

# **JOONDALUP/WANNEROO REGIONAL HOMELESSNESS PLAN 2011 - 2012**



## INTRODUCTION

A workshop was held at the Wanneroo Library & Cultural Centre on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2011. Its purpose was to develop a Regional Homelessness plan for the Joondalup / Wanneroo region. The planning was conducted in accordance with the Western Australia Homelessness State Plan 2010 – 2013 OPENING DOORS To Address Homelessness which provides a framework for partnerships between Government agencies and community organisations to address homelessness.

The State Plan outlines the outcomes and key principles for implementing an improved integrated approach to homelessness and aims to bring together all relevant agencies and services to work together to improve circumstances for people who are at risk of, or experiencing homelessness. Responding to homelessness is fundamentally linked to accommodation or housing, it also involves providing support to meet the health, education and employment, social and personal needs of homeless people and those at risk.

The State Plan complements and builds on the agendas of the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH), the National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA) and the Western Australian Department of Housing Affordable Housing Strategy 2010 - 2020.

The Joondalup/Wanneroo Regional Homelessness Workshop brought together approximately 40 representatives from a range of government agencies and non-government service providers working across the City of Joondalup and City of Wanneroo region. The direction of the workshop was to review the issues that contribute to homelessness from a local community and regional perspective, with a focus on identifying priority actions to address homelessness issues. It is intended that these actions will be carried out in the next 12 months.

## OUTCOMES

Workshop participants voted for the following actions which were briefly scoped for the Joondalup/Wanneroo Regional Homelessness Plan:

1. Develop a directory / data base of services
2. Increase emergency accommodation options in the region
3. Improve integrated service provision
4. Collate unmet needs in the region
5. Keeping the agenda going

In drafting the Regional Homelessness Plan the above mentioned actions were amalgamated into **3 priority actions**. The North West Regional Managers Group will be the key driver for progress of the plan and will be supported by the formation of a working group (the Joondalup Wanneroo Homelessness Action Group) comprising of representatives from the workshop and other key Non-Government organisations.

## **PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR THE JOONDALUP/WANNEROO REGIONAL HOMELESSNESS PLAN**

### **1. Develop a Data Base of Services**

There was strong support for the development of an effective data base of homelessness related services to enable targeted searches to match client needs with services. The data base would include information on specialist and mainstream homelessness services, and relevant support services in local and metropolitan Government and community services sectors. It would ideally provide free access to service providers and members of the public, and would replace the need for multiple other directories. It would be important to gather the support and “buy in” of key stakeholders and peak bodies such as WACOSS. This project can incorporate outcomes for another identified priority action, Integrated Service Provision, through dissemination of improved knowledge of existing services to better assist people who are homeless or at risk.

### **2. Integrating Service Provision with Accommodation Services in the Region**

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 (See Attachment 5). The needs and capacity of homeless people and those at risk can be mapped against services.

The preparation of a comprehensive business case will require:

- 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.
- Multi-agency input to an integrated service provision model like Strong Families.
- Contributions from local government town planning and community development units.

The Department of Housing, the Community Housing Coalition of WA and Foundation Housing Inc are seen to be important consultants and or partners. Significant progress would be achievable in a 12 month timeframe.

### **3. Keeping the Agenda Going**

This would be a key enabling function underpinning the achievement of the above priority actions. The North West Regional Managers Forum is identified as the key forum to endorse the Regional Plan as a strategic way forward at its first joint meeting with homelessness non-

government sector agencies. It is essential to form a Homelessness Action Group of key stakeholders to assist in the process of driving the homelessness issue as an ongoing agenda in order to achieve the priority actions of the Joondalup/Wanneroo Regional Homelessness Plan. The formation of a Joondalup/Wanneroo Homelessness Action Group would ensure collaborative forward planning that takes into account unmet needs and the significant future growth of the North West metropolitan corridor, and would feed into the North West Regional Managers Forum. This forms the third priority action.

**INITIAL SCOPING OF JOONDALUP/WANNEROO REGIONAL HOMELESSNESS PLAN 2011 - 2012**

<b>WORKSHOP PRIORITY ACTIONS</b>	<b>TASKS</b>	<b>DURATION (How long will it take)</b>	<b>START AND FINISH</b>	<b>AGENCY&amp; RESOURCE Human or Financial</b>
<p><b>1. DEVELOP A DATA BASE OF SERVICES</b></p>	<p>To build a business case</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify a working party of people today.</li> <li>• Get “Buy-in” from services / stakeholders                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Current directory holders</li> <li>○ Premier and Cabinet</li> <li>○ WACOSS</li> <li>○ Local Government</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Consider:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ existing opportunities to build on to.</li> <li>○ Recurrent support for:</li> <li>○ A dedicated support staff to manage and update the site</li> <li>○ Site promotion.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>12 months</p>	<p>Meet by end of October 2011 to establish goals and plan (eg establish scope for Project officer). Table at Northwest Regional Mangers Meetings</p>	<p>Possible working party:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- (Mission Australia)</li> <li>- (Youth Futures)</li> <li>- (Centrelink)</li> <li>- (WCIT)</li> </ul> <p>North West Regional Managers Forum.</p>
<p><b>2. INTEGRATING SERVICE PROVISION WITH ACCOMMODATION SERVICES IN THE REGION</b></p>	<p>To build the business case for accommodation services in a continuum of housing support and integrated service provision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify target groups</li> <li>• Identify land. Seek council support to donate to cause.</li> <li>• Seek DOH funding for building</li> <li>• Community Housing Program providers to manage rents.</li> <li>• Identify a support service</li> <li>• Building relationships with hostels, B &amp; B, Caravan parks etc.</li> </ul>	<p>2 years</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town planners</li> <li>• City of Wanneroo (CoW)</li> <li>• City of Joondalup (CoJ)</li> <li>• Community development from CoW and CoJ</li> <li>• Community Housing Limited or Foundation Housing Limited</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Homelessness to be standing agenda item at local networking forums (eg: JAWS, Clarkson B Group, Family Support Focus Group)</li> </ul>	Immediate & ongoing	Immediate. Next NWRMF meeting in November 2011, or Feb 2012.	All Government & non-government agencies as a commitment of this being their core business
<b>3. Keeping the Agenda Going</b>	<p>Form a Homelessness Action Group of government and non-government stakeholders to drive homelessness as an ongoing Issue / Agenda item</p> <p>Present findings at NW Metro Managers Group</p>	Ongoing	Table at February 2012 Findings from Forum	All NW Metro membership + relevant Non-Government agencies (could be sub unit or working group) to develop a strategic way forward