



Parity

A Call for Contributions – October 2022

The October 2022, "*Towards a New National Homelessness Strategy*" edition of Parity

Deadline: COB Friday, 21 October, 2022.

Word length: Contributions can be up to 1,600 words. See Page 5 for further details. Submissions to be sent to: parity@chp.org.au

Introduction

The aim of this edition of Parity is to give all stakeholders in the response to homelessness the opportunity to participate in a discussion of what a future National Homelessness Strategy should look like.

Arguably the need for national leadership through a national housing and homelessness strategy with appropriate policy, planning and investment, has never been more urgent.

We know that:

- the number of people experiencing homelessness is increasing
- homelessness services are unable to meet the demand for their services
- increasing numbers of people are experiencing housing stress
- low vacancy rates means access to rentals is becoming more difficult
- more people with complex needs are falling through the gaps in the broader human services system.

However, we also have increasing evidence from both research and practice of what works to respond effectively to homelessness and work towards ending it.



We have seen public health measures adopted during the pandemic demonstrate that there are practical and workable solutions to homelessness if there is the political will to adopt and enact them.

This edition represents an opportunity to clearly articulate to our new National Government the range of outcomes focussed solutions to homelessness that could be adopted in a National Strategy to end homelessness in Australia.

A Framework for Discussion

Part 1: Introduction and Context – Previous homelessness strategies and why a joint State and Federal approach is needed

The new Federal Government has indicated that it will develop a new National Homelessness Strategy.

Over the years various homelessness strategies have been created by the Federal Government, yet homelessness still persists and is growing. In this section, we will look at previous approaches to national homelessness strategies, what has worked and what has not. We further explore why a joined up State and Federal approach is required to end homelessness.

Since the initial 2008 The Road Home White Paper and the National Partnership on Homelessness that followed and then expired, the homelessness and housing sectors have largely operated in a policy vacuum and with funding for services that has diminished in real terms. Issues faced by renters and social and affordable housing development were not priorities for the previous Federal Government. As a result, a constantly falling proportion of our national housing stock is affordable to low-income earners or available to those seeking to exit homelessness.

While some State and Territory governments have undertaken local reforms and initiatives (for example the Victorian Government's Big Build) and made some important investments, any real progress has been hampered by reduced Federal Government funding as well as the absence of any Federal Government leadership and coordination.

The aim of this chapter is to examine and discuss previous National and State and Territory homelessness strategies and policies to identify those elements that are worth further consideration in the development and implementation of a new National Homelessness Strategy.



Part 2: The role of universal services and policy beyond the housing and homelessness service systems in reducing homelessness in Australia

Homelessness occurs at the intersection of structural forces and personal vulnerabilities. Working together, State and Federal Governments can do much to impact on these structural drivers of homelessness, by including measures to reduce poverty, supporting families to thrive, addressing discrimination and racism, reducing gendered violence, or decreasing incarceration rates. They can also work to support people with vulnerabilities by improving the provision of mental healthcare and disability supports, providing better support to those exiting justice and health settings, and improving health equity.

The aim of this chapter is to focus on those issues and services that sit outside of housing and homelessness service systems, and which are critical to preventing homelessness happening in the first place.

Part 3: Responding to priority cohorts

Previous homelessness strategies have identified priority cohorts and included measures to respond to their homelessness. This chapter will explore the question of whether the new National Homelessness Strategy should include priority cohorts, who those cohorts might be, and which responses should be delivered.

For example, the State and Territory response to the public health imperatives of the Covid-19 pandemic saw a raft of initiatives that made significant inroads into rough sleeping. Arguments have been made for specialist strategies to address youth homelessness, homelessness for unaccompanied children, for a self-determined Aboriginal housing and homelessness strategy, for a gender lens to be applied to the National Housing and Homelessness Strategy to ensure it delivers responses to address homelessness for women, for specific LGBTIQ+ homelessness strategies, for strategies addressing homelessness among older Australians, veterans, and for strategies that address homelessness among recent migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

The aim of this chapter is to focus on those policies and strategies that have demonstrated their effectiveness in responding to the service and support needs of different people experiencing homelessness and those without a home.

Part 4: Responding across the homelessness continuum from prevention to intensive support

Leading international homelessness strategies in Wales and Scotland, and Canada among other places, have increasingly focussed on homelessness prevention. In Australia, there are a number



of excellent homelessness prevention and early intervention programs, as well as evidence-based responses that provide rapid rehousing, Housing First, and case management support.

The aim of this chapter is to focus on the balance of service interventions along the continuum, as well as to highlight the impact of successful programs and models that intervene to prevent or respond to homelessness.

Part 5: Housing responses to homelessness

Housing must be at the heart of any national response to homelessness. Given that the housing market is not and will not be accessible to the vast majority of people without a home, housing provision can only be delivered through a significant increase in the levels of social housing, reversing a trend that has been in place for decades.

Likewise, housing affordability through the private rental market must be seriously addressed if renting is going to become a housing option for people without a home.

What role can a National Homelessness Strategy play in improving the provision of housing to people without homes? Are there different housing practices in different states for which the strategy should have regard? Are current Federal funding arrangements working to deliver housing to people without homes, how might these arrangements be changed? This chapter will also consider what role a Federal Government should play in delivering housing.

The aim of this chapter is to explore and articulate the role that housing policies can and do play in meeting the housing needs of people without a home and also those at risk of homelessness.

Part 6: Developing a national homelessness strategy

This chapter focuses on ideas and suggestions for the processes that could be put in place for developing a national homelessness strategy. How should the Federal Government consult with homelessness services and other key stakeholders in the response to homelessness? Should for example the previous Green Paper Draft Homelessness Strategy process be adopted? What role should homelessness research play in the development of the Strategy? Should there be a national summit?

What role should the States and Territories play in developing a national homelessness strategy? Likewise, what role should consumers play in these consultation processes? What contribution can allied-sectors, like health, education, mental health, alcohol and other drug services etc, play in the lead up to the development of a new National Homelessness Strategy?

The aim of this chapter is to examine and discuss the best way forward in the actual process of developing a National Homelessness Strategy.



Part 7: Consumer voices and Lived Experience

All relevant services should do as much as possible to help facilitate the involvement of those with the lived experience of homelessness in making submissions to the differing processes that lead up to the development of a new National Homelessness Strategy. There are many successful models and methods that could be employed to ensure that the voice of lived experience is at the forefront of the development of a new National Homelessness Strategy.

The aim of this chapter is to make sure that the voice of lived experience informs all the discussions towards the development of a new National Homelessness Strategy.

Part 8: Opinion Pages/Future Directions/Advocacy

The Opinion Pages (op-eds) in *Parity* give sector leaders and stakeholders in the response to homelessness the opportunity to clearly articulate their vision for a new National Homelessness Strategy.

Contributing to the October 2022 "Towards a New National Homelessness Strategy" edition of *Parity*

Deadline: The deadline for contributions: COB Friday, 21 October. Should additional time be required please contact the *Parity* Editor: parity@chp.org.au

Submissions format: All contributions should be submitted as Word attachments to parity@chp.org.au

Artwork: Contributors are invited to submit the artwork they would like to accompany their article. Inclusion is dependent on the space being available. If artwork is not provided and is required, it will be selected by the *Parity* Editor.

Word length: Contributions can be up to 1,600 words. This equates to a double page spread in *Parity*. Single page articles can be up to 800 words in length. Contributions of a greater length should be discussed with the *Parity* Editor.

Questions: If you have any questions at all about contributing to this edition please contact the *Parity* Editor by email parity@chp.org.au or ring 0466 619 582.



Embedded media: Contributors are able to make suggestions for the placement of relevant hyperlinks, video and other multimedia within their content which can be embedded in the *Parity* online edition. Any suggestions will be reviewed by and decided upon by the *Parity* editor.

Referencing

All works that are cited or referred to in an article should be referenced. *Parity* does not encourage contributors to list a bibliography of references used in the development of an article but are *not* cited in the article. There is simply insufficient space for the inclusion of extensive bibliographies. The *Parity* referencing protocol is as follows:

In-text citations

CHP uses numbered-citation for all in-text citations.

- Number references consecutively in the order in which they are first mentioned in the text. The first reference you cite will be numbered (1) in the text, and the second reference you cite will be numbered (2), and so on.
- A number is assigned to each reference as it is used. Even if the author is named in your text, a number must still be used.
- References are listed in numerical order at the end of the document.
- If you use a reference consecutively assign the consecutive number and use *Ibid*.
- If the same reference elsewhere in your article, assign the consecutive number and use *op. cit.* For example, Seung S 2012, *op. cit.*, p. 34.
- The number can be placed outside the text punctuation to avoid disruption to the flow of the text.
- If a single sentence uses two or more citations, simply identify the references one after the other.

For example:

International research has found that resilience in a homeless youth sample correlates with lower levels of psychological distress, suicide ideation, violent behaviour and substance abuse. (4) (5)



Guidelines for Referencing in *Parity*

All references used in *Parity* articles should be listed using the following guidelines:

Books:

Author's surname, initial(s), year of publication, Title of book, Publisher, Place of Publication, Page number(s).

For example:

1. Seung S 2012, *Connectome: How the Brain's Wiring Makes Us Who We Are*, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Boston, p.90.

Journal Articles

Author's surname, initial(s), year of publication, 'Title of article', *Title of Journal*, volume number, issue number, Page number(s).

For example:

Trevithick P 2003 'Effective Relationship Based Practice', *Journal of Social Work Practice*, vol.17, no.2, pp.163-176.

Newspaper articles:

With identified author:

Authors Surname Initial Year of publication, 'Title of article', *Name of publication*, Date and year of publication, Page number(s) or <URL> if applicable.

For example:

Kissane K 2008, 'Brumby calls for tough sentences', *The Age*, 29 October 2017, p. 8.

With no author:

Use 'Unknown' For example:

Unknown 2008, 'Brumby calls for tough sentences', *The Age*, 29 October 2017, p. 8.

Webpage/document within a website or blog Post:

Author's surname (if known) Initial, 'Page/Blog/Document Title', *The person or organisation responsible for the website*, Year of Publication (if known) <URL> For example:

Greenblatt S, 'A special letter from Stephen Greenblatt', Australian Council of Social Services, 2017 <<http://acoss.org/media/greenblatt>>

Audio podcast:



Speaker/Hosts surname Initial, 'Title of episode', *Title of Podcast*, Year and date of Publication, <URL> (if available).

For example:

Todd B 2018, 'What homelessness looks like for women', Stuff Mom Never Told You, 14 March 2018 <<https://www.stuffmomnevertoldyou.com/podcasts/what-homelessness-looks-like-for-women.html>>

Online video/film or documentary:

Title Date of recording, Format, Publisher. For example:

Indigenous homelessness 1992, video recording, Green Cape Wildlife Films.

Personal communication:

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Johnson George, Telephone interview, 12 August 2018.

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Asante K O and Meyer-Weitz A 2015 op cit. pp. 230-231.

Citing the same reference consecutively

Use *Ibid.* when the same reference appears consecutively. If the page number is different from the first use, cite the page number as well.

For example:

1. Florn B H 2015, 'The cost of youth homelessness', *Journal of Adolescence*, vol.17, no.2, pp.163-176.
2. *Ibid.* pp.32-33.

Multiple Authors

For every reference type, give all the authors Surnames and first Initials followed by a comma in the bibliography. The last author listed should be preceded by 'and'.

For example:



Sharp J, Peters J and Howard K 2002, *The management of a student research project*, Gower, Aldershot, England.

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Assistance and Questions

Feedback, input and assistance can be provided with drafts if required. The *Parity* editor is available at all stages of the preparation of your contribution to look at drafts and provide input and feedback. The earlier drafts are received for feedback, the better.

If prospective contributors have any questions they should contact the *Parity* Editor, Noel Murray, parity@chp.org.au Ph: 0466 619 582