



# Housing First Homelessness Advisory Group

## Communique No. 11

### 9 December 2024 Meeting

The Housing First Homelessness Advisory Group convened for their final meeting of 2024 on 9 December 2024. The Advisory Group meeting was chaired by Mike Rowe, Director General, Department of Communities.

Mr Pearson from the Western Australian Alliance to End Homelessness (WAAEH) presented an overview of the recent research impact projects commissioned by WAAEH and undertaken by the Home2Health Research Team. These projects explore the availability and accessibility of disability, aged and palliative care services and supports for people experiencing homelessness.

The Advisory Group discussed the significance of these initiatives and recognised the challenges faced by people experiencing homelessness in accessing these supports and services. The Advisory Group further recognised the barriers faced by individuals experiencing homelessness in determining their eligibility for support programs. Additionally, the Advisory group noted the lack of clear mechanisms for guidance and support available to help these individuals navigate the systems to access available services including eligibility thresholds, complexities and system intersectionality for people experiencing homelessness.

The Advisory Group explored how certain providers are integrating these initiatives into their daily operations. They also discussed potential support opportunities to assist individuals in accessing navigators and determining program eligibility.

The Advisory Group will continue to prioritise these important issues in their work program, including inviting representatives from relevant agencies and organisations such as the NDIA to discuss strategies for enhancing the accessibility of these services to people experiencing homelessness. The Advisory Group aims to identify a clear, practical mechanism and process for implementing these strategies.

Mr Pearson also shared an overview of an ongoing research project 'Permanent Support Housing (PSH) Needs Modelling'. This ongoing project, adopted the methodologies used by the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) in the US, developing a valuable tool designed to help analyse data from the By Name List (BNL) to identify the number of individuals who would likely benefit from a PSH model and their support requirements. The WAAEH, Australian Alliance, CSH and Micah Projects in QLD are collaborating on this ongoing project.

The Advisory Group also discussed one of their program priorities, Workforce delivery, specifically attraction, retention and development. The Advisory Group recognised the importance of this area and its potential for future growth, noting that significant work remains in this area. The Advisory Group intends to continue its roundtable discussions with relevant stakeholders from various areas and different layers of the system to develop potential recommendations for this specific work program topic.

The next meeting of the HFHAG will be held in the first quarter of 2025.

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