



#EndHomelessnessWA

# The Western Australian Strategy to End Homelessness

*Together we can make a difference*

*A whole of society response*

A 10-YEAR PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS  
IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

2018-2028

Western Australian Alliance to End Homelessness (WAAEH)

[www.endhomelessnesswa.com](http://www.endhomelessnesswa.com)

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The Western Australian Strategy to End Homelessness is authorised and published by the Western Australian Alliance to End Homelessness (WAAEH)

ISBN 978-1-74052-397-4

This Strategy document was prepared by Debra Zanella, Paul Flatau, Amanda Hunt, Mark Glasson, John Berger, Kathleen Gregory, Samson Knight, Susan Rooney, Daniel Morrison and Katie Stublely with input from hundreds of individuals from over 120 organisations from the community, government and business sectors.

Available at [www.endhomelessnesswa.com](http://www.endhomelessnesswa.com)

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that the following document may contain images of people who have died.

# The WA Alliance to End Homelessness

**The WA Alliance to End Homelessness is committed to ending homelessness in WA. This outcome will only be achieved through a whole of society response.**

The Western Australian Strategy to End Homelessness has been developed by the Alliance following an 18-month community campaign bringing together contributions of many people from homelessness services, those experiencing homelessness, funders of services and members of the community.

The 10-year Strategy seeks to provide a framework to inform the process of ending homelessness and provide signposts for action. This overarching plan is a dynamic and evolving document. It is designed to be utilised to create further plans in specific communities, groups or regions.

It is intended to be replicable in terms of process and acts as a guidance in terms of approach. The plan can act

as a blueprint and be adopted by any community wishing to end homelessness. The Alliance encourages other communities and stakeholders to use the plan which will assist in ensuring there is a consistent approach being used across the state.

The Western Australian Alliance to End Homelessness is comprised of a group of organisations that have come together to end homelessness in Western Australia. You can read more about the Alliance at [www.endhomelessnessWA.com](http://www.endhomelessnessWA.com).

In developing The Western Australian Strategy to End Homelessness we have been inspired by similar programs in other countries (such as the Calgary Strategy) which have galvanised communities to end homelessness and had a significant impact on outcomes. We hope this plan has the same effect.

Register your support and sign the petition at [www.endhomelessnessWA.com](http://www.endhomelessnessWA.com) to end homelessness in Western Australia.

Galvanise around the 10-year Strategy key messages below.

**Everyone has a right to a home  
Together we can end homelessness in WA  
This is just the beginning**





# The Strategy to End Homelessness: 10-year Commitment

By 2028, the following 10-year targets will have been achieved:

1. Western Australia will have ended all forms of chronic homelessness including chronic rough sleeping.
2. No individual or family in Western Australia will sleep rough or stay in supported accommodation for longer than five nights before moving into an affordable, safe, decent, permanent home with the support required to sustain it.
3. The Western Australian rate of homelessness (including couch surfing and insecure tenure) will have been halved from its 2016 level.
4. The underlying causes that result in people becoming homeless have been met head-on, resulting in a reduction by more than half in the inflow of people and families into homelessness in any one year.
5. The current very large gap between the rate of Aboriginal homelessness and non-Aboriginal homelessness in Western Australia will be eliminated so that the rate of Aboriginal homelessness is no higher than the rate of non-Aboriginal homelessness.
6. Those experiencing homelessness and those exiting homelessness with physical health, mental health, and alcohol and other drug use dependence needs will have their needs addressed. This will result in a halving of mortality rates among those who have experienced homelessness and a halving in public hospital costs one year on for those exiting homelessness.
7. Those experiencing homelessness and those exiting homelessness will be supported to strengthen their economic, social, family and community connections leading to stronger well-being and quality of life outcomes. Employment among those experiencing homelessness will be significantly increased. Over half of those exiting homelessness will be employed within three years of moving into housing. Well-being and quality of life will equal those of the general population in the same timeframe.
8. A strong, collaborative and adaptive network of services and responses across the community services, health, mental health, justice and education sectors will exist working collectively to address the underlying causes of homelessness and meeting the needs of those who become homeless.
9. Measurement, accountability and governance mechanisms that are robust, transparent and open to external review will be operating, providing an on-going means for assessing progress in meeting the goals of *Ending Homelessness in Western Australia in 10 years*.

# Homelessness

**Homelessness** is experienced when a person does not have a home in which you have shelter, can exercise control over a physical area, can maintain privacy and enjoy social relations and have legal title through tenancy rights or ownership. It includes rough sleeping on the streets, parks, cars, squats, stays in supported accommodation for the homeless, couch surfing (individuals and families staying temporarily with others), living in boarding and rooming houses without private facilities and security of tenure, and heavy reliance on short-term stays in motels, hotels and other forms of temporary lodging.

**Rough sleeping** is living without shelter or improvised dwellings such as sleeping on the streets and parks, in tents, in caves, in cars and in squats or on buses and trains and in buildings not designed for residential use.

**Chronic homelessness** is continuous homelessness for one year or more or four or more episodes of homelessness in the last three years where the combined length of time homeless on those occasions is at least 12 months.





# Homelessness in Western Australia

On any given night in Western Australia, around 9,000 people can be considered to be homeless. More are homeless and not counted as such. Over a year, WA's specialist homelessness services are assisting over 24,000 people with significant over-representation of Aboriginal people (41%).

Many will be sleeping rough; others will be or relying on homelessness services, the goodwill of family and friends for a couch or spare bed. For others, the place they sleep will come without secure tenure and at a high price. Most will feel very unsafe.

Each of those who've experienced homelessness in our community has travelled different paths but all have hopes and dreams like everyone else.

Homelessness could easily happen to you, your sister, your nephew, your uncle or your grandmother. It might be a series of small events that slowly lead to homelessness. It may reflect violence or entrenched and deep disadvantage in the family home that acts as an immediate trigger for homelessness. It could equally be one single event experienced by those in a financially insecure position—a lost job, relationship breakdowns, a car accident or ill health—which combined with high rents and other barriers to housing, leads to homelessness. Some experience just one episode of homelessness, while others experience many episodes and others nearly a lifetime of homelessness.

For many Western Australians, the threat of homelessness is very real and immediate as they attempt to meet housing payments, increasing utility costs and other commitments with no “nest egg” to fall back on.

People experiencing homelessness not only face the hurdle of finding permanent accommodation but also experience other major needs. They are far more likely to experience mental health conditions, including drug and alcohol dependence problems, than those who do not experience homelessness. They will often experience more than one mental health condition simultaneously

and may also suffer from long-term physical health conditions. They are likely to have very few material resources and face poor employment prospects. Many do not have social contact with their own family. Women and children receiving accommodation support from homelessness agencies generally do so after experiencing or witnessing domestic violence in their own home. All these needs require a holistic response going beyond the fundamental requirement for housing if homelessness in Western Australia is to be reduced.

Provision of adequate and affordable housing is fundamental to tackling homelessness, but our response must address the health, social and economic needs and causes that lead to homelessness in the first place.

The fact is that it costs us more, on average, to leave someone homeless than to house and support them. This tells us that our failure to end homelessness before now is an economic failing as much as it is a social failing.

We have come together to say enough!

We live in Western Australia, a state that is rich in resources and talent. We have everything we need to address homelessness so let's do it now.

We know that we will need the whole of society to drive this forward. Across the world many communities, cities and states have committed to end homelessness and they are winning.

We can do the same here in Western Australia.



**Everyone has a right to a home**



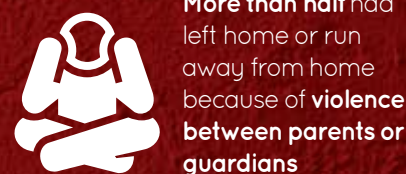
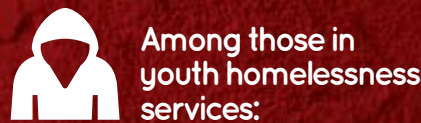
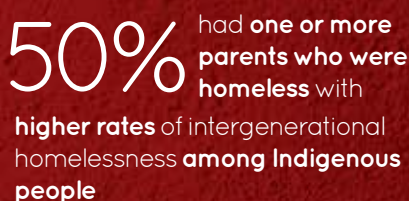
## On Census night 2016: Western Australians



## Western Australians receiving support from homelessness services (2016-2017)



## The three main reasons for people seeking homelessness assistance:



## Housing provides stability and reduces health costs

For homeless Western Australians supported to enter public housing through the **National Partnership Against Homelessness** program the health system cost savings were



## Sources

Australian Bureau of Statistics (2018) *Census of Population and Housing: Estimating homelessness, 2016, 2049.0* [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

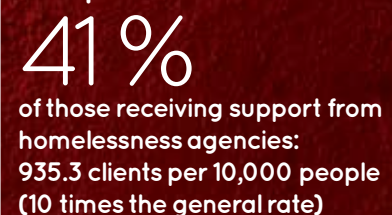
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Wood, L., Flatau, P., Zaretsky, K., Foster, S., Vallesi, S. and Miscenko, D. (2016), *What are the health, social and economic benefits of providing public housing and support to formerly homeless people?*, AHURI, Final Report No.265 [www.ahuri.edu.au](http://www.ahuri.edu.au)

Flatau, P., Thielking, M., MacKenzie, D., & Steen, A. (2015), *The cost of youth homelessness in Australia study: snapshot report 1* <http://apo.org.au/node/53029>

## Aboriginal people comprise





# Our Approach to Ending Homelessness

Let's end homelessness, not just manage it. Taking a coordinated and collaborative approach we can end homelessness in Western Australia.

Our responsibility	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ending homelessness is a collective responsibility involving the whole Western Australian community.</li> <li>2. Those experiencing homelessness bring their collective knowledge and lived experience to effective solutions to homelessness and take personal ownership to ending their own homelessness.</li> </ol>
Our approach to housing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. A primary driver of homelessness is housing affordability. Reducing housing affordability problems and increasing the availability of affordable housing targeted to those experiencing homelessness are fundamental to our approach of ending homelessness.</li> <li>4. The provision of services and housing should be guided by the person experiencing homelessness' choice and need. Housing should be safe, decent, readily attainable. A range of types of affordable housing options close to services and in differing communities is critical to addressing the various support needs of people experiencing homelessness.</li> <li>5. All people experiencing homelessness are able to transition to immediate permanent housing, with supports as necessary. Our immediate objective is to help people experiencing homelessness gain and maintain a permanent place to call home and meet ongoing health and social needs.</li> </ol>
Our approach to support	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Those experiencing homelessness are supported to address underlying health and social issues they face, and to gain employment so they can move to a position of long-term financial security.</li> <li>7. The most vulnerable populations are prioritised in actions to end homelessness. The very high rate of Aboriginal homelessness and women and children in domestic violence relationships in Western Australia and those experiencing long-term homelessness requires special attention and the reduction in homelessness in these groups is a major first priority.</li> <li>8. Resources will be concentrated on programs that offer long-term results and programs will be delivered through a network of collaborating services.</li> <li>9. Our progress in achieving our goals will be continually assessed in an open, transparent and accountable way.</li> </ol>
Our approach to funding	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10. 10-year Strategy funding should be sufficient to meet the objectives of the Strategy and will be sought from diverse sources. The economic costs of homelessness will be reduced with the implementation of an effective plan that ends chronic homelessness and results in functional zero homelessness where inflows into homelessness approximate outflows into housing on a monthly basis.</li> <li>11. It will be essential to involve the private sector in the funding of the 10-year Strategy through, public private funding models, corporate giving and the provision of affordable housing options including through impact investing options.</li> <li>12. A skilled and well-trained workforce and an adequately funded non-profit sector are central to the achievement of the objective of ending homelessness.</li> </ol>

# Our Five Core Strategic Areas

1	Housing	Ensure adequate and affordable housing. This means having a supply of housing that meets the needs of those who need it. It also means having multiple pathways into permanent housing and multiple housing options including housing with support services that are all effective.
2	Prevention	A focus on prevention and early intervention. Develop system, service and social responses that ensure people at risk of homelessness have the supports they need to prevent them entering homelessness. This will involve an improving recognition of the health value of a home.
3	A strong and coordinated response	A 24/7 'no wrong door' system that delivers responsive action across different community and health support systems that are well coordinated and act quickly.
4	Data, research and targets	Improve data, the evidence base on what works, systems knowledge, and the accountability of the health and social support system to achieve the goals of the Strategy. Building the evidence base around the health value of a home. Set clear targets and ensure delivery.
5	Building community capacity	Solutions are sourced from those who have experienced homelessness. All sectors that support those experiencing vulnerability and disadvantage deepen their capacity to end homelessness in WA. Developing a broad public movement, inclusive of all members of the community who have the desire to end homelessness brings more people and resources to ensure success.





# The Housing First Approach

## Housing First is People First

Traditionally, people experiencing homelessness were expected to address the issues that led to their homelessness, such as mental illness or addictions, before they were housed.

The principles of housing first underpin our approach to chronic homelessness in this strategy. Under a Housing First approach, the priority is to quickly move people experiencing homelessness into appropriate housing. Housing First programs respect client choice, follow a harm reduction approach, believe that support provided while in housing is more effective than without a house, provide a stronger platform for education and employment and transition out of support services, and see permanent housing as a basic human right.

This approach advocates that people experiencing homelessness are better able to access support and achieve long-term positive outcomes from the stability of a home.

Working together with a whole of society response including government, non-government agencies, businesses and individual citizens, we can ensure everyone has a safe place to call home.

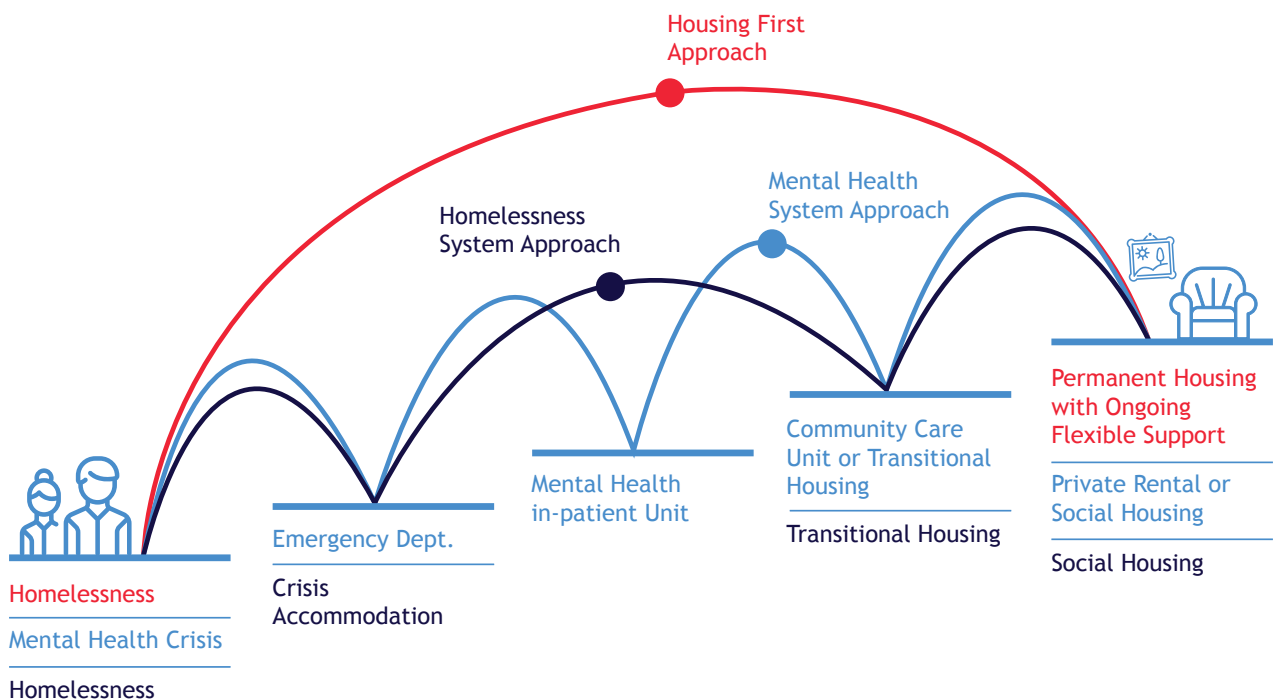
The 50 Lives 50 Homes collective impact project has been a successful example of a housing first approach in the Perth Metro. For more information on this and other high impact projects working towards ending homelessness WA visit [www.endhomelessnessWA.com](http://www.endhomelessnessWA.com)

The principles of Housing First are:

- Immediate access to housing with no readiness conditions
- Consumer choice and self-determination
- Recovery orientation

- Individualised and person-driven supports
- Social and community integration

It's important to note that while Housing First programs have been successful internationally, it's important to see them as part of a system of care in our community where everyone is doing their part to end homelessness. In Calgary they have noted that Housing First programs work because of the great collaboration between emergency shelters, short term supportive housing, addictions and mental health supports, outreach, etc.



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# Homelessness

## The Business Case

Australian and international research demonstrates that it costs less, on average, to provide appropriate housing and support to a person at risk of or experiencing homelessness (ending homelessness) compared with providing that same person with short-term and ongoing emergency and institutional responses (managing homelessness) and covering the health and other costs of homelessness. This is particularly the case for those in chronic homelessness and facing serious mental health and other issues.





# Regional, Local and Cohort-specific Action Plans

It is important for Western Australia to have a statewide Strategy for ending homelessness to provide a common focus and framework.

However, the homelessness experience is very much influenced by place and local Action Plans will take into account the context, specific circumstances, resources, and networks of each region and location to provide more effective, tailored response to homelessness in each region and location.

Action Plans also need to be tailored for the experiences of different groups of people experiencing homelessness; their journeys and the barriers they face in exiting from homelessness. The experiences of young people aren't the same as adult experiencing homelessness and women and children experiencing domestic violence and homelessness.

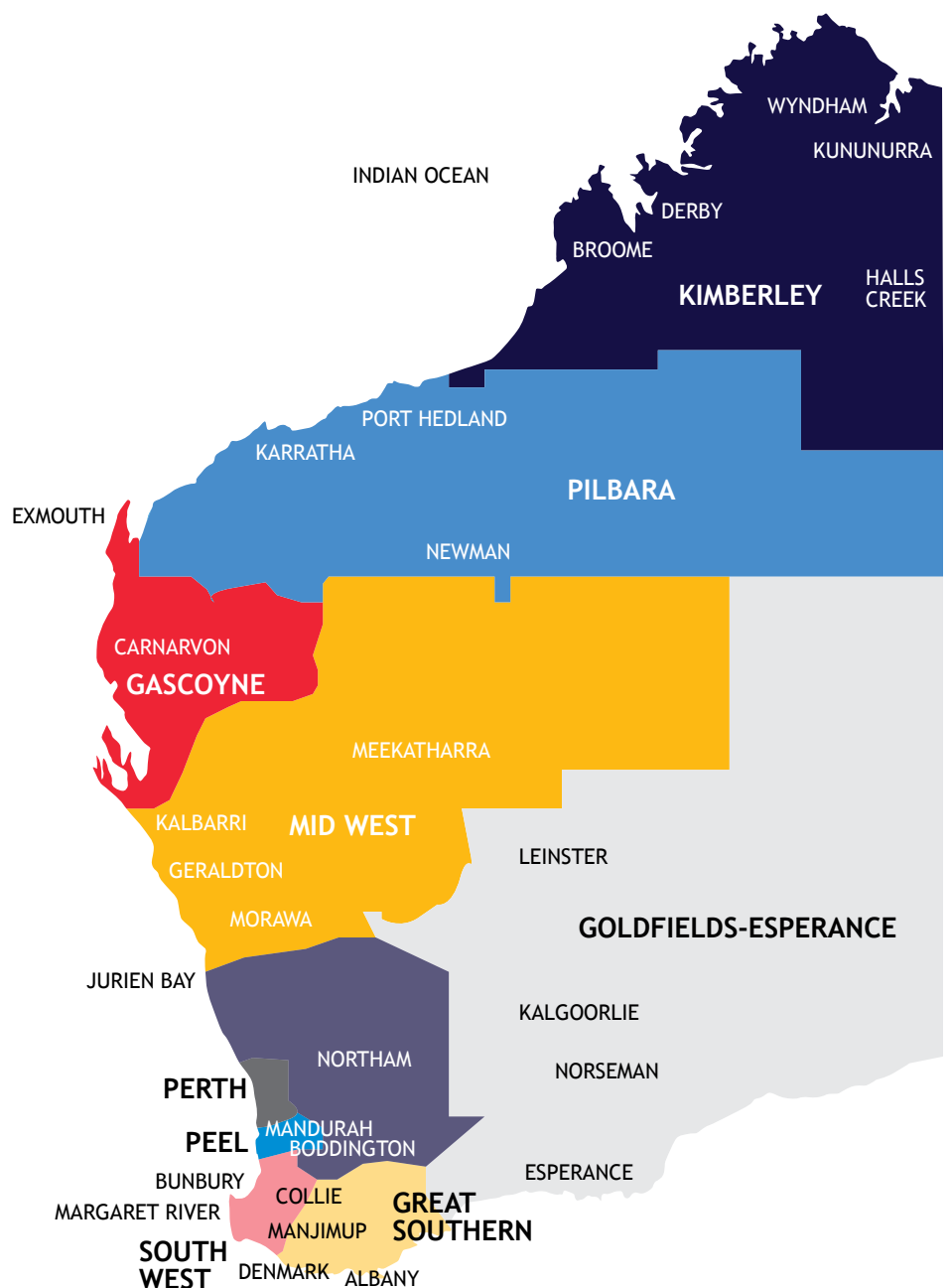
Each process for creating a regional, local or cohort specific Action Plan will be based fundamentally on the lived experiences of those experiencing homelessness, their knowledge and their meanings, and draw from best practice within systems thinking and human-centred design.

## Regional Action Plans

Each region of WA from the Kimberley to Perth, the Goldfields and Great Southern would ensure that their Action Plans take into account their unique context and requirements.

## Local Action Plans

Each region supports the development of local Action Plans from those inspired to make change in their community to ensure a strong community response and place-based initiatives.







## Cohort-specific Action Plans

Cohort-specific Action Plans will be developed to ensure that the solutions are tailored and adapted appropriately for different groups.

These Action Plans will be developed over the course of 2018 with the direct engagement of those who are experiencing homelessness or who have recently exited from homelessness in each group. The overlapping nature of the cohorts and their experiences means that Plans will be developed simultaneously and draw from each other.

Specific Action Plans will be developed over the coming year. In each area, there will be a need to understand the lived experiences of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender, intersex, queer, and questioning people, of refugees in Australia, and people who face specific forms of disadvantage.

In recent years we have witnessed a growth of older women who are homeless and their circumstances will be especially focused on in the cohort strategies.

### **Women and children experiencing family and domestic violence**

Family and domestic violence is the leading cause of homelessness in Western Australia with 8,388 people citing family and domestic violence as the main reason for seeking support in Western Australia in 2015-16. Most of those seeking support are women and children.

- **Children and young people**

Over 3,000 children and young people under the age of 25 were counted as homeless on Census night in 2016 in Western Australia. Many children experience homelessness with their families or with their mothers in women's refuges following violence in the family home. Other children run away from home by themselves or are thrown out of their homes by one or more of their parents and couch surf in local neighborhoods with friends' families. The rate of youth homelessness among those in care or previously in care is very high and requires a major response. Interactions with justice are high and young people experiencing homelessness have very high rates of suicide attempt and self-harm.

- **Aboriginal people**

The rate of homelessness among Aboriginal people is far higher than for non-Aboriginal people in Western Australia with over 30% of those counted as homeless being Aboriginal. Aboriginal homelessness is high across the state in regions such as the Kimberley as well in Perth and regional towns. A Strategy for Aboriginal People needs to address differences in severe overcrowding among

Aboriginal people across the state. Family-based homelessness is also particularly high among Aboriginal people.

- **Single adults rough sleeping**

Many adults who are chronic rough sleepers have high physical, mental health and alcohol and drugs dependence needs. Others may have limited health needs but cannot afford housing due to low incomes and debt and may be experiencing significant social dislocation. The focus of a Strategy for Single Adults is on addressing these needs but within a Housing First context of providing homes with health and social supports, tenancy support and progressive support to enable people to transition to employment and provide a channel from long-term poverty.

- **Older people**

We also need to focus on older people, older women in particular. We need to look at the growing percentage of retirees who do not own a home. There has been a noticeable growth of older women who experience homelessness. We know that we need to address this growing concern.





Photo by Ryan Tran Photography at Shadow Studio.



# Housing

Housing is too expensive and there is insufficient supply, particularly of well-located and affordable rental housing to meet overall demand. Housing alone cannot end homelessness but an adequate supply of affordable rental stock located close to services and employment opportunities is integral to achieving this goal.

Despite significant population growth across WA, purpose built affordable rental stock has not kept up with demand. Furthermore when it comes to the housing needs of the low income and vulnerable population, neither government, the community housing sector or the market housing sector have met the demand. We need government to commit funding to address housing shortages to which the market is not responding, particularly the shortage of housing options for households on the lowest incomes.

We need to bring all key stakeholders together to focus on addressing the gap between the demand for affordable housing and supply. This includes all levels of government, not-for-profit agencies and the private sector. The development of and commitment to an Affordable Housing Strategy is key to achieving this and will need to be led by the state government.

The strategy should identify challenges and opportunities as well as identify and implement action with each stakeholder bringing resources and expertise. To overcome the shortage of affordable rental housing it is imperative that the private sector is meaningfully engaged. We need to fund innovative ways to make building and operating affordable rental stock an attractive investment for the private sector. Governments across all levels can do much more in terms of enabling policy to incentivise private sector engagement.

We also need to develop and implement more effective and efficient ways of coordinating and subsidising access to existing private rental market housing. Rental subsidy programs will be particularly important in the short term as building the supply of purpose built rental housing will take some time and not meet the immediate needs.



The current residential tenancies act in WA is significantly more favourable to landlords and should be reviewed to address the lack of tenure security created by 'no grounds' termination clauses. This is particularly important in relation to public housing tenancies.

In terms of housing options to meet the needs of individuals and families who are homeless, we need to ensure that there are a range of housing options and responses workable, these should include:

- Emergency Shelter responses
- Rapid re-housing
- Supportive Housing
- Permanent Supported Housing
- Rental Subsidy options
- Affordable Rental Housing

# Policy Focus

## Build an Effective Affordable Housing System

To adequately meet the housing needs of low to moderate income households in WA we need government to head the development of a coordinated housing approach. The current state affordable housing strategy has proved successful in some aspects of the housing continuum, particularly in relation to entry level home ownership. Where the strategy has failed is in addressing the falling levels of social housing stock, developing and implementing a strategy to increase the role and capacity of the community housing sector to deliver housing supply and meaningful engagement of the private sector as owners and suppliers of affordable rental housing.

## Increase the Supply of Social and Community Housing

An adequate supply of affordable housing that meet the needs of low and moderate income households at below market cost is essential if we are to have any success at ending homelessness. Subsidised housing may take a number of forms that exist along the housing continuum including various rental options through to home ownership. Many people in our community who are restricted to very low incomes due to disability, age or entrenched disadvantage can only afford heavily subsidised housing options that are provided by public or community housing providers. The supply of 'social' housing has been steadily declining in WA and across Australia, government must recognise the need to adequately fund and facilitate the provision of social housing stock. Initial targets should be set at reversing the decline in stock numbers with a longer term goal of achieving a 6% target across all housing stock.

All levels of government can assist not-for-profit agencies develop affordable housing from a policy perspective. This includes; asset transfers, making land available, reducing costs to develop projects and facilitating access to low cost financing options.



## Supply and Incentivise the role of the Private Sector in the provision of Affordable Housing

The only way to overcome the gap in the supply of affordable rental housing is by meaningfully engaging the private sector. We need to find innovative ways to make building and operating affordable rental stock an attractive investment for the private sector. Government across all levels can do much more in the realm of policy to incentivise private sector engagement.

At a Federal Government level we need changes to taxation legislation that addresses the yield gap that results from investment in affordable rental housing. At State and Local government levels we need to commit to density bonuses and incentives, waiving fees related to premises and the adoption of inclusionary zoning provisions.

Other planning and building codes and policies should be reviewed to recognise the specific tenant needs of affordable and supported accommodation, such as requirements for parking.

## Provision of a diverse range of housing options to respond to homelessness

To adequately support an effective homelessness response system, we need to ensure that the policy settings and funding mechanisms are in place that allow for the development and provision of a range of housing responses.

The responses will include but are not limited to:

- Emergency Shelter
- Rapid re-housing programs
- Supportive Housing
- Permanent Supported Housing
- Rental Subsidies options
- Affordable Rental Housing

## Facilitate Access to the Private Rental Market

The private rental market will always be an important source of housing for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. In the long term the aim is to ensure that the supply of affordable rental housing meets the demand, in the short term we need establish effective ways of facilitating access to the private rental market.

This can be achieved through the establishment and funding of a rental subsidy scheme that sources market rate properties from the private sector.

We also need to pursue more effective ways of coordinating access to market rent properties and it is particularly important to support Rapid Re-housing programs and Housing First programs. The development of a coordinated approach to negotiation with landlords, as a broader group and the efficient allocation of units across programs is required to achieve the best outcomes in terms of accessing this housing option.

To further support this housing option and to reduce the risk of further homelessness there needs to be a review of the Residential Tenancies Act (1987) in relation to 'no grounds' terminations. This review is particularly important as it relates to tenants in public housing.

## Key Actions

1. Develop a new State Affordable Housing Strategy that focuses on the delivery of an additional 15,000 social housing dwellings by 2030, and includes specific responses to develop a diversity of housing options for people experiencing homelessness. This strategy must, in partnership with the private sector identify, evaluate and recommend a range of possible incentive programs and develop options that encourage private sector participation in the provision of affordable rental housing.
2. Maximise investment and supply through a Community Housing Growth Strategy to increase specialisation, innovation and investment.
3. Set Minimum targets of 15 per cent for social and affordable rental housing in:
  - a. Metronet precincts
  - b. All State government land and housing developments.
4. Amend Planning legislation to make inclusionary zoning mandatory and ensure that measures are in place to secure affordable housing outcomes in perpetuity.
5. Require Local government Authorities to prepare and implement affordable housing policies to support the implementation of Affordable Housing Strategies as a mandatory requirement for the approval of Town Planning Schemes and amendments.
6. Audit, repurpose and reinvest under-utilised government land and assets for additional social housing supply.
7. Co-design a shared needs-based housing register, with the community housing and services sector. Ensure that people experiencing homelessness are prioritised within this register.
8. Develop and implement a private rental brokerage scheme that facilitates access to the private rental market for low income households through the provision of rental subsidies. To enhance the effectiveness of this scheme establish a framework to achieve a coordinated approach to negotiation with private landlords and the timely allocation of properties to those in need.
9. Strengthen the Residential Tenancies Act (1987) through its five-year review.
  - a. Reform the Residential Tenancies Act (1987) to abolish 'no-grounds' terminations.
  - b. Amend the Residential Tenancies Act (1987) to include family and domestic violence provisions.
  - c. Place a moratorium on the use no-grounds terminations for tenants in public housing properties.
10. Develop a funding model to deliver secure and sustainable funding for tenant education and advisory services.
11. Develop policy that prevents government agencies from discharging/exiting people into homelessness.
12. Remove from legislation, policies and practices that require housing readiness as entry into housing.
13. Extend tenancy support programs in the private rental market, community and public housing.
14. Drive the homelessness agenda through peak housing bodies including Shelter WA, CHIA WA, Property Council, Master Builders Association



Photo by Ryan Tran Photography  
at Shadow Studio.



# Prevention

We work hard so that no one experiences homelessness in the first place.

We must work to reduce current levels of homelessness as a matter of immediate priority. To do this we need to prevent people from falling into homelessness in the first place. And as soon as people are at immediate risk of homelessness or first enter homelessness we must intervene to prevent entry to long-term homelessness.

The key pathways into homelessness are now better understood than ever before. If we can bolster the support systems that act on the root causes of homelessness we can help stem the flow into homelessness.

Prevention means using our understanding of the causes of people being at risk of homelessness and the evidence based responses to successfully intervene quickly.

## Policy Focus

Recognition of the key underlying causes of homelessness and supporting a holistic human services system response.

Trauma, mental illness, alcohol and drug dependence, chronic health issues, family and domestic violence, neglect of children, disability, entrenched disadvantage and unaffordable housing are the major contributing drivers of homelessness. Addressing these problems is the responsibility of the whole community and of a broad range of support systems.

We need to develop a human services system that has the capability to address issues holistically and recognise the long-term and inter-generational impact of not addressing these key issues. If we work effectively on family and domestic violence in the home, for example, we reduce significantly the entry into homelessness of those affected by violence, women and children. The current approach to homelessness service delivery needs to better understand and be more responsive to these contributing factors. This will require the building of stronger evidenced-based models, improved capability and stronger quality frameworks.

### Child Protection

The existing evidence base is very clear: approximately half of those who are homeless as adults were homeless prior to the age of 18 and many have interacted with State care.

There is a clear link between out-of-home care and youth and adult homelessness so addressing entry into, time spent in and periods following out-of-home care critical in preventing homelessness. The problems that can arise in out-of-home care are exacerbated when young people are left to fend on their own at age 18 with no support or anywhere to live.

We need to stop discharging people into homelessness from child protection services and we need to address the underlying causes that lead to children

being taken into out-of-home care, through services that support family functioning and positive parenting. We need to inform and educate people around these issues, ensure that there is trauma-informed care and design of housing and services.

We recognise that this requires additional training throughout the sector and the greater employment of a staff with specific training in trauma-informed care. With over a third of people experiencing homelessness identifying as being Aboriginal it is critical that we also understand and raise awareness around intergenerational-trauma and ensure that our systems are co-designed with people who have first-hand experience and deep knowledge in this field.



### **Ending the cycle of family and domestic violence**

One fundamental cause of entry into homelessness is family and domestic violence affecting women and children who flee the family home because of violence. Coordinated early intervention responses from women's refuges, domestic violence agencies, and the police, are required to mitigate and meet quickly the impact of family and domestic violence on homelessness. Safe at home programs are a strong policy response to domestic violence but safe at home programs need to be extended and supported by a strong women's' refuge network. The fundamental preventative action, however, is to end the root cause of violence against women through empowering women, increase perpetrator accountability programs, that have a strong evidence-base and that address gender inequality.

Children and teenagers also run away by themselves or are thrown out of the home due principally to violence in the family home and begin a period and sadly sometimes a life of homelessness from that point. Too many teenagers and adults who are homeless can trace their entry into homelessness from this point. Some will couch surf with their friends' families and others will rough sleep. Very few are in contact with any social support systems but they do generally continue to go to school. The capability of school communities including teachers, school psychologists, school social workers and of social support systems including youth agencies to address the problem of children's' homelessness requires urgent attention.

### **Financial difficulties and housing crisis**

A very common entry point into homelessness is that of financial stress and an ability to pay for housing. In many cases, those entering homelessness from this point may not experience a broad range of needs but are simply unable to pay for housing due to high housing costs and low income resulting from unemployment and no financial reserves. Reducing housing cost pressures by increasing the supply of affordable housing and strengthening job opportunities provides the key to turning off the tap of entry into homelessness from financial and housing stress. Supported Tenancy Programs designed to keep people in their tenancies are cost-effective early intervention solutions. These should include right time level interventions of financial support, as delays in this area can be particularly damaging in terms of amplifying problems so they escalate a person's risk of experiencing homelessness. Housing system and supported tenancy responses are addressed in the housing section.

### **Exits from prisons and healthcare institutions**

Transitioning out of prison and healthcare institutions and into the community is a critical stage for the person exiting prison and hospital for their friends and family. Failure to adequately prioritise stable and appropriate housing along with appropriate supports in this transition can have deep effects on maintaining a cycle of offending behavior, homelessness and their health. Coordinating holistic responses that factor in the needs of both the individual exiting prison and healthcare institutions their friends and family is critical to supporting positive long-term changes in people's life trajectory. This is particularly true where those friends and family may already be being supported for housing stress related issues, we will encourage joint planning and support where it is appropriate.

### **Holistic system response that strengthens individuals**

It is important that we recognise that each individual sits within informal and formal systems whether they be a family, a school, a place and/or a community. We must strengthen these support systems if we want to address homelessness in an effective way.

If we do not support families to function better or to have the means to support a family member, there is greater risk of an individual falling into crisis. The cost to the individual, the family and society are much greater at this point than if we invested in preventing it from happening. It is the same with schools and communities, if we do not support, educate and resource these to support an individual at risk of homelessness then the costs are greater. We must support effective child protection and family services. It is critical that we form meaningful pathways within community towards employment, education and training before a person falls into homelessness. This is also the case with pathways towards health and wellbeing. This way we ensure that people don't have to wait until they fall into a crisis point or into homelessness before they can build their own pathway towards a better future.



## Key Actions

1. Invest in the capacity of human service systems to deal in a systematic and coordinated way with the key underlying causes of homelessness including domestic and family violence, trauma, drug and alcohol dependence issues, mental health conditions and long-term physical health conditions. Ensure that the human service system focuses on the long-term and intergenerational impact from domestic and family violence, trauma, drug and alcohol dependence issues, mental health conditions and long-term physical health conditions by focused, coordinated, programs for the children of those being supported.
2. Deliver a co-designed WA quality framework for homelessness services that develops workforce capacity to link with other key human service support systems and respond to the key drivers of homelessness.
3. Undertake education programs among teachers, principals, school psychologists, parents and youth agencies about the experiences of children who are experiencing homelessness in their schools and communities including those children sleeping rough by themselves and couch surfing with friends' families. Develop a risk assessment process and a positive response approach that supports children in these circumstances and provides long-term effective educational, social and housing support and solutions.
4. Extend safe at home programs to support women and children to stay in the home and support women's' refuges to access rapidly permanent housing for those women and children they support.
5. Understanding of gender inequality embedded in theory and practice.
6. Provide an option for young people leaving care to extend the age at which they leave care to 21 and enforce existing requirements mandating the development of leaving care plans for young people leaving care.
7. All people leaving jail and hospitals without permanent housing options are provided with a mandated permanent housing plan.
8. Extend programs which provide long-term person-to-person case management support (for example Reconnect) for children and young people experiencing homelessness or at high risk of homelessness so that a young person has someone to turn to regardless of their current circumstances and the agencies they may be interacting with.
9. Support the extension of Reconnect services which assist young people at risk of homelessness to remain connected with their families (where appropriate) and reduce the entry of young people into homelessness.
10. The Commissioner for Children and Young People to report on homelessness of children and young people and the adequacy of existing responses to that homelessness every three years.
11. Implement place-based community networks to ensure resilience is embedded as individuals and families increase independence and leave services.
12. Explore place-based commissioning as a mechanism to enhance local, coordinated responses to homelessness.
13. Develop an awareness and education for individuals, families, schools and communities to ensure that people at risk of homelessness are identified and know how to support the individual.
14. Significantly increase the capability of homelessness agencies to meet the employment needs of those they are supporting through developing stronger links with business and with the introduction of employer-linked mentoring programs.
15. Ensure all homelessness services have clear referral pathways to employment programs for the person experiencing homelessness and develop joint employment targets post-exit from support.



# Strong, Flexible, Coordinated Response

“If a person or family is experiencing homelessness we work together to get them housed and their unique needs met as soon as possible.”

Moving people rapidly out of homelessness, into permanent housing and ensuring effective supports are available to sustain their tenancy requires a strong, flexible and coordinated response. To best meet the needs of those experiencing homelessness, our response needs to be available 24 hours a day, seven days per week.

## Policy Focus

### No Wrong Door

Rapid access to services is a critical component of ending homelessness. The best way to achieve this is by ensuring that wherever a person enters the service system, their needs and wishes are quickly identified and plans are made to meet these. i.e., there is no “wrong door” by which people can get help out of homelessness.

A “no wrong door” approach requires a collaborative alliance of service providers, incorporating not-for-profit organisations, government, the private sector and philanthropic individuals all focused on finding the best response for each person or family.

Service system reform and innovation will be necessary components of this approach. Assessment, referral processes and information sharing will need to be highly functioning to enable the rapid housing of people experiencing homelessness and families and the provision of the required support services.

### Coordination and integration

A focus on service coordination will be required to complement the rapid access to services and permanent housing that are features of this proposal.

Service providers will develop partnerships with other services across a range of programs to ensure an integrated response that includes secure accommodation as well as

addressing other identified issues.

This will include programs that address specific social and health issues, including but not limited to alcohol and other drug use, mental health, offending behaviours and family and domestic violence.

Service providers will commit to articulating a clear and public statement of “what each organisation will do to contribute to ending homelessness” and their roles in making coordination happen. These commitments will be evidenced in their Strategic Plans, Service Descriptions and embedded in key performance indicators.

Crisis services in particular will have a clear understanding of where they fit in the ecosystem of addressing homelessness and of the valuable contribution they make. The “ground level” intelligence they gather will be instrumental in identifying and responding to individual needs.

Government agencies will ensure that all tender requests include a requirement to address homelessness as part of a response to any social issue.

Interagency Memoranda of Understanding and Service Level Agreements will be established to set out flexible and easily-navigated referral mechanisms between agencies and up to date service directories will be available so that services can quickly and easily liaise with other services to ensure an agile and comprehensive response to homelessness when it presents.

### Client-centred support:

#### Choice & Control

Providing choice and control to individuals will challenge existing service models and require a new approach. While a rapid response from a coordinated service network will make it easier for individuals to navigate their way out of homelessness and to sustain permanent housing, it will achieve greater success by ensuring that the services being delivered are always centred on the needs of individuals and families.

Services providers will work together to ensure that service design and delivery supports people to address the behaviours that may result in them falling into homelessness (e.g., anti-social behaviours, problems with neighbours). Supports that enable people to meet their responsibilities will be provided so that people are not exited into homelessness and the level of intensity of these services will be based on the needs of each individual and family. To underpin this, services will clearly set out the rights and responsibilities of the person experiencing homelessness, as well as consequences for failing to uphold these.



## Key Actions

1. A No Wrong Door approach is implemented across services, meaning no turning away, sharing information and coordinated supports.
2. Systems to provide real-time service information and to support service coordination and monitoring are developed.
3. Map service demand, funding streams and referral pathways in order to align and optimise the homelessness response services system. Establish a cross-sector social design team that works to deliver a coordinated and aligned service system and ensure that human centred design principles are embedded in system reform and all service procurement processes.
4. Ensure continuous dialogue between the homelessness service system and closely aligned service systems such as the community mental health sector, alcohol and drug networks, employment services and community housing to improve service integration outcomes. Measure the extent of service integration across service systems on a periodic basis to ensure that overall levels of service integration are improving.
5. Review the experience of entry point services to ensure quality service.
6. Ensure that an integrated real-time 'beds available' in homelessness accommodation services system is maintained across all homelessness services.
7. Develop collaborative funding and resourcing mechanisms that result in a more collaborative and diverse approaches.

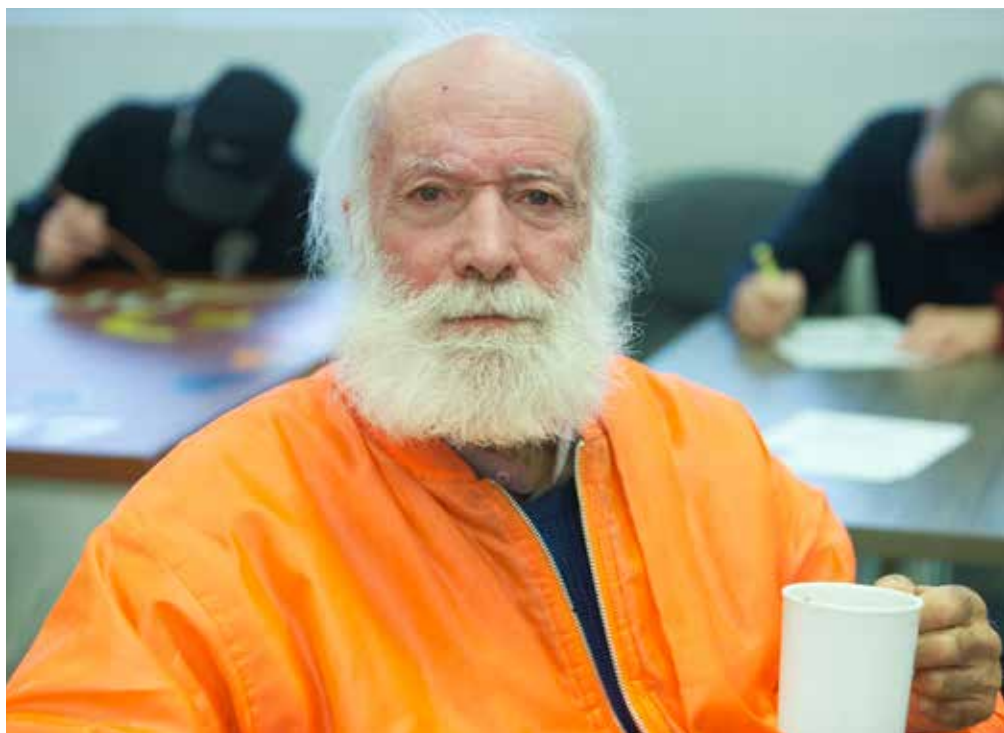
# Data, research and targets

Developing a strong evidence base is critical to the task of ending homelessness in Western Australia as it informs policy and practice as to where, how and to what extent we need to invest to achieve our desired goals. It also tells us how well we are going in reaching our targets.

We are in a strong position in Western Australia to use data and research to support the effort to end homelessness in Western Australia. Specialist Homelessness Services (SHSs) funded by government use a common and well-developed reporting tool, the output from which is used by the Australian Institute for Health and Welfare to provide a comprehensive overview of the needs of people experiencing homelessness, the services provided to them and the immediate outcomes associated with support. The Census provides point-in-time estimates of the level of homelessness and its prevalence in particular groups. Agencies have undertaken their own collection of data on homelessness and these have proven to be of immense benefit. One instrument that has been used widely in inner Perth and Fremantle is the so-called Vulnerability Index - Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) particularly for rough sleepers. And Western Australia has the most developed linked administrative data structure in the country.

Nevertheless, the rich data that exists in Western Australia is currently not being used to full effect. Data that is being collected, such as the specialist homelessness services data is currently not being linked on an ongoing basis with health, justice, housing and other databases on a regular systematic basis for policy and practice benefit nor analysed effectively. The VI-SPDAT measure has strengths but needs to be augmented to realise its full potential and the collection of data needs to be applied across a broader range of sites rather than being limited to Inner Perth and Fremantle.

Beyond developing a stronger evidence base to achieve the goals of the Strategy, we also need to establish an



accountability and reporting framework for the Strategy in which outcomes are assessed over time against the targets set.

We need to know the people we are seeking to serve by name and what their unique needs are. We also need to understand the risks that lead to homelessness, how to flag them early and to inform a system that drives earlier intervention.

Our aim is to have a consistent appropriate collection, analysis and application of data relating to people experiencing homelessness and the services they utilise in WA. We are committed to developing a single source of evidence that is integrated into national collaborations. We build on best practice in the field and ensure that it is integrated into whole of government outcomes.



# Policy Focus

## Shared, effective and consistent community measurement systems

We are committed to creating a common Western Australian platform for homelessness data that builds on the existing national Specialist Homelessness Services (SHSs) database to cover all services and not just the government funded SHSs. Including all services that provide support to those experiencing homelessness will provide for a more complete picture of homelessness in Western Australia.

We need to make more of Western Australia's highly developed linked administrative data system. The homelessness data and the broader linked administrative data need to be joined together to develop a more complete understanding of the journeys followed by those entering homelessness, the consequences of homelessness and the effectiveness of interventions. The range of data covered by the linked administrative data continues to expand. The number of national data sets that can be linked to the Western Australia data is also expanding. Careful use of administrative linked data to understand pathways and journeys and impacts of those experiencing homelessness is fundamental to effective policy.

Effective housing and homelessness programs have consequences in terms of improved health and justice outcomes and mortality rates. Existing data from the SHS collection can be more effectively used particularly when linked to other datasets and findings translated more effectively through the WA homelessness support system.

We need stronger connections between services in relation to what they are measuring and evaluating so our response can be more effective. This involves setting up and investing in a common electronic database and improving ways to capture service-based data.



The homelessness service system together with community housing and government departments need to come together to examine the sets of measures and instruments that should be used across the system to measure progress (beyond those measures captured in the SHS collection). It is important to have an agreed uniform data set and tools. While the VI-SPDAT has many limitations its use in inner Perth and Fremantle has provided invaluable information for services in those areas. We wish to see its use (in an augmented form) expanded across all agencies.

We need to invest in capacity building (both in terms of people and in terms of infrastructure) to increase our data analytic capacity to make sure that we are responding and learning from the data we are collecting. The Bankwest Foundation Social Impact project on measurement provide clear and directed recommendations for action. We draw on these recommendations below. We need to ensure that data use that supports early warning and coordinated intervention.

We need to build stories around the data so the lived experiences around people experiencing homelessness are expressed directly. We are also committed to developing tools for people experiencing homelessness so they have a stronger information and evidence base to make their own decisions.

## Investment in long-term research and evaluation for strategic action

It is critical to have a better understanding of the causes and consequences of homelessness and the effectiveness of program interventions so that we can adjust our strategy and plans. We need more homelessness-directed research of relevant WA data and not rely on other state's data. Expand, coordinate and deepen research capabilities to gain a detailed understanding of homelessness in Perth and set up ways to evaluate, improve and share performance and learning of our 10-year Strategy.

## Measurable and transparent targets

As a system that is dedicated to ending homelessness we must have clear and measurable targets. It is important that these are agreed to and that each party is aware of the role they are playing in meeting them. These targets and how we are achieving against them needs to be transparent. It would also be useful for each individual, group and organisation to be transparent in how their activities are working to achieve the targets set. This will support alignment, clarity and collaboration without duplication.



# Key Actions

## Shared, effective and consistent community measurement systems

1. Develop an outcomes measurement framework for homelessness in Western Australia based around the Homelessness Strategy's targets. Ensure that data collection systems are in place to operationalise targets set and measure annually progress against the 10-year targets. Create a shared dashboard that is publically available.
2. Investigate ways to better utilise the WA SHS collection for assessment of homelessness outcomes and evaluation.
3. Encourage the greater use of the VI-SPDAT instrument around Western Australia. Augment the VI-SPDAT to meet its current deficiencies and encourage and train all agencies to use the tool alongside the judgement of professional practice.
4. Build capacity around collecting, analysing, utilising and reporting data among homelessness services through:
  - a. Supporting the direct funding at 10% of budget, data collection, measurement and evaluation.
  - b. Provide a space for organisations to safely share best practice to ensure that community sector organisations know what each other are doing and can learn. Ensure that there are feedback and learning loops set in place among services and funders so that a strong and effective homelessness service system is operating.
  - c. Improve access to resources for outcomes measurement in homelessness services, such as training for staff and technology-assisted data collection.
  - d. Improve guidance on using outcomes tools and methods for homelessness services.
  - e. Improve standard language and concepts among homelessness services. It is difficult to establish best outcomes measurement practice when different organisations and funders are measuring the same things in different ways or using particular jargon and 'lingo'.
5. An overarching goal of the homelessness sector community sector is to deliver benefit to their clients and/or consumers. Therefore, it is essential that client outcomes are balanced with funder needs in funding contracts.
6. Eliminate as far as practicable differences in reporting between funders of homelessness services.
7. Encourage among homelessness services a greater focus on external public reporting requirements of outcomes.
8. Make a collective investment into shared data collection across agencies and shared analysis with stringent privacy provisions so that real-time decision-making can be enhanced.
9. Work with key complementary services to ensure that data collection systems include flags for risks associated with experiencing homelessness and appropriate interventions are supported.
10. Ensure homelessness metrics are included in WA state whole of government key performance indicators.
11. Link the Western Australian SHS data on an ongoing basis with health, justice, housing and other state government data bases as well as Commonwealth databases to understand better the causes and consequences of homelessness and the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of homelessness responses.
12. Build capacity to do research and strategic analysis of homelessness data through a Western Australian joint university, homelessness services and government research unit. The unit will monitor progress against the 10-year Strategy goals, establish a Homelessness Monitor which examines trends in homelessness and its causes in Western Australia and develop advice to the sector on tools and instruments for measuring outcomes in services.
13. Develop the policy advocacy agenda among homelessness services based on solid data and research.

# Building community capacity

We believe that all people should be valued as contributing citizens in society with informal supports provided by a community that is understanding and empathetic.

This strategy involves the development of grass roots community action that includes a broad community campaign about homelessness that reduces stigma.

Key to the success of this will be engaging people who have experienced the homelessness system to be part of the solution.

## Policy Focus

### Whole of community response

Our Western Australian community is generous and there are multitudes who have come forward wishing and willing to help people in the community who are 'doing it tough'. Although resources are in some places scarce, there is an untapped 'wealth' of volunteer support from our community, and a whole of system response includes consideration of our community's natural supports. We need to harness the goodwill of individuals and the community. Investing in the development of community knowledge, capacity and commitment will address homelessness in the most effective ways.

Establishing a clear framework of how we can all work together to end homelessness involves building awareness and education of the general public. This way we value the contribution and provide guidance around the role of individuals and services wanting to contribute towards people who are vulnerable.

It is critical that we change community perceptions, to ensure that common myths around homelessness are replaced by facts and to raise awareness of the need to end homelessness and not just manage it. We must work towards increasing tolerance of difference.

We need to ensure that the voice of people who have or are experiencing homelessness are heard in the design of solutions and ways forward. Promoting citizenship includes increasing civic participation and voting among people who are experiencing homelessness as well as ensuring that they have access to legal services so that people are well informed and supported in legal issues.

We know that it is essential to engage bipartisan support over 10 years, it is not possible to create the change we need over three years.

It will be critical to work with local governments to develop local responses and policy.

We need to explore new mechanisms for collaboration and ensure that we link to national and global efforts to end homelessness.

### Grow organisational capacity and development

We know that we need to embed a culture of capacity building in homelessness agencies and the cross sharing of skill sets across the agencies. This will involve building highly skilled assertive outreach workers who deal well with anti-social behaviour both for person experiencing homelessness and provide strategies and support for neighbours impacted upon by anti-social behaviour. It will also involve building capacity related to working with priority populations and system planning. It will be vital to improve efficiency by coordinating and optimising existing resources e.g. day centres.

We also recognise the need to develop innovative service frameworks such as the development of a peer support framework for working in homelessness.

### Alignment towards ending homelessness

We create strong processes, networks and structures that allow this plan to be regionalised and localised. Each plan and initiative needs to be aligned towards the whole and embedded and grown out of the local context it is in. We design and develop processes and systems to ensure that all initiatives, funding, and policy align towards serving an ecosystem of solutions that support groups to thrive towards ending homelessness and to incentivise them to stop managing homelessness. These processes and systems should also identify, connect and scale initiatives that are working well ensuring that each is part of a bigger picture

We are dedicated to developing frameworks and supporting tools that are designed with individuals experiencing homelessness to ensure that it serves the whole system.

We invest in education and capacity building for policy makers, funders, volunteers and initiative takers to increase our ability to achieve consistent and long term outcomes across the system. Improve efficiency by coordinating and optimising resources.



## Key Actions

1. Lived experience groups are supported with financial and in-kind resources to ensure that their voices are heard and have ongoing input into the actions being implemented.
2. Develop a community toolkit on homelessness that can be used to educate the community on homelessness and the actions needed to address homelessness.
3. Establish a local government working group on homelessness so that local councils learn from each other in terms of responses on homelessness and draw from a common pool of resources.
4. Implement a public attitude survey to understand what needs changing in terms of Western Australian homelessness.
5. Establish proactive ways to work with government tenders to ensure that they are aligned towards this framework and support a generative ecosystem that fosters ending homelessness.
6. Establish board training and events where the boards of members of WAAEH can build their capacity on how to solve complex issues and strategically work towards ending homelessness
7. Establish a backbone organisation for the End Homelessness WA campaign with an ability to accept funding, govern and manage key actions.
8. Design and deliver capacity building for homelessness funders, policy makers and initiative takers in homelessness.
9. Launch a public campaign and link it with national PR campaign (Everybody's Home) and to the National Campaign to End Homelessness (Advance to Zero).







# The Timeline for Change

## Implementing the End Homelessness WA Strategy 2018-2022

Strategy extended to all parts of WA Action Plans for women and children experiencing domestic violence, children and young people, Aboriginal people and single adults rough sleeping

-  Housing First programs implemented across Perth. Strengthen Residential Tenancies Act.
-  Invest in human services system to tackle underlying causes of homelessness, specifically, trauma, domestic violence, mental health and chronic health
-  Develop collaborative funding and resourcing mechanism
-  Make a collective investment into linked WA homelessness/housing/health and justice data
-  Deliver a public campaign to raise awareness and shift perception

2019

-  Private rental brokerage scheme facilitating access to the private rental market
-  Roll out education program on risk of homelessness in schools and link schools with youth organisations
-  Commissioner for Children and Young People to report on children's and youth homelessness
-  Develop the policy advocacy agenda among homelessness services based on solid data and research.
-  Local governments and business play a growing role in coordinating community response to homelessness

2021





Government engaged and cross-sectoral alignment is established for common purpose

Establish the Homelessness Outcomes Framework  
Homelessness Research Unit

EndHomelessnessWA backbone organisation fully operational

Housing stock with support available throughout WA to achieve Strategy targets

2018

-  New state affordable housing strategy targeting 15,000 new dwellings for vulnerable households
-  Policy implemented that prevents agencies from discharging/exiting people into homelessness
-  Implement no wrong door approach through WA
-  Ensure homelessness metrics are included in WA state whole of government key performance indicators
-  EndhomelessnessWA campaign extends across WA and designs and deliver capacity building for homelessness agencies, funders, businesses, communities, schools and local councils

2020

-  Mandatory inclusionary zoning in place with 15% minimums for social and affordable housing in government land developments
-  Housing First programs to sustainably house known rough sleeping populations established across Western Australia
-  Establish cross-sector social design team to support collaboration and achievement of goals
-  Invest in outcomes measurement capacity in agencies and shared data collection across agencies
-  Fund lived experience groups to enhance the voice of those who have experienced homelessness

2022

-  Deliver impact institutional investment in affordable rental stock
-  Investment campaign for women's property initiatives
-  Establish program with business, government and social enterprises to develop employment options for those exiting homelessness
-  Develop systems to support real-time service information, sharing and coordination
-  Establish board training and events for homelessness agency boards

# Achieving End Homelessness WA Strategy Targets

## Ending homelessness in WA

Chronic rough sleeping reduced by 50% in Perth and regional WA

No individual or family will sleep rough or remain in supported accommodation for more than two weeks

Causes of homelessness addressed resulting in 25% reduction in first-time inflow into WA homelessness services against 2018 levels across all forms of support

Overall rate of rough sleeping and supported accommodation in Western Australia reduced by 25% or more against 2018 levels across all forms of support

Aboriginal homelessness rates reduced by 50% against 2018 levels

Employment rates of those exiting homelessness doubles over 2018 levels

**2023-2024**

The Five Year report card is produced assessing outcomes against targets and adjusting plans as required



Complete delivery of 10,000 new social dwellings



Homelessness prevention systems fully embedded in other areas of the human services system (e.g. mental health, family and domestic violence, justice)



A strong collaborative and adaptive network of services across the homelessness and human services system



Outcomes based funding drives ongoing prevention of homelessness



Broader community and business fully engaged and aware of key risks around homelessness

**2025-2026**

Consolidate progress and systematise, rapid cycling from episodic homelessness back to stable housing

Chronic rough sleeping ended in Perth and regional and remote Western Australia

No individual or family will sleep rough or remain in supported accommodation for more than five days

Causes of homelessness addressed resulting in 50% reduction in inflow into WA homelessness services against 2018 levels across all forms of support

Overall rate of rough sleeping and supported accommodation in Western Australia reduced by 50% or more against 2018 levels across all forms of support

Aboriginal homelessness rates no higher than non-Aboriginal rates

50% employment rates of those exiting homelessness

**2027-2028**



= Housing



= Prevention



= Strong, flexible, coordinated response



= Data, research and targets

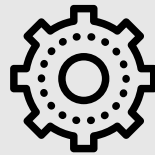


= Building community capacity

# How you can support the Strategy to End Homelessness



**SIGN THE PETITION** on the [www.endhomelessnessWA.com](http://www.endhomelessnessWA.com) website to show your support for ending homelessness by 2028 in WA.



**ALIGN YOUR EFFORTS TOWARDS ENDING HOMELESSNESS** and not managing it. Learn about what other initiatives and projects are happening and how your contribution can foster the ecosystem of solutions to end homelessness.



**SPREAD THE WORD** #EndHomelessnessWA we need everyone understanding why it is important to end homelessness.



**HAVE A CONVERSATION** with a friend, family or colleague and bust the myths. Download the Community Conversation Toolkit at [www.endhomelessnessWA.com](http://www.endhomelessnessWA.com)



**BECOME AN EDUCATED AND ETHICAL LANDLORD** visit [www.endhomelessnessWA.com](http://www.endhomelessnessWA.com) for more details



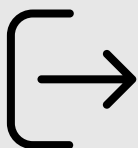
**GIVE YOUR TIME AND INSPIRE YOUR ORGANISATION AND COMMUNITIES** to give their time and energy towards being part of #EndHomelessnessWA.



**MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR INFLUENCE.** This is an important cause to drive systemic change around. Use your influence to ensure that this framework and plan are embraced.



**WE HAVE A NUMBER OF POWERFUL AND ALIGNED ACTIONS OVER THE THREE PHASES.** This will need financial resources. Give on the [www.endhomelessnessWA.com](http://www.endhomelessnessWA.com)



**MOVE THE CONVERSATION TOWARDS PERMANENT AND SUPPORTED SOLUTIONS** over temporary solutions.



**SUPPORT AUSTRALIAN ALLIANCE TO END HOMELESSNESS.**



These organisations have pledged their support to End Homelessness in Western Australia by 2028.

**Join them.**

#### FOUNDING ORGANISATIONS

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MANY ORGANISATIONS INCLUDING THOSE BELOW HAVE JOINED THE ALLIANCE

See the website for the current list. Contact us if you are interested in joining the Alliance.

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#EndHomelessnessWA

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ISBN 978-1-74052-397-4