

HOUSING, HOMELESSNESS & MENTAL HEALTH WORKSHOPS



A NATIONAL INITIATIVE BY



Australian Government
National Mental Health Commission

ABOUT THE WORKSHOPS

This initiative has involved 8 workshops during March – April 2017 (one in each capital city) aimed to get jurisdictional input to better understand the national picture of housing, homeless and mental health in order to develop policy and research directions by injecting ‘housing affordability and supply’ into the national mental health debate.

The workshops included highly participative exercises and were based on a discussion paper developed by the Australian Housing & Urban Research Institute (AHURI).

The feedback gathered in workshops will form a more detailed Consultation Report - this summary document is intended to disseminate major themes only, it is not the endorsed policy of the National Mental Health Commission.

The Consultation Report feedback will be analysed to form a Position Paper that the Commission will use to inform advocacy in the development of national and jurisdictional policy for housing, homelessness and mental health.

OUR FEEDBACK

This is a summary version of outputs captured during the workshop (a full report will be available)



POLICY & PROGRAM SUCCESS FACTORS

From the programs that are in place and effective, the following success factors were highlighted:

- Providing a multi-disciplinary service through collaboration with other providers
- Using one location for the delivery of multiple services
- Providing emergency relief, then triage based on individual needs
- Support centres that involve consumer participation, training and placement for employment, plus advice and assistance in accommodation
- Resident recovery services that provide housing support and outreach
- Integrated, wrap around services
- Inviting partners in, rather than referring people out
- Community mental health organisations working with housing supply

HOW TO INCREASE HOUSING SUPPLY?

- Public private partnerships, such as Common Ground
- National Rental Affordability Scheme and increased rent subsidies
- Greater philanthropic involvement in the provision of social housing
- Quota within buildings for criteria such as low socioeconomic status or chronic mental illness
- Continue the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing to reduce overcrowding
- Government provision of vacant lots for homeless to camp safely as part of a stepped approach
- Encourage commercial investment into social housing through subsidies, incentives and guaranteed rental income
- Social bonds for housing or a social and affordable housing trust fund
- Adapt the Defence Housing model



HOW TO PROVIDE MORE HOUSING CHOICE?

- Work closely with Housing to strategically place consumers
- Different options for different needs and preferences, from site based to a scattered approach with outreach
- Recognise the rights of consumers regarding preference • Subsidies and support for the rental consumer
- Tenancy management and support services in remote and regional levels provided at a public housing standard to ensure sustainable tenancies and maintained amenity of the house
- ATSI people employed in programs delivering services to ATSI people
- Mental Health housing programs for ATSI people developed in accordance with the guiding principles of the National Strategic Framework for ATSI Peoples' Mental Health and Social and Emotional Wellbeing

WHAT DATA SHOULD BE COLLECTED?

- Three monthly reporting by State jurisdictions on persons in acute mental health facilities that cannot be discharged as they lack stable housing
- Data on discharge planning and follow through from public facilities
- Data sharing between agencies and departments
- Success data on HASP
- Quantifying costs and benefits of programs

SUGGESTED FOCUS AREAS

The following key policy issues and research areas were suggested by the participants (in order of priority)

- State jurisdictions should be compelled to recognise that some people with severe and persistent psychosocial disability require a **much higher level of ongoing support** which is well above the level that the NDIS looks like it will provide
- Research should be conducted into **early intervention and support programs implemented overseas** that are aimed at maintaining the tenancies of Indigenous people that have a mental illness
- Identify a successful **Indigenous Housing and funding model** and facilitate a pilot project that results in bricks and mortar on ground
- **Policy, literacy and education** to deal with stigma and create a more inclusive society
- Address the gaps due to **NDIS implementation** to maintain supports
- Get data on **LGBTI homelessness** and plan implementation for that demographic
- Put systems in place that can provide the **evidence of effort to outcomes**