

Homelessness Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, 24 November, 2022

3.30pm - 5.00pm

Macquarie House, Civic Square

MEETING OPENING 3.40pm

Chair, Councillor Tim Walker, welcomed attendees to the meeting and introduced himself and Councillor George Razay as City of Launceston's new councillor representatives. Cr Walker thanked Cr Preece and Cr Dawkins for their service.

1. STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Councillor Walker provided Acknowledgement of Country

2. ATTENDEES

Committee:

Stephen Avery	Community member representative
Lynette Cameron	Community member representative
Darren McKay	Community member representative
Jo Marshall	Dept. of Communities (Housing)
Stephen Hill	Launceston City Mission
Elizabeth Ward	Anglicare Tasmania
Nic Green	CatholicCare Tasmania
Roderick Brown	Salvation Army
Louise Cowan	Shekinah House

City of Launceston:

Councillor Tim Walker	Chair - Councillor City of Launceston
Councillor George Razay	Councillor City of Launceston
Dan Ryan	General Manager Community & Place
Caralisa Farrell	Team Leader Community Development
Kath Hawkins	Community Development Officer

Neighbouring Council Representatives:

Representative to be confirmed	George Town Council
Representative to be confirmed	West Tamar Council
Representative to be confirmed	Meander Valley Council

Guests:

Kirsten Ritchie - Strike it Out

3. APOLOGIES

Nathan Johnston	Tasmanian Police
Councillor Janet Lambert	Northern Midlands Council
Allison Mayne	Community member representative
Councillor Greg Dawson (TBC)	George Town Council
Councillor Jess Greene	West Tamar Council
Kate Ross	Community member representative

It was acknowledged that some councils have not yet formalised their committee representatives after the recent local government elections and therefore could not attend.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest.

5. CODE OF CONDUCT

Councillor Walker outlined the Code of Conduct for the Homeless Advisory Committee.

6. AGENDA PROPER

Introductions

The Chair welcomed new committee members and facilitated introductions.

Committee Purpose

Committee purpose was reiterated for new committee members.

Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Moved: Roderick Brown

Seconded: Darren McKay

Vacant Position

Declaration of vacancy of sixth community representative position. It was agreed that the position would be offered to the next person with lived experience in the order identified in the application process.

Presentation

Kirsten Ritchie, CEO of Strike it Out provided a 30 minute presentation to the committee overviewing a mobile sleep pod trailer they have funded and constructed, as well as information which Strike It Out will present to the management of a potential site for the Sleep Pod Trailer. The Pods would provide 7 Sleep Pods. Ms Ritchie answered questions from the committee and was congratulated for her passion in this area and the development of the Sleep Pod project.

Ms Ritchie, requested the following support from Homeless Advisory Committee members: rubbish bins from City of Launceston; and assistance to identify a those people likely to be priority housing clients so that the sleep pods can also be utilised

to prepare for successful transition to housing. Associated issues with identifying priority clients were discussed.

Ms Ritchie reiterated that there is still a need for a safe space for homeless people living in tents with amenities.

Action Item Updates from Previous Meeting

ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	UPDATE
Terms of Reference (TOR) expanded to recognise the regional collaboration by Councils.	Dan Ryan	Draft changes completed, circulated via email and TOR changes approved by the advisory committee. Item bought forward: Updated TOR to be presented at an upcoming council meeting for approval.
Homelessness Response Group members to read the Draft HRG Summary and provide Kath with any changes.	HRG attendees	No changes required. Draft will stand.
Dan will invite Kirsten Ritchie from Strike it Out on behalf of the Chair to speak at the next meeting.	Dan	Ms Ritchie presented to this meeting.
A forum for surrounding councils' community development (or equivalent) staff to connect and focus on homelessness to be created.	Caralisa	Ongoing.
Discuss a mechanism to provide homelessness outreach workers with a conduit to be able to report to the Homelessness Advisory Committee.	Dan	Ongoing

Key Goal Progress

Initial communication with David Pearson, CEO - Australian Alliance to End Homelessness has confirmed a meeting for December. The meeting will seek to understand more about Functional Zero approach and any available support.

Priority action items

No further updates.

Homelessness Action Plan development

No further updates as new councillors take up positions on the Homelessness Advisory Committee after council elections in October.

Service Updates

A new Outreach Worker has started at City Mission. An additional Case Worker has been funded and begun working with Safe Space.

A new Department of Communities housing portal is being developed in consultation with Housing Connect services. Proposed changes aim to allow Outreach Workers to check the placement of people on the housing list whilst in the field. The platform will use two-factor identification verification to protect confidentiality of client information.

The additional 11 beds at City Mission which were trialled over winter and funded by Housing Tasmania, have had funding extended.

Shekinah House lease has finished on their current premises at 24 Wellington Street. New premises have been found at Dunorlan House (front of Gateway Baptist), 22 Wellington Street. The new model will not have a shopfront, but will have showers, toilets, laundry and may also have 6 transitional beds for homeless people.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

Jo Marshall shared a template for gathering sleeping rough information.

Jo Marshall updated the group of the modular housing initiative announced in Premier Rockcliff's media release 8th October. A total of two hundred modular houses will be provided over a 4 year period. The provider tender closed 23/11/2022.

Communities Tasmania are transitioning to their new name Housing Tasmania.

City of Launceston will convene a meeting with other council Community Development Officers to better understand homelessness in other municipalities.

Dan Ryan provided an update on Council's engagement with members of the community in relation to homelessness. Council is currently receiving between 2 -5 communications per day related to homelessness including community requests to move people on from current camping locations.

City of Launceston's general position is that we will not seek to move on those members of our homeless community unless there is a necessity to do so. These reasons may include antisocial behaviour that is impacting on local residents and/or businesses, general health and safety concerns, where there is a negative impact on Council owned infrastructure or public space, or when the camping locations impacts our ability to maintain these public spaces.

Where there is a clear need for relocation, it is intended that this process is undertaken with the support of local service providers who are best placed to support a successful transition to alternative arrangements.

Connection with outreach services, City of Launceston's Regulations and Compliance and Community Development teams are all responding alongside local outreach support.

Dan Ryan announced a new Inclusion Officer role, approved by council, is about to be advertised. The role will include a homelessness focus.

Various outreach stakeholders will be invited to form a shared email group for homelessness outreach. The aim of the email group is to improve communications specific to issues being raised with council about homelessness but requiring local outreach support, and to assist with updates.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTING TO COUNCIL

No report considered by Council for this period.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

Request from Jo Marshall to share their template for people sleeping rough at this meeting.

10. UPCOMING MEETING DATES

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Mon 23 rd January 2022	3pm - 5pm	Macquarie House, Civic Square - Top floor

11. SESSION REVIEW

Not tabled.

ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	UPDATE
Convene a forum for surrounding councils' community development (or equivalent) staff to connect & focus on homelessness, aiming to better understand homelessness in other municipalities.	Kath	Item brought forward.
Discuss a mechanism to provide homelessness outreach workers with a conduit to be able to report to the Homelessness Advisory Committee.	Dan	Item brought forward.

Statement of available homelessness services	Louise	Ongoing.
Dr Razay would like to circulate an article he authored: The Tale of Two Cities.	Cr Razay	
The vacant committee position, ideally for a person with lived experience will be offered to the next person in the application process. They will be invited to complete the process and attend Homeless Advisory Committee meetings.	Kath	
Circulate the Sleeping Rough information template.	Jo	