventually moves clients towards independent housing.

<p>2. The formation of a 'One Stop Shop' or Service Hub responding to homeless people and those at risk.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult with community as to cultural appropriateness of a service hub (in terms of who can speak to whom about which issues). • Develop MOU's between homelessness agencies to facilitate sharing of information between services. • Develop outreach roster for agencies to be present at the Homeless Drop In Centre (Father McMahan Place- Centacare). • Investigate options for service hub development in Derby and Fitzroy Crossing. 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>By November 2012</p> <p>February 2012</p> <p>By November 2012</p>	<p>2011-2012</p>	<p>HAG working Group/Centacare</p> <p>HAG Working Group/Centacare/DCP</p> <p>Contract Manager</p>
<p>3. Increased emergency and supported accommodation options</p>	<p>The preparation of a comprehensive business case will require:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sound evidence base of local homelessness and risk gathered from homeless people as well as service providers to obtain a profile of the issue. • Mapping of 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 can lead to long term sustainable and affordable accommodation / housing. 	<p>12 months</p>	<p>2011- 2012</p> <p>By November 2012</p>	<p>HAG working Group and Sub Committee</p> <p>Departments of Housing and Child Protection to lead discussion</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion for a local model for 'Moving people along the continuum' at the twice yearly meetings on the homelessness agenda between HAG and KIWIG.			
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