

The Specialist Homelessness Sector Transition Plan (2018-2022)

Develop SHS research priorities and complete

The Specialist Homelessness Sector Transition Plan (2018-2022) outlines 15 goals.

Action tables have been developed to provide more specific detail on what each goal means, why it is important, future vision, relevant literature, good practice examples and helpful resources.

The action tables are designed to be a useful reference and a good starting point for organisations or individuals wanting to action any of the 15 goals in the SHS Transition Plan.

All 15 action tables can be found at: chp.org.au/shs-transitionplan18/.

10. Develop SHS research priorities and complete research	
What we mean	Identifying key research priorities for the SHS and undertaking methodologically sound research which provides practical value to the SHS.
Why is this important	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is currently no clear agreement about what the most important research areas are for the SHS • There is insufficient research available about the key factors which contribute to better outcomes for people at risk of, or experiencing homelessness.
Future Vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed key research priorities for the SHS • Methodologically sound research that identifies the impact of SHS activities on consumer outcomes • A commitment by government to fund activities and programs with demonstrated effectiveness.
Literature	<p>At the broadest level, three key elements have been identified to assist in research priority setting^{1, 2}:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Access to available technical data (e.g. prevalence, outcomes, costs) 2. Reviews of the literature for gaps and previously stated priority areas (using systematic reviews and policy recommendations documents) 3. Ask the views of key stakeholders

¹ Viergever, C. (2010). A checklist for health research priority setting: nine common themes of good practice. *Health Research Policy & Systems, Vol. 8 p.36.*

² Sibbald, K. (2009). Priority setting: what constitutes success? A conceptual framework for successful priority setting. *BMC Health Services Research. Vol. 9 p. 43.*

	<p>In refining the research list to specific research activities it is suggested that two distinct techniques can be used³:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consensus based methods - typically using meetings with key experts and stakeholders and development of consensus panels 2. Metric based methods – where individuals rank options and these are then aggregated and listed in priority order. <p>There is also commentary in the area of child and family services which may assist the SHS to consider how to best identify and structure research priorities. These issues have been considered in the <i>Developing A Road Map For Research: Identifying The Priorities For A National Child Protection Research Agenda</i>⁴. This research identified the following factors as important:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completing a comprehensive audit and systematic review of methodologically sound research available in the area • Multi-site, cross jurisdictional, longitudinal research and evaluation of practice models. Research of this type is more amenable to generalisation across settings and groups, therefore able to contribute significantly to the evidence base. <p>Other studies have highlighted the following areas as important^{5, 6}:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Epidemiological research into prevalence and incidence, and the clinical diagnoses of presenting populations • Aetiological (casual) research to identify risk and protective factors, causal mechanisms and outcomes • Intervention research to assess the effectiveness of activities undertaken • Implementation and dissemination research to review the use of interventions that have been identified to work, and whether these interventions have been effectively scaled across appropriate programs and geographies.
<p>Good practice examples</p>	<p>Research Priority Setting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AHURI Research Themes (2018) - AHURI (The Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute) Research Themes provide an outline of key research areas related to homelessness. These themes could be viewed as a starting point for clarifying key research priorities for the Victorian SHS • National Homelessness Research Agenda (2014) - The Australian Federal Government completed an analysis of homelessness research priorities in

³ Nasser, N. (2013). An equity lens can ensure an equity oriented approach to agenda setting and priority setting of Cochrane Reviews. *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology* Vol. 66 pp.511-512.

⁴ Bromfield, L. & Arney, F. (2008). *Developing A Road Map for Research: Identifying The Priorities For A National Child Protection Research Agenda*. Australian Institute of Family Studies. *NCPC Issues No. 28 – February 2008*. Accessed on 5th March 2018 at: [Research Priority Setting in Child Protection Services](#).

⁵ Connolly, M. (2004). Building research strategies in child welfare: A research and evaluation framework for policy and practice. *Social Policy Journal of New Zealand*, 22, 119-127.

⁶ Families Australia. (2007). *Towards a national child protection strategy for Australia*.

	<p>2014. These provide a valuable starting point for consideration of Victorian specific SHS research priorities</p> <p>Research:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Geelong Project is an example of practical research which significantly contributes to the evidence base around preventing youth homelessness. This research has demonstrated significant cost savings by identifying and then intervening early with young people identified to be at risk of homelessness prior to them leaving home or school. It has significantly reduced presentations of young people to homelessness services in Geelong. <p>Journey to Social Inclusion Pilot Program Evaluation – This three year randomised control trial assessed the value of an intensive case management support program on client housing and wellbeing outcomes⁷.</p>
<p>Helpful Resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Priority Setting in Healthcare - Latrobe University: practical approaches to undertaking research priority setting in health • Council on Health Research and Development - Priority Setting Tools: Council on Health Research and Development

⁷ Johnson, G., Tseng, Y., Parkinson, S. and Kuhlne, D. (2014) Journey to Social Inclusion (2014) Final Report: Accessed April 2018 from: Journey to Social Inclusion Pilot Program Evaluation