

Are we there yet?

Examining progress and
Homelessness Interventions
in WA

The State Homelessness Strategy

Are we there yet?

To answer this question we need to know:

- Where we started from.
- Where we are aiming.
- How will we know if we are going in the right direction?
- How will we know when will we get there?

How many Homeless?

2001 Census

Primary.....	2242
Secondary	
• SAAP.....	945
• Friends/Relatives...	6,755
Tertiary.....	1755
TOTAL.....	11,697

•

Reducing Homelessness & Providing Better Assistance

2001 Census

Primary.....

- Aim to lower

Secondary

- SAAP.....
- Friends/Relatives...

- Aim to increase
- Aim to lower

Tertiary.....

- Aim to lower

TOTAL.....

What Direction to Take?

- The State Homelessness Strategy
- 68 recommendations
- Three strategic themes
 - Providing better options for housing
 - Assisting people through vulnerable transitions
 - Facilitating stability in housing

Better options for Housing

- An injection of \$10.5 million for public housing
 - \$5 million - additional social housing for homeless people
 - \$5.5 million for special needs housing
- Increase the amounts available through the Bond Assistance Scheme
- Review of Residential Tenancies Act

Vulnerability and Transition

Over the next four years...

- \$2.78 million to provide services and accommodation for people with mental illness
- \$2.43 million to help homeless children
- \$1.8 million to help young people leaving long-term care
- \$1.02 million to support people exiting the justice system



"The WA State Homelessness Strategy Evaluation"

Pauline Bagdonavicius
Executive Director, Department For
Community Development

Stability in Housing

Over the next four years....

- \$5 million to assist public and private sector tenants to keep their housing
- \$2 million for non-government organisations to provide financial counselling services
- \$750 000 to assist people directly into stable accommodation by by-passing crisis accommodation.

\$20 million over 4 years

- long term supported accommodation for community living for people with a psychiatric disability
- Increase in supported accommodation for people with disabilities
- youth crisis and supported accommodation
- In home practical support services
- Drug and alcohol counsellors for youth crisis accommodation services
- Establishment of the Homeless Helpline

Are we going in the right direction?

- Progress Reports identify how the recommendations are being implemented

State Homelessness Strategy Progress

- In 2002 – 68 recommendations
- As at December 2005
 - 59 recommendation have been implemented or largely addressed
 - 9 recommendations where the progress or outcome was disappointing or the initiative was discontinued

Are we going in the right direction? cnt

- Performance Indicators/ Hierarchy of Indicators
 - The Priority Outcomes
 - Headline Indicators
 - Strategic Change Indicators

HIERARCHY OF INDICATORS

Three Priority Outcomes

- People in need of accommodation suitably accommodated
- People assisted through important transitions
- People able to sustain accommodation once suitably accommodated

Headline Indicators

1. Affordable Housing
2. People in Transition
3. Stability in Housing

Strategic Change Indicators

The Strategic Change Indicators are based around the areas for action identified in the Government's Response.

They have been chosen because movement in them will impact on the priority outcomes and will show-up in the headline indicators.

Strategic Change Indicators

- 4. Social Housing
- 5. Aboriginal Housing and Infrastructure
- 6. Supported Accommodation
- 7. Private Rental Market
- 8. Support and Advocacy
- 9. Specialist Services
- 10. Co-operation and Collaboration

Other Contributing factors

- Housing Boom
 - low vacancy rate for private rental properties
 - increased rents
- Changes to refugee demographics
- High employment

State Homelessness Strategy Services

20 New DCD Services

- 7 Private Rental Support and Advocacy
- 1 Accommodation Assistance Service
- 2 Financial Counselling Services for Young People
- 3 Leaving Care Services
- 2 counselling and support services for children in family supported accommodation

20 New DCD Services

In six months July – December 2005

- 1077 clients/cases
- 559 new cases
- 7% - 39% Indigenous
- 1% - 23% CALD

Private Rental Support and Advocacy Services

\$1 Million per year

3 Country services

Busselton, Geraldton, Peel

4 Metropolitan services

North East, South East, Rockingham &
a Multicultural Service

Private Rental Support and Advocacy Services

- Emphasis on preventing eviction through support and advocacy to tenants and property managers to maintain tenancies
- Started November 2003
- Over 500 households per year assisted
- 7% Indigenous
- 17% CALD

Support and Counselling Services for Children in Family Supported Accommodation

- \$400,000 per year
- 2 services, north metro & south metro
- Children aged 4 -14
- July-Dec 2005 133 children assisted
- 39% Indigenous
- 23% CALD

Support for Young Parents who have been homeless

- \$200,000 pa
- Five existing Youth SAAP services that house young parents (Metro)
- Parenting support & education
- 86 parents in 2005
- 22% Indigenous, 3% CALD

Evaluation

The Evaluation of the State Homelessness Strategy has been completed

Anticipated it will go to Cabinet early June



More Information

www.homeless.dhw.wa.gov.au