

HOMELESSNESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2025

**12:00 PM
MACQUARIE HOUSE**

Notice is hereby given that the Meeting of the Homelessness Advisory Committee will be held in Macquarie House, Civic Square:

Date: 17 June 2025

Time: 12:00 PM

Section 65 Certificate of Qualified Advice

Background

Section 65 of the *Local Government Act 1993* requires the General Manager to certify that any advice, information or recommendation given to Council is provided by a person with appropriate qualifications or experience.

Declaration

I certify that persons with appropriate qualifications and experience have provided the advice, information and recommendations given to the Committee in the Agenda Items for this Meeting.

Purpose - Homelessness Advisory Committee

Homelessness is a complex issue and there are many factors that contribute to a person's homelessness. Many of these factors lie outside the remit of local government, however through an educated, collaborative and needs focused approach, the City of Launceston is committed to working with community to play a constructive role in the provision of strategies and actions to support the homeless community.

The primary purpose of the Homelessness Advisory Committee is to:

- *Enable a collaborative approach between key sector service providers, community members and relevant levels of government in addressing the short, medium and long-term needs of Launceston's homeless community.*
- *Identify, support and coordinate achievable actions which will assist in addressing the evolving needs of Launceston's homeless community.*
- *Develop a greater and shared understanding of the roles, responsibilities and priorities within the community in responding to homelessness.*

Meeting opened at 12.15. Cr Razay as chair.

Time	Agenda item	Presenter																																								
12.00pm	1. STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	Chairperson																																								
12.03pm	<p>2. ATTENDEES AND APOLOGIES</p> <p>ATTENDEES</p> <p>Committee:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Oliver Macdonald</td> <td>Community Member Representative</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Darren McPhee</td> <td>Anglicare Tasmania - Housing Connect</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Karen Crane</td> <td>Benevolent Society</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Justine Brooks</td> <td>Homes Tasmania</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sam Grace</td> <td>St Vincent de Paul</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nic Green</td> <td>Catholic Care Tasmania</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Louise Cowan</td> <td>Shekinah House</td> </tr> <tr> <td>John Stublely</td> <td>Salvation Army</td> </tr> </table> <p>City of Launceston:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Wytarna McDonald</td> <td>City of Launceston</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Michelle Ogulin</td> <td>City of Launceston</td> </tr> </table> <p>APOLOGIES:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Linda Page</td> <td>City of Launceston</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cr Tim Walker</td> <td>City of Launceston</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lynette Cameron</td> <td>Community Member Representative</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Allison Mayne</td> <td>Community Member Representative</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kate Ross</td> <td>Community Member Representative</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Councillor Jess Greene</td> <td>West Tamar Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Councillor Janet Lambert</td> <td>Northern Midlands Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Councillor Simone Lowe</td> <td>George Town Council</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gavin Chugg</td> <td>Tasmania Police</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stephen Hill</td> <td>City Mission</td> </tr> </table>	Oliver Macdonald	Community Member Representative	Darren McPhee	Anglicare Tasmania - Housing Connect	Karen Crane	Benevolent Society	Justine Brooks	Homes Tasmania	Sam Grace	St Vincent de Paul	Nic Green	Catholic Care Tasmania	Louise Cowan	Shekinah House	John Stublely	Salvation Army	Wytarna McDonald	City of Launceston	Michelle Ogulin	City of Launceston	Linda Page	City of Launceston	Cr Tim Walker	City of Launceston	Lynette Cameron	Community Member Representative	Allison Mayne	Community Member Representative	Kate Ross	Community Member Representative	Councillor Jess Greene	West Tamar Council	Councillor Janet Lambert	Northern Midlands Council	Councillor Simone Lowe	George Town Council	Gavin Chugg	Tasmania Police	Stephen Hill	City Mission	Chairperson
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12.05pm	<p>3. CODE OF CONDUCT</p> <p>As a Committee we agree to engage in a way that is aligned to the following guiding principles: +</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We value collaboration and we strive for positive outcomes that are aligned to realistic and achievable goals. • We encourage the practice of self-care and commit to maintaining confidentiality. • We recognise that we are all equals and are respectful and accepting of each other's realities. 																																									

12.06pm	<p>4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p><i>If a Committee member has an actual or perceived interest in a matter to be considered by the Committee, they must declare that interest prior to any discussion of the matter. Interests will be managed in a way that respects the Committee member and the operation of the Committee. In some circumstances, this will mean that a Committee member with a declared interest will be required to withdraw from the Meeting during the discussions of the matter.</i></p> <p><i>The declaration of interest will be noted in the report outlining the Committee's Recommendation to Council. Local Government Act 1993 (Tas) - section 48</i></p>	Chairperson
12.07pm	<p>5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 15 April 2025</p> <p><i>Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 - Regulation 35(1)(b)</i></p> <p>Confirmed as true and accurate.</p>	Chairperson
12.08pm	<p>6. CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>None received.</p>	Chairperson
12.09pm-12.30pm	<p>7. PRESENTATION</p> <p>Negotiated stopping in Britain and Ireland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attending sites that people can camp at and where council officers attend with forms which negotiate how long people can stay, type of conduct are appropriate, service support, education support. There is opportunity here for council to initiate something. • Oliver has prepared a brochure on this. Includes health effects on forced stopping on Irish travellers. • On private land it would still be negotiated between the council and the private landholder. • Discussed that it was an interesting concept and goes against traditional practices. Could provide a way to shift perceptions of homelessness. 	Oliver MacDonald

8. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

AGENCY	RESPONSIBLE DELEGATE
Benevolent Society	Karen Crane
Catholic Care	Nic Green
Homes Tasmania	Justine Brooks
Salvation Army	John Stubley
Shekinah House	Louise Cowan
St Vincent De Paul Society	Sam Grace
Salvation Army	John Stubley

St Vincent de Paul

- Large rental arrears are coming through at the moment. Working with individuals to set up payment plans.
- Also operate Vinnies Van, with new faces coming along to Civic Sq. Not necessarily challenging behaviour, but lots of interest.
- Shower and Laundry service is seeing between 6-9 people each day.
- Operating lease at 8A Blaydon St. Very strong community focus, with about 20 different groups using it.

Shekinah House

- Statistics are showing that since 1 July 2024 until the end of April 2025 over 150 people have attended Shekinah that are homeless on the streets at the time of assistance.

Catholic Care

- Housing Connect support program with personalised support for complex challenges. Nearly at end of year 1 of the model.
- A challenge is brokered accommodation - struggling to find places that will participate.

Homes Tasmania

- Review undertaken and recommendations will flow from that.
- A new facility in Burnie has opened. 26 beds for young people engaging in education or work. Cert I at TAFS as part of this. Once in each major city now.
- Moving offices to the back of Red Cross in Launceston on Charles St.

Salvation Army

- Street to Homes, south and Launnie; Burnie Safe Space; Beyond the wire (prisoner integration program); Care finders (for aged care).
- Street to home is particularly important in the homelessness space. There is an expectation people can find their way from streets into homes. However, an analogy to consider this with is that of a car accident. It would be equivalent to saying to the car victim: sort yourself out; call your own ambulance and doctor; book a hospital room; find an operating room; organise the surgeon, nurses and surgery. A homelessness person is a similar story: a life they have not chosen or don't want. Multiple episodes of trauma in childhood. Not therefore dissimilar to a car accident. We don't connect them well to services, and then look down our noses at them.
- Street to home is funded by Salvos and Homes Tas. Part of the housing connect model. It is an extended outreach model, as far as Triabunna and Dover. Reaching out to Huon Valley and Sorrell. Help those who are homeless, wherever they are.
- Homelessness is a state government issue yet council is called when someone sees a homeless person in the park.

12.30pm-
1.00pm

Committee
members

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need a two person model when doing outreach. Asking councils in the South to identify a worker that can connect with Street to Home and go with Salvos when approaching these people. Council officer also learns how to have the conversation with the homeless person. • Approximately 60% of people in homelessness have a background in incarceration. Many are released from prison to homelessness. • Salvos uses a version of by names in Hobart. <p>Benevolent society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Massive increase in last month of homeless coming to their door. A lot of people have relocated out of the city to Kings Meadows. Their Hygiene hub is used at all times their doors are open. • Bread rack is basically empty as soon as stocked each day. • Taking clothing and blankets (high demand) • Have furniture services too or people in need. • No outreach programs but happy to help with any programs on offer. <p>Oliver</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rocks allegedly placed where people were camping on Lindsay St. 	
1.00pm-1.20pm	<p>9. CITY OF LAUNCESTON REPORTS</p> <p>9.1 CSR numbers (5 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since the last meeting until today we have had 122 sleeping rough requests coming through. 12 months ago we only had 34 requests. • Sometimes it's multiple reports from the same site or issue. Sometimes its concerns about welfare of people in the community. <p>9.2 Flood levee (5min) Already spoken</p> <p>9.3 Reach out cards (10min) Are being updated.</p>	Wytarna McDonald

1.20pm-1.45pm	<p>10. BUSINESS ARISING/ACTION ITEMS</p> <p>a) HAC meeting date and time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 1 or more Council representative unable to attend HAC due to time and day Shifting the time to 1.30 or 2 pm would be helpful. <p>b) PACER team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have been invited to attend a future meeting <p>c) On arrival housing in Launceston at Leprena (UTAS, Newnham Campus)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 20 February 2025, MRC Tasmania issued Notices to Vacate the premises by 11 March 2025 to seven households to make room for planned new arrivals. Some tenants had been there for over seven months and could not find alternative accommodation. Welcome Cultural Services had extensive experience in the Launceston housing market, and they were able to help rehouse most tenants, along with support from the Women's Friendship Group Catholic Care is aware of this. Visa categories can make accommodation difficult. <p>d) Terms of reference (TOR) and membership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advertising for new community representatives once the new TOR are completed. A previous member has reached out to re-join. <p>e) Homelessness week</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on planned activities for homelessness week. Homelessness week working group, led by Catholic Care. Monday morning tea at council. A case study will be presented. Also a short film. Also info for people about housing stress. 	Chairperson												
1.45pm-1.55pm	<p>11. GENERAL BUSINESS</p> <p>a) Darren McPhee: discuss service provision gaps - to be discussed at the next meeting.</p>	Chairperson												
1.55pm	<p>12. MEETING DATES</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="280 1473 1270 1624"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>Time</th> <th>Location</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>August 19th</td> <td>12pm-2pm</td> <td>Macquarie House</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Date	Time	Location	August 19 th	12pm-2pm	Macquarie House							Chairperson
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