



Housing First Homelessness Advisory Group

Communique No. 8

27 June 2024 Meeting

The Housing First Homelessness Advisory Group met (HFHAG) on 27 June 2024. The Advisory Group was chaired by Mike Rowe, Director General, Department of Communities. Due to a conflicting commitment of the Chair, Leon McIvor, Deputy Director General, chaired a part of the meeting.

The Advisory Group heard from the Department of Communities' Office of Homelessness (OoH) on the progress of the development of the Action Plan 2025-2030 under the [All Paths Lead to a Home: Western Australia's 10-Year Strategy on Homelessness 2020-2030](#). This will identify activities and initiatives to be undertaken over the final five years of the Strategy. The HFHAG plays an important governance role in the development of the new Action Plan with members being asked to approve the consultation tool prepared by the OoH. This was approved and the OoH will now undertake a targeted consultation in July and August with relevant stakeholders.

The HFHAG agreed on their next 12-month workplan reaffirming their focus on prevention of homelessness and mobilisation of private and philanthropic capital. Members also agreed to focus on workforce development issues following a discussion on the barriers to the delivery of homelessness services. Highlighted in this discussion, was the need for effective training and support for workers, strategies for attracting and retaining staff and recognising this in the true costs of service delivery. Members also highlighted the importance and value of cultural competency within the workforce, and the challenges of supporting Aboriginal staff in non-Aboriginal controlled organisations. An outcome of the discussion was for an invitation to be extended to the Department of Training and Workforce and Development (DTWD) to present at the August meeting. Finally, the members agreed that the next 12-month workplan will be aligned to the Action Plan 2025-2030 so that all efforts are focused on delivery of outcomes under the Strategy.

The HFHAG endorsed advice to the Minister based on several out of session meetings on strengthening the By Name List (BNL). This advice includes acknowledging that the BNL is one element of enabling a Housing First system, and the BNL is an essential enabling piece of infrastructure.

The Group advised that BNL data collection continue in all existing Housing First regions, including Geraldton, Perth, Rockingham, Mandurah and Bunbury. The focus of the Perth BNL was discussed to become more discrete, place-based zones to support improved data quality and coordination of services. These zones include: 1) Cities of Perth, Vincent

and Subiaco, and 2) City of Fremantle. The Group advised the BNL to be expanded into the regional communities of Albany and Kalgoorlie based on the recent Government investment in additional Housing First support in these regions. The need for additional tools and training resources to be developed to support more culturally appropriate data collection, including work to be undertaken to understand how best to ensure cultural aspects and impact is considered. Finally, further work to occur with Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) to consider how local government can be better supported to collect and utilise BNL data.

The next meeting of the HFHAG will be held in late August 2024.

Further information about the Advisory Group can be found at <https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-communities/housing-first-homelessness-advisory-group> or by emailing the Secretariat at hfhag@communities.wa.gov.au.