

An overview of the guides

“With limited resources and persistent need it is imperative that we use evidence-based, cost effective interventions to get people stably housed and that we disseminate these practices as widely as possible” (Casey, et al 2013)

What is housing-focused support?

Housing-focused support refers to the range of activities and interventions undertaken by homelessness practitioners, that assist individuals and households experiencing or at risk of homelessness to gain and sustain housing. Housing-focused support is different from allied, mainstream or specialist health supports, which base eligibility on criteria other than homelessness, and are geared towards achieving outcomes other than gaining and sustaining housing (but which may, nevertheless, assist an individual to sustain a home). Housing-focused support is usually time limited.

About the housing-focused support practice guides

The guides to providing housing-focused support were developed by the Council to Homeless Persons (CHP) to assist workers in the Specialist Homelessness Sector (SHS) gain and maintain housing for consumers. They articulate good worker practice in providing housing-focused support to consumers and households, and were informed by a literature review, focus groups and consultations with consumers and advanced practitioners. A full report of the project is available at chp.org.au.

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Who are the practice guides for?

The guides are designed for use by people working with consumers experiencing housing crisis and homelessness.

What guides are available?

The guides provide an overview of the core stages for workers involved with assisting consumers to gain and maintain housing, and a range of tools to assist their practice. It is important to note that these stages may occur concurrently. Five guides are available:

- An overview of homelessness
- Engagement and rapport building
- The role of assessment in housing-focused support
- Supporting consumers to access housing
- Supporting resettlement and stabilisation

Endnotes

Casey, R., Clark, C., Smits, P., & Peters, R. (2013). Application of Implementation Science for Homeless Interventions. *American journal of public health*, 103(S2), S183-S184.