

**WHEATBELT
REGIONAL HOMELESSNESS PLAN
2011 - 2012**



STRATEGIC AND PRACTICAL RESPONSES TO HOMELESSNESS IN THE WHEATBELT

INTRODUCTION

A Regional Homelessness Workshop was held at Avon Youth Community & Family Services in Northam on 27 June 2011. The purpose was to build on the Wheatbelt's 2010 workshop discussion paper and 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 2011 workshop brought together approximately 20 representatives from a range of government agencies and non-government service providers in the Wheatbelt. The direction of the workshop was to review issues that contribute to homelessness from a local and Wheatbelt perspective. The aim was to identify three priority actions to move forward on local homelessness issues. It is intended that these actions will be commenced or carried out in the next 12 months.

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

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

1. Conduct 'Connect Events' across the Wheatbelt region;
2. Invite the Health MoU Group to join with the Wheatbelt Senior Managers Group (WSMG) to discuss the opportunities for integrated service responses with health response for people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless in the Wheatbelt ;
3. Discuss and develop a local model for 'Moving people along the continuum' - from homelessness to emergency or transitional housing to sustainable housing.

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PRIORITY ACTIONS	TASKS	DURATION (How long will it take)	START AND FINISH	AGENCY and RESOURCE-Human or financial
<p>1. Connection with Community Family and Friends Hold 'Connect Events' across the region in major towns to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include homeless people, those at risk of homelessness and the general public; and, • Increase public awareness of homelessness and services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss with Chairperson and schedule discussion of Regional Homelessness 'Connect Events' through the Wheatbelt Senior Managers Group meeting agenda. • Decide the timing and theme of 'Connect Events' in specific Wheatbelt region towns. Eg Homelessness week is first week of August or Christmas or other holiday period. • Agree terms of reference and endorse invitation list of agencies to be part of the organising and task team for the 'Connect 	<p>40 minutes</p> <p>20 minutes at the WMS meeting</p> <p>20 minutes at the meeting with some follow up with other agencies post meeting.</p> <p>1 hour</p>	<p>October 2011 – November 2011</p> <p>October - November 2011</p> <p>October - November 2011</p> <p>October – November 2011</p>	<p>Assistant District Director DCP to discuss with Chairperson and Secretary of the Wheatbelt Senior Managers Group (WSMG to nominate staff members from their agencies to form a working group)</p> <p>WSM Group meeting with input from Share and Care Inc. in relation to funding support for events.</p> <p>WSM Group meeting And Secretary if WSM Group meeting.</p>

	<p>Events’.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email invitation to government and non-government participants to attend the organising and task team. • At organising and task team meeting - establish communications strategy for ‘Connect Events’ drafted for endorsement by WMS Group meeting. • Hold ‘Connect Events’. 	<p>1.5 hours</p> <p>Three separate days at regional towns as determined by the WMS Group.</p>	<p>November - December 2011</p> <p>November 2011 to October 2012</p>	<p>Secretary of the WMS Group meeting</p> <p>Organising and Task Team</p> <p>Organising and Task Team and all participating government and non-government agencies.</p>
<p>2. Health and Wellbeing Extend invitation to the Health Memorandum of Understanding Group to attend specific WMS Managers Group meetings to discuss the Homelessness agenda twice per year with particular reference to health and wellbeing responses to the homeless and those at risk of homelessness.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss at WMS Managers meeting. • Draft for WMS Managers Group Chairperson’s endorsement. • Forward invitation to Health MOU group. 	<p>30 minutes</p> <p>1 hour</p> <p>30 minutes</p>	<p>By November 2011</p> <p>By December 2011</p> <p>By December 2011</p>	<p>WMS Group</p> <p>Secretary to WMS Group</p> <p>Secretary to WMS Group</p>

3. Housing Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion for a local model for 'Moving people along the continuum from emergency accommodation to sustainable housing' at one of the two allocated WMS Managers agenda meetings on homelessness in 2011-2012.	2 hours	By July 2012	Department of Housing to lead discussion
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