



EVALUATION REPORT RELEASE ON NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT ON HOMELESSNESS IMPLEMENTATION

EVALUATION REPORT RELEASE

The National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH), Evaluation of Western Australian Programs, Final Report, is the culmination of a two year evaluation from January 2011 to December 2012. The independent evaluators, Social Systems and Evaluation, reported on the implementation of the 14 different programs, delivering 81 services by 41 not-for-profit community sector agencies, as well as the Mobile Clinical Outreach program delivered by the Health Department.

“FOR CLIENTS INTERVIEWED THE SUPPORT THEY RECEIVED AND THE FACT THAT THEY WERE ABLE TO BE ACCOMMODATED WAS LIFE CHANGING AND FOR SOME LIFE SAVING”

The purpose of the evaluation was to provide an independent assessment of the 14 NPAH programs to inform policies, processes and future funding.

The NPAH has been an important catalyst for improving integration with mainstream services. NPAH services have provided clients with intensive case management, including linking clients and their children with mainstream services such as education, training, employment, mental health and drug and alcohol services.

The implementation of the NPAH programs has resulted in more effective working relationships between specialist homelessness services and mainstream agencies. In many cases clients were better able to access employment or training, providing more sustainable options to prevent future homelessness. There were also important benefits for children who have been affected by or at risk of homelessness.

The brokerage component of the funding for clients was very valuable, as were the positive relationships between the workers and clients. The availability of affordable housing remains a major challenge, and feedback from services indicated that in many cases, longer engagement with clients, with complex needs, was required.

The report indicates that the NPAH programs have been successfully implemented, with positive outcomes for clients. The report contains recommendations and suggested improvements. The report is located [here](#).

KEY FINDINGS

Both this evaluation and an audit undertaken by the Western Australian Auditor General indicate that the 14 programs have been delivered in accordance with the NPAH Implementation Plan.

Between January 2010 to June 2012, 5,094 clients were assisted, exceeding the 4,978 program target. In addition, there were at least 5,611 children assisted, bringing the total to 10,705 clients.

The 11 per cent target for Aboriginal clients accessing the programs was greatly exceeded with 29 per cent of clients identified as Aboriginal.

Workers have successfully obtained accommodation for homeless clients and supported them to maintain their accommodation.

Data provided by the Department of Housing (DoH) indicates that 91 per cent of NPAH supported clients allocated DoH properties had retained their tenancies and were still accommodated after 12 months.

For many clients, the NPAH programs have meant a restoration of dignity, self-respect, confidence and independence.