



# Housing First Homelessness Advisory Group

## Communique No. 4

### 7 November 2023 Meeting

The Housing First Homelessness Advisory Group met on 7 November 2023. Discussions focussed on prevention of homelessness. When there is prevention and/or early intervention, adverse consequences associated with homelessness, such as health issues and trauma, are also avoided.

Homelessness is a complex challenge and prevention efforts must include initiatives targeted at individuals and families who are at immediate risk, as well as broader reforms that address the drivers of homelessness. Action is needed by all levels of government, the community sector and wider community.

As outlined in *All Paths Lead to a Home: Western Australia's 10-Year Strategy on Homelessness 2020-2030*, supporting at-risk tenancies provides an important opportunity to prevent homelessness. This applies to tenancies in the private market and social housing and is particularly important for vulnerable cohorts such as young people or families with children.

The Advisory Group discussed the supportive landlord model, in which landlords play an important role in managing at-risk tenancies. Supportive landlords prioritise sustainable housing, focusing on the individual within a housing situation and identifying when it is appropriate to discuss additional support services to help sustain the tenancy.

The Group also discussed potential updates to housing policy areas, programs to build tenancy skills, and strengthening coordination within the housing system to assist vulnerable households.

The Advisory Group noted the impact of current housing market conditions and cost of living pressures on households and on implementation of actions to prevent and reduce homelessness.

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](mailto:hfhag@communities.wa.gov.au).