



Housing First Homelessness Advisory Group

Communique No.1

20 April 2023 Meeting

The Housing First Homelessness Advisory Group (Advisory Group) met for its inaugural meeting on 20 April 2023 and was attended by the Minister for Homelessness, Hon John Carey MLA. The Advisory Group is chaired by Mike Rowe, Director General, Department of Communities.

Homelessness is a challenging and complex issue that significantly impacts some of the most vulnerable people in our community, intersecting with many other social, health and economic issues, including trauma, family and domestic violence, mental health conditions, drug and alcohol dependence and disruptive life events. As a consequence, responses to address and prevent homelessness require everyone to work together.

The Advisory Group is guided by and will oversee implementation of [All Paths Lead to a Home: Western Australia's 10-Year Strategy on Homelessness 2020-2030](#) (the Strategy). The Strategy was co-designed with state and local government agencies, community service providers, people with lived experience and local communities.

This Strategy created the foundation for a significant shift in homelessness policy in Western Australia, moving from managing homelessness to aspiring to end homelessness. The Strategy also prioritises evidence-based models of housing and support, with a focus on Housing First and No Wrong Door approaches. Rough sleeping is a key priority.

The 17-member Advisory Group features representation of service providers and advocates from across the sector, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, Local Government, and lived experienced.

As the delivery of the Strategy continues to progress, the Advisory Group will provide regular and practical advice to the Minister for Homelessness to identify ideas to strengthen delivery of strategic reform, progress implementation of housing first approaches and remove barriers to access in the existing system.

Terms of reference for the Advisory Group are:

- Guiding and supporting the implementation of the Strategy. Including the review of the monitoring and evaluation framework.

- Providing regular practical advice to accelerate a shift towards Housing First and No Wrong Door approaches across the Homelessness services sector, including identifying current barriers in the system
- Providing advice to improve coordinated and cohesive approaches in delivering homelessness initiatives and solutions, particularly targeting rough sleeping
- Identify service gaps and potential accommodation and long-term housing options, and recommend innovative, appropriate best practise service models.

Following this introductory meeting, the development of the work program for the Advisory Group is underway. The Advisory Group will be exploring how it will meaningfully engage with other key stakeholders such as the State Government's Aboriginal Advisory Council of Western Australia.

There are no simple solutions, but the Minister and the Chair are confident the experience, skills and knowledge of the Advisory Group will provide quality advice to guide the way to system improvements and better outcomes for homeless people.

The 17 members of the Advisory Group are:

- Mr Mike Rowe (Chair), Director General, Department of Communities
- Mr Andrew Brien, Chief Executive Officer, City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
- Ms Bettina (Tina) Ugle, Managing Director, Noongar Mia Mia
- Ms Cath Hart, Chief Executive Officer, Real Estate Institute of Western Australia
- Ms Corina Martin, Chief Executive Officer, Aboriginal Family Legal Service
- Mr Daniel Morrison, Chief Executive Officer, Wungening Aboriginal Corporation
- Mr David Pearson, Executive Officer, WA Alliance to End Homelessness and Chief Executive Officer, Australian Alliance to End Homelessness
- Ms Debra Zanella, Chief Executive Officer, Ruah Community Services
- Mr Jonathon Lake, Design Leader, Gresley Abas Architects
- Ms Jude Thomas, Director Place and Community, City of Mandurah
- Ms Kath Snell, Chief Executive Officer, Shelter WA
- Ms Kim Robinson, Lived Experience
- Ms Louise Olney, Director Building Communities, Minderoo Foundation
- Mr Michael Chester, Co-Chief Executive Officer, Uniting WA
- Ms Natalie Sangalli, General Manager, Housing Choices Western Australia Ltd
- Ms Samantha Drury, Chief Executive Officer St Bartholomew's House
- Ms Sharon Gough, Chief Executive Officer, Indigo Junction

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