

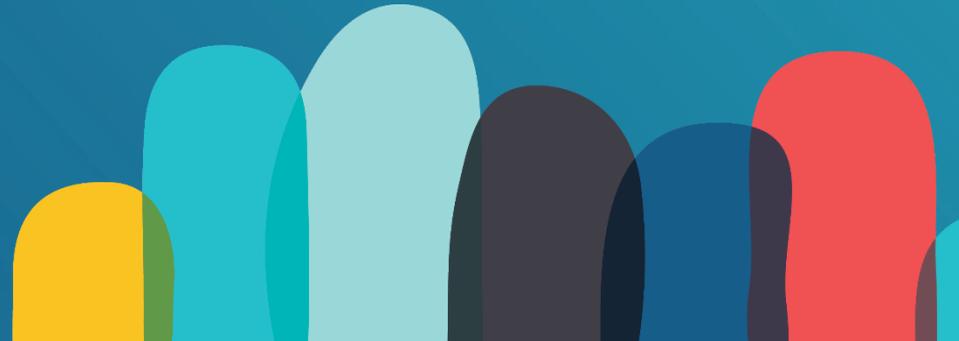


Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Communities**

Homelessness Commissioning

Office of Homelessness Webinar

Wednesday 1 November 2023



Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of Communities acknowledges the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to the land, waters and community.

We pay our respects to all members of Western Australia's Aboriginal communities and their cultures; and to Elders both past and present.

We commit to the responsibilities that our Department has in working with and for Aboriginal people to Close the Gap.



Webinar agenda



Recap of previous webinar



Boorloo Bidee Mia – update on recent events



Homelessness Commissioning Reference Group



Accommodation providers and upcoming processes



Question and answer session (please post questions in the webinar chat)

Commissioning timelines – recap of previous webinar

A recording of the webinar and presentation slides is available on the Homelessness Commissioning website

Communities is proposing to extend 130 current service agreements and grants.

- The majority of contracts will be extended by between 1 and 3 years pending direct negotiation with each service provider.
- Continuity of service provision is the priority.
- Communities will be negotiating contract extensions directly with service providers from early 2024 and informed by regular government budget processes.
- Communities aims is to stagger the expiry date of homelessness contracts - to allow the sector to prepare and respond to ongoing commissioning and procurement work and to ensure Communities priority planning.



Boorloo Bidee Mia



- Recently, it was necessary to quickly relocate 53 residents at BBM due to a pest infestation.
- This was a true testament to sector collaboration, and I want to thank all the organisations and staff involved who worked quickly and responsively to support Wungening, Noongar Mia Mia and BBM residents.



Homelessness Commissioning Reference Group (HCRG)

- Communities has released the Terms of Reference and EOI process calling for nominations.
- **Nominations close 5.00pm, Monday 13 November 2023.**
- The HCRG will comprise of up to 15 members (including the Chair). It is endorsed for establishment by the Assistant Director General, with input from Shelter WA, and include (but not limited to) representatives from:
 - Peak bodies
 - Aboriginal community-controlled organisations
 - Regional Western Australia
 - Each of the service groups (Outreach, Accommodation, Engagement Hubs, Specialist Support)
 - Local government
 - Lived experience
 - Tertiary education institution
- We encourage people with lived experience to contact the Office of Homelessness directly regarding an Expression of Interest.

Homelessness Commissioning Reference Group

The overarching aims of the HCRG will be to:

- Ensure a structured forum for the sector to share evidence-based best practice and expertise.
- Further promote integrated working between government, homelessness service providers and peak bodies to improve joint outcomes.
- Allow and support an avenue for constructive discussion on the procurement and commissioning of homelessness services.
- Share information, advice and guidance to inform the strategic direction of homelessness commissioning as an ongoing cycle. This includes:
 - key data and trends on homelessness across varied communities.
 - emerging issues, service gaps and demand pressures.



Current commissioning cycle – next steps

- Contract extensions will allow Communities to work with the sector to progress towards new 5-year service agreements.
- Due to the vast number of contracts, Communities will be taking a staggered approach to procurement and contracting processes by service groups.
- The initial focus will be on accommodation service providers, to ensure no net loss in beds in the system, with consultation and processes regarding other service groups to commence throughout 2024.
- The Office of Homelessness will work closely with the Communities' Contracting team to progress Preferred Service Provider Assessments over the coming months.

Accommodation providers and upcoming processes

- Contract Officers will be reaching out to organisations to schedule a meeting to discuss a Preferred Service Provider Assessment Review for accommodation service agreements .
- The purpose of these meetings:
 - is to assess the extent to which the service is meeting the specifications outlined in the Service Agreement.
 - is also an opportunity to discuss considerations for a potential new Service Agreement.
 - The meeting will allow input from your organisation to raise any issues with the current Service Agreement or to raise any other matter which you consider important to the effective operation of your service.

Questions & further information