



Housing First Homelessness Advisory Group

Communique No. 5

19 December 2023 Meeting

The Housing First Homelessness Advisory Group met on 19 December 2023. Discussions focussed on barriers to delivery of homelessness services.

People at risk of or experiencing homelessness access a range of general and specialist services delivered by multiple organisations. This includes family and domestic violence crisis accommodation and support, homelessness accommodation and support, outreach, and housing and tenancy support workers.

The Advisory Group discussed barriers to delivery of homelessness services and solutions to overcoming these. This included matters related to funding of homelessness services, supply of social and affordable housing, homelessness sector workforce capacity, and key worker accommodation in the regions.

The Group agreed that attraction, retention and development of an effective workforce is critical for services to meet the needs of people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Efforts to strengthen workforce capacity should consider: analysis of data to improve understanding of current and future need; initiatives to attract and retain workers; core competencies and streamlining of standards and accreditation; and cross-government and cross-sector perspectives.

The Advisory Group acknowledged efforts by the community of Geraldton to assist people who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness. Geraldton recently became the third Australian community to achieve a measurable reduction in rough sleeping. This is achieved when a community's By Name List data indicates a measurable, meaningful reduction in rough sleeping for six consecutive months.

The Advisory Group also acknowledged State Government achievements in delivering housing and homelessness measures in 2023, and its efforts to work collaboratively with the sector including establishing and coordinating this Group.

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.