



Housing First Homelessness Advisory Group

Communique No. 15

29 August 2025 Meeting

The Housing First Homelessness Advisory Group (HFHAG) met on 29 August 2025. Mike Rowe, Director General of the Department of Communities, chaired the Advisory Group meeting. The Parliamentary Secretary, Ms Kim Giddens MLA, attended on Minister Swinbourn's behalf.

HFHAG affirmed a shift to an agile operating model (workshops and subgroups) to accelerate practical, outcomes-driven advice to the Minister for Homelessness. The HFHAG Members support strengthened metropolitan and regional coordination, with priority attention on rough sleeping, families, youth/unaccompanied children, and Aboriginal homelessness. Progress was noted on Coordinated Outreach procurement, Common Ground implementation, and system intelligence via the By-Name-List (BNL) and Rough Sleeper Coordination Groups (RSCGs), which will inform HFHAG advice on a standing basis.

The HFHAG discussed several emerging issues and opportunities, such as the rise in families seeking housing support. The HFHAG explored the possibility of the Department of Communities, Child Protection and Family Support's participation across adult and youth RSCGs. The potential drivers of homelessness, its causes, and impact, were key discussion items. HFHAG Members posit that metro-wide completion of the Australian Homelessness Vulnerability Triage Tool (AHVTT) would improve visibility of drivers.

In particular, the HFHAG examined the working homeless and briefly discussed eligibility gaps and income thresholds as contributing factors that exclude some employed people from public housing.

In relation to demand for services in regional areas, Ms Mitchell spoke to the full-time Program Officer that supports the implementation of Housing First Support Services, which was established in Geraldton in 2021. The Program Officer promotes a supportive landlord model and enhances local engagement and plays a central role in this collaborative effort, linking stakeholders through support forums and improvement meetings.

HFHAG members were provided an update on the Coordinated Outreach procurement process.

Mission Australia has been confirmed as the support service provider for the 112-unit Common Ground East Perth, with the community housing provider to be announced. Common Ground Mandurah is currently under construction and is on track for completion next year.

Ms Mitchell stated that the Youth Rough Sleeper Coordination Group (RSCG) was established by lead agencies, Indigo Junction, Mission Australia, and Vinnies, in collaboration with the youth sector and is supported by the Office of Homelessness. Along with the lead agencies' members from the following organisations that attend include

Anglicare, St Pat's, Parkerville Children and Youth Services, St John of God, Perth Inner City Youth Service (PICYS), Homeless Health Care, Mercy Care, and the West Australian Alliance to End Homelessness.

The Chair thanked members, guest presenters and the Parliamentary Secretary for their contributions.

The meeting closed at 11:50 am.

The HFHAG Secretariat issues this Communique on behalf of the Department of Communities' Office of Homelessness.

Further information about the Advisory Group can be found on the [Housing First Homelessness Advisory Group](#) website or by emailing the Secretariat at hfhag@communities.wa.gov.au.