



Housing First Homelessness Advisory Group

Communique No. 9

26 August 2024 Meeting

The Housing First Homelessness Advisory Group (HFHAG) met on 26 August 2024. Leon McIvor, Deputy Director General Housing and Homelessness, chaired the meeting as nominated by the Chair Mike Rowe, Director General, Department of Communities, in his absence.

The Advisory Group discussed existing philanthropic and private contributions to homelessness support within Australia and highlighted the growing trends in co-investment and social landlords outside WA. The Advisory Group will further investigate the potential for leveraging these approaches and explore ways to mobilise philanthropic and private capital in WA for greater impact at their upcoming meeting in October.

The Advisory Group welcomed the CEO of Youth Affairs Council of WA (YACWA), Ms Sandy McKiernan, who presented on homelessness from a youth context and the challenges and transitions faced by young people today. Ms McKiernan highlighted that further work was needed to build understanding of Housing First for Youth (HF4Y) in WA and shared what is needed to facilitate the successful piloting and implementation of the approach in WA. For more information on HF4Y, please click [here](#).

The Advisory Group also welcomed representatives from the Department of Health (Health) to discuss their ongoing commitment to action items led by Health in the Action Plan 2020-2025 under the All-Paths Lead to A Home Homelessness Strategy and their continued interest in exploring opportunities to successfully implement all relevant action items. Health also provided presentation on their existing and future initiatives focused on preventing homelessness and improving health care access for people experiencing homelessness. The Advisory Group acknowledged the exceptional work of Health and appreciated their recognition of the need to better align their services to focus on social challenges such as homelessness.

The Office of Homelessness provided an update on the progress of the Action Plan 2025-2030 and presented the concept design for the report. They shared details of the recent consultation process, which involved a diverse group of agencies, peak bodies, community organisations, individuals including those with lived experiences. The Advisory Group commended the Office of Homelessness for their work so far and acknowledged the need for further consultation efforts.

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