

Homelessness Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 30th May, 2023

1.00 pm - 3.00 pm

Macquarie House, Civic Square

MEETING OPENING: 1.00 pm

Chair, Councillor Tim Walker, welcomed attendees to the meeting.

1. STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Councillor Walker provided Acknowledgement of Country.

2. ATTENDEES

Committee:

Stephen Avery	Community member representative
Lynette Cameron	Community member representative
Kate Ross	Community member representative
Stephen Hill	Launceston City Mission
Sam Grace	St Vincent de Paul Society
Rodney Spinks	St Vincent de Paul Society
Nic Green	CatholicCare Tasmania
Roderick Brown	Salvation Army

City of Launceston:

Councillor Tim Walker	Chair - Councillor City of Launceston
Councillor Razay	Councillor City of Launceston
Dan Ryan	General Manager Community & Place
Michelle Ogulin	Acting Manager Liveable Communities
Linda Page	Team Leader Community Development
Nindarra Wheatley	Inclusion Officer

Neighbouring Council Representatives:

Councillor Anne-Marie Loader	Meander Valley Council
Councillor Jess Greene	West Tamar Council
Councillor Simone Lowe	Georgetown Council

3. APOLOGIES

Elizabeth Ward	Anglicare Tasmania
Darren McKay	Community member representative
Louise Cowan	Shekinah House
Jo Marshall	Homes Tasmania
Justine Brooks	Homes Tasmania

Non Attendance

Nathan Johnson

Tasmania Police

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest.

5. CODE OF CONDUCT

Supplied on agenda

6. AGENDA PROPER**Introductions**

The Chair welcomed committee members and facilitated introductions.

Committee Purpose

The committee's purpose was reiterated for committee members.

Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Unanimous

Action Item Updates from Previous Meeting

ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	UPDATE
Continue to liaise and investigate SHIP or By-Names list	Dan Ryan Nindarra Wheatley	Ongoing
Homes Tasmania to investigate the current reporting that is available to allow for consideration of suitability	Jo Marshall	Ongoing
Response group to be re-established	Nindarra Wheatley Elizabeth Bowerman	Completed, the group meets fortnightly
Circulate information on updates to YMCA shower services	Nindarra Wheatley	Completed
Update Reach Out card	Nindarra Wheatley	In progress
Advise Strike it Out of HAC position on committee participation	Dan Ryan	Completed
Investigate opportunities for Air BNB short-term rentals	City of Launceston	Ongoing

Priority action items

No further updates.

Service Updates

St Vincent's laundry and shower facilities are available at the old YMCA site with CoL community grant funding supporting the purchase of equipment for a laundering service. St Vincent's is promoting this service through the distribution of leaflets and radio advertising in efforts to reach those people who live in their vehicles. Regulars are using these services and the demand is increasing. They hope to extend the opening to include Thursday and Friday in the coming weeks. St Vincent's are currently seeking volunteers to help run the centre and Council has offered to promote volunteer recruitment messaging through its media channels.

The Salvation Army also has these services available but no volunteers to service them.

Shekinah House also has this service available.

A discussion was held about whether demand for homelessness services is increasing and how it is being monitored. The group provided the following responses;

- There are levels of service provision that are ongoing and there are monthly assessments of trends, however, a lot of response is provided on a day-to-day basis. There are now more people that can't get into services compared to six months ago.
- Service providers are now pre-booking people into accommodation in advance more so than before. There are a lot of urgent responses required with people getting evicted or people needing to pay rental advances. Services are not able to see everyone when they need it.
- It was discussed that the current issues are broader than just homeless with food insecurity also a significant issue that one-quarter of Tasmanians are dealing with.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

Council will continue working with Paul from Green Bean on identifying alternative locations for food provision.

It was advised that the council had offered the basement of Macquarie House, however, the space was not suitable. Discussions were had on other potential uses for the space that could provide assistance.

Council sought feedback from the committee on what additional actions the council can provide to support the needs of the homeless community. A form will be sent out to the Committee to capture and document this feedback.

Discussions were had on the usefulness of hard copies of the Reach Out cards as opposed to electronic copies. Committee advised that printed collateral was useful and deciding that an initial 1000 unit print run would be appropriate. Council will also provide an electronic version for distribution.

A discussion was held about Bourke St and Shekinah House as potential site for women and children. It was advised by the council that it is Crown land leased to CoL with the lease expiring in June 2023. Further discussions are to be held between the council and the Crown.

The lighting of Town Hall is booked for Homelessness Week, 7–11 August, to promote awareness. Council to share information on social channels about homeless services and other homeless matters. The committee agreed to a more cohesive collective approach to homelessness week and more broadly the development of educational materials to promote awareness long term.

Councillor Razay shared the Cooking with No Fridge booklet. Nindarra has the booklet for people to access as required.

A question was asked about P.O. boxes and if they are currently offered to those experiencing homelessness in Launceston. It was noted that Shekinah House provides some. Could the council write to Australia Post to see if they can provide some, Councillor Walker to follow up communication to Australia Post to explore the option of having some provided.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTING TO COUNCIL

Report considered by Council for this period.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

None tabled

10. UPCOMING MEETING DATES

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Tuesday 25 th July 2023	1 pm -3 pm	Macquarie House, Civic Square - 2nd floor. Intercom button pushed for entrance into building. Access via stairs or lift.

11. SESSION REVIEW

ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	UPDATE
By Names List presentation by or with AAEH David Pearson	Dan Ryan	Update to be provided at next meeting
Communications around awareness	Nindarra Wheatley/Linda Page	Update to be provided at next meeting

Discuss media opportunities for Homelessness Week with The Examiner	Dan Ryan	Update to be provided at next meeting
Additional action forms to be sent to the committee	Nindarra Wheatley	Update to be provided at next meeting
Reach Out cards to be updated	Nindarra Wheatley	Update to be provided at next meeting
Gorge showers to be investigated	Dan Ryan	Update to be provided at next meeting

Meeting closed at 3.00pm