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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRIORITY ACTIONS</th>
<th>TASKS</th>
<th>DURATION (How long will it take)</th>
<th>START AND FINISH</th>
<th>AGENCY and RESOURCE: Human or financial</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Reinvigorate the Homeless Action Group (HAG) and organise ongoing meetings, events and actions for this group regarding homelessness in the West Kimberley.</td>
<td>Contact all members of the HAG to the signing of the West Kimberley Homeless Plan and advise of the renewal of the HAG and arrange a date for the first meeting.</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
<td>October - November 2011</td>
<td>DCP Contract Manager has HAG information and will contact and disseminate invite to signing for members.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Hold HAG meeting at Centacare Homeless Drop In Centre – Father McMahon Place.</td>
<td>4 hours</td>
<td>November 2011</td>
<td>DCP Contract Manager and Centacare to coordinate initial meeting. Form a HAG committee/working group.</td>
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<td>Agree terms of reference and open meeting to the floor for current situation regarding needs of the community. Prioritize what is working and what isn’t, needs, actions.</td>
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<td>3-4 HAG meetings/events over 2012</td>
<td>HAG Working Group</td>
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<td>Plan HAG events over the year (2012).</td>
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<td>KIWG Working Group and Sub Committees.</td>
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<td>Form sub-committees as required to achieve desired outcomes.</td>
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<td>Ensure biannual KIWG homelessness standing agenda item for cross-sector discussion with HAG and progress of the Regional Homelessness Plan.</td>
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| 2. The formation of a 'One Stop Shop' or Service Hub responding to homeless people and those at risk. | • 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 McMahon Place- Centacare).  
• Investigate options for service hub development in Derby and Fitzroy Crossing. | Ongoing | 2011-2012 | HAG working Group/Centacare  
HAG Working Group/Centacare/DCP  
Contract Manager |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3. Increased emergency and supported accommodation options | 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.  
• 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. | 12 months | 2011- 2012 | HAG working Group and Sub Committee  
Departments of Housing and Child Protection to lead discussion |
• Discussion for a local model for ‘Moving people along the continuum’ at the twice yearly meetings on the homelessness agenda between HAG and KIWIG.