

Parramatta Homelessness Interagency Minutes, 20 August 2020

Online Zoom Meeting

10am – 12pm

Chairperson: Paea Sinaki, Evolve Housing (for Debra Ireson)

Minutes: Tarina Rubis / Tanya Owen

Agenda item	Discussion
1. Welcome & Acknowledgment of Country	Paea Sinaki welcomed everyone and acknowledged the traditional owners of the land, the Darug people, and paid respect to Aboriginal Elders past and present.
2. Welcome & Introduction	Refer to final page for attendance
3. Previous Minutes	June 2020 Meeting Minutes confirmed
4. Business Arising	N/A
5. Guest Speaker Mahran Daniel Community Engagement Officer, Services Australia (Centrelink)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Engagement team focuses on supporting vulnerable people who can't access services online or by phone – e.g. site visits, homelessness hubs, hospitals.• Seven different payments ended in March and were brought together under the JobSeeker (including Newstart, sickness allowance, partner, bereavement, widow allowance). Eligibility remains from age 22 up to pension age. From March-Sept income/assets have not been considered in the case that someone lost their job due to COVID-19 but this is changing on 25 September.• The JobSeeker supplement is dropping from \$550 to \$250 in September.• Mutual obligation requirements were temporarily relaxed but are now back in place except in Victoria. Engagement with job providers can be online.• The JobKeeper payment is managed by the ATO.• The Payment and Service finder on Services Australia website is a useful tool to see what support a person may be eligible for.• For people who cannot access services through standard means due to their specific vulnerabilities, the following mailboxes are available to request assistance: NSW.CEOASSISTANCE@servicesaustralia.gov.au ... ATT Mahran – Community Engagement Officer CNSW.MSOASSISTANCE@servicesaustralia.gov.au ... Att Julian – Multicultural Service Officer

<p>6. Guest Speaker Matthew Ireland, Western Sydney LHD – Parramatta Acute Care Team, Homeless Outreach Service Coordinator</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Homeless Outreach Service (HOS) is a new service in its infancy and is currently being stood up to service Parramatta, Cumberland and the Hills. Federal funding has been received, related to COVID-19, to support vulnerable populations including people experiencing homelessness. • HOS is a specialist mental health service that sits within acute care, because a large number of people who are homeless have mental health concerns. • There has been no local outreach capacity for a while. HOS will provide a full-time psychiatrist, a senior mental health clinician position, 2 mental health clinician positions are currently being advertised. A Peer worker position is being advertised, plus an admin support worker. • Criteria for access is experiencing or at risk of homelessness. • The outreach approach means that there will be clinics across Parramatta and Cumberland, and the intent is to build relationships and a presence within the homelessness community. The team will aim to break down barriers to relationships, develop plans that support people to live independently and avoid the negative cycle often experienced between the street/hospital/housing/street. • Setting up referral pathways, and a flyer is available. This is a liaison service so services can call for advice and referrals will be conducted via a no wrong door approach. • Telopea is included in service area. • Funding is secured until end June 2021 but the hope is that the need for ongoing funding of this service will have been proven by that time. • There is a 6 week, short term service model of care. Does not provide case management but people can be referred on for this. Mon-Friday, 9am-5pm service. Out of hours assistance will still be provided by acute care team and then filtered through to HOS on the next business day.
<p>7. Guest Speaker Simone Halaby – Department of Communities & Justice - Housing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simone provided a Homelessness Sector Program Update presentation covering update since the last Interagency meeting in June. • Presentation covered summaries of Temporary Accommodation (TA) assistance rates/demographics, updates on the work of the Housing Outreach Teams, the Together Home Project and Housing Options Panels. • Referrals to the Housing Options Panel can be made via wsnbmhomeless@facs.nsw.gov.au. Housing options include SHS Crisis Accommodation, SHS Transitional Accommodation, Private Rental, Social Housing, Rent Choice Products, Rentstart Products (Bond Loan), Together Home Program • Maeve from JRS queried whether there had been any change in eligibility of temporary visa holders to access TA via Link2Home as they have not been able to secure support in recent weeks. Grace from Link2Home said nothing has changed, please continue to seek assistance and response will be on a case by case basis. JRS and

	Vinnies stressed that any amount of TA is valuable to people who have nowhere to go, and that the charity sector supporting this people is not a viable long term option either.
8. Service Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Nina L, High Street Youth Health</u>: work with young people up to 25 and marginalised and homeless young people. Have been providing flu vaccines and COVID swabbing, doing a lot of outreach and made offer to visit services. • <u>Villiami T, Wesley Mission, Fairfield Office</u> – covers Parramatta area. Will be joining Interagency meetings from now on. Service provides support for families who are homeless or at risk of homeless, including TA, financial support, brokerage (to set up home). Contact details: viliami.tuipulotu@wesleymission.org.au • <u>Rowa Omari, Cumberland Council</u>: Congratulated DCJ on their outreach model which has been very positive and helpful for Cumberland LGA. She does not believe they have seen an increase in rough sleepers because of this.
9. Strategic Issues	Not discussed.
10. Other Business	<p>Future Guest Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request made for speakers from the employment sector to cover what opportunities are available, particularly for people who do not have residency. SSI and Pathways have some experience here. There may be need for both a government and service representative to speak to the variety of issues.
11. Next Meeting	<p>Meeting closed at 11:15am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Next meeting: 22 October, 2020, 10:00am – 12:00pm</p>

Attendance

Name	Agency/Service
Laurie Besant	Parramatta Mission
Heather Burke	DCJ Housing
Simone Halaby	DCJ Housing
Camille Morgan	Relationships Australia
Paea Sinaki	Evolve Housing
Mahran Daniel	/Centrelink
Ben Leauanae	Hume Community Housing
Matthew Ireland	WSLHD
Grace Borsellino	Link2Home
Tanya Owen	City of Parramatta
Lisa Walters	Link2Home
Maeve Brown	Jesuit Refugee Service
Tarina Rubis	City of Parramatta
Anne Seward	Women's Justice Network
Angela Daynes	Parramatta Mission
Sandra Perry	Vinnies
Nikki Cummins	Vinnies
Jessop Lee	?
Viliani Tuipulotu	Wesley Mission
Mouly Pasupathipillai	SSI
Rowa Omari	Cumberland Council
Julian Jeyakumar	Services Australia
Nina	High Street Youth Health