



Parity

A Call for Contributions – August 2024

“New Directions: Redefining Local Government’s Role in Ending Homelessness”

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Submission deadline: COB Friday, 19 July 2024

Word length: Contributions can be up to 1,600 words. Submissions to be sent to: parity@chp.org.au

Introduction

Australia faces a growing homelessness crisis that is being felt all across the country, from Capital cities, the inner-city into the outer suburbs and across rural and regional areas. And as homelessness increases, more communities than ever are turning to their local councils to take action.

However, with limited authority and influence over housing supply, and much less access to funds than their State or Federal counterparts, Local Government in Australia sits in an uncomfortable position, with little authority, often limited expertise and few funds to act.

But this could be different.

As an arm of Australia’ State and Territory governments, managed under individual Acts, local government plays a crucial role in communities, managing infrastructure, delivering services and regulating public spaces. (1)

It is within many of these shared community spaces – on streets, in parks, within libraries or in childcare services, where issues such as homelessness, and associated risks might become



evident, and councils hold the local knowledge and contacts that often elude their State and Federal government counterparts.

Elected officials and council officers know their communities well and are adept at connecting and driving local efforts – and the role of elected officials as local leaders and influencers cannot be ignored.

Local government possesses untapped expertise, resources and levers to address homelessness proactively, but in many circumstances, this is undervalued and overlooked. A shift in mindset is required, and this involves building broad understanding about what exactly local government can do to prevent and help end homelessness.

The good news is that awareness is growing. The 2022 Homelessness Monitor (2) noted that when it comes to homelessness response, the role of local government remains “unrecognised and undefined”. The authors noted that “to contribute towards national efforts to end homelessness, the role and opportunities for LGAs (local government authorities) to act, need to be made explicit and more coherently integrated within national and State and Territory strategies.

Similarly, in 2021, the Australian government’s Parliamentary Enquiry into Homelessness, recommended that local government involvement increase, noting that a national strategy could recognise and harness the important roles of local governments, community organisations and the private sector in preventing and addressing homelessness. (3)

The development of a new National Housing and Homelessness Plan provides an opportunity to recognise the role local government can play, embed a new approach in homelessness prevention and early intervention, and open funding streams focused on local community need.

To get there, it is important to build understanding and to document what local government can actually do as a credible government player that brings local knowledge and expertise to the table.

The good news is that all around Australia councils are acting - they are pursuing many initiatives, often seen as being outside of their lane – to tackle social justice issues, act on poverty and disadvantage and ensure the health and wellbeing of their local communities. Many do this with extremely limited funds and while balancing many roles, responsibilities and expectations.

This edition of *Parity* aims to look widely at local government responses to homelessness – where local government can best respond, and document best practice examples from all across Australia, building knowledge and skill and encouraging more positive community-led partnerships that will work to end homelessness.

Artwork

All contributors are welcome to submit any artwork, photographs or images that they would like to accompany their articles (should space allow). If artwork is not provided and is required, it will be selected by the Parity Editor.



A framework for discussion

We are calling for councils and their partners across Australia to put forward their best practice examples and raise opportunities and ideas that will help redefine local government's role in ending homelessness.

General overview of roles and responsibilities:

- What role can local government play in Australia's efforts to end homelessness?
- What point of difference can local government offer in this response?
- How can local government complement and enhance Commonwealth and State/Territory government homelessness responses?
- How can councils best work with local homelessness services and other partners?

Crisis response and beyond:

- What actions can local government take to address rough sleeping?
- Beyond rough sleeping, what else can local government do?
- What roles and responsibilities might local government adopt to address other forms of homelessness including couch surfing, congregate living situations, sleeping in vehicles, overcrowding?

Homelessness prevention:

- Best practice examples in local government homelessness prevention
- How can different parts of council work together?
- What role can local government play in upstream prevention? (i.e. preventing homelessness before someone hits crisis)
- How can libraries and other customer facing services contribute to ending homelessness?

Public space:

- How have local governments worked to end the criminalisation of homelessness and restricting access to public space for people experiencing homelessness?
- How can local laws be applied to assist those experiencing homelessness?
- Protocols, guidelines and activities to guide public space management
- Cross council initiatives to manage public spaces and protect people experiencing homelessness



Public health:

- How is the legacy of Covid-19 impacting local government responses to homelessness
- Addressing intersectionality – how can local government move away from silos and adopt holistic responses to homelessness, mental health, physical health, AOD?

Emergency management and climate change:

- How can local government apply emergency management expertise to the homelessness crisis?
- Homelessness and the climate emergency – What is the role of local government?

Leadership and communications:

- Yes in my backyard: How Councils can lead the narrative and challenge community opposition to housing and homelessness initiatives.
- How can local government partner with lived experience experts?
- How councils and councillors can lead narratives and drive collaboration to end homelessness

Housing and Housing First:

- How is local government addressing housing supply?
- Local government partnerships to build housing availability
- What can councils do to support Housing First?

Endnotes

1. Australian Local Government Association (ALGA). “Facts and Figures”. Accessed 1 September 2023. <https://alga.com.au/facts-and-figures/>
2. Pawson, H. et.al. *Australian Homelessness Monitor 2022*. Victoria. Launch Housing, 2022. https://cms.launchhousing.org.au/app/uploads/2022/12/AustralianHomelessnessMonitor_2022.pdf
3. Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia. *Inquiry into homelessness in Australia*. Canberra. Commonwealth of Australia, July 2021, p.vii.



Key information

Submission deadline: All contributions need to be submitted by COB Friday 19 July 2024.

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

Word length: Contributions can be up to 1,600 words (including references). 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.

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.

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.

Content: By providing your contribution, you confirm and agree that (except where you have referenced or cited any other's work) the contribution is your original work and has not been copied from any other source.

Use: If your contribution is accepted, it will be published by or on CHP's behalf in an edition of the *Parity* magazine. *Parity* is available in hard copy and online.

Online copies of back editions of *Parity* can be found on:
<http://search.informit.com.au/browseJournalTitle;res=IELHSS;issn=1032-6170>

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.

Contact: The *Parity* Editor, Noel Murray, can be contacted on:

e/ parity@chp.org.au
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References

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.

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)

Parity referencing style

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

Personal communication may include (but are not limited to) email, fax, interview, conversations, lectures, speeches, telephone conversations and letters. Usually personal communications do not appear, as the information is not retrievable. However, due to the numbered citations used in *Parity*, we ask that they be included as follows:

Author's surname First name, Method of communication, Date and year of Communication

For example:

Johnson George, Telephone interview, 12 August 2018.

Citing the same reference more than once

When a reference is cited a number of times, use *op cit.* after the year has been given. If the page number is different from the first use, cite the new page number as well.

For example:

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.