

**Parramatta Homelessness Interagency Minutes, 15 April 2021**

**PARKROYAL Parramatta**

**10am – 12pm**

**Chairperson: Debra Ireson, Evolve Housing**

**Minutes: Tarina Rubis**

<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
<b>1. Welcome &amp; Acknowledgment of Country</b>	Deb Ireson welcomed everyone and acknowledged the traditional owners of the land, the Darug people, and paid respect to Aboriginal Elders past and present.
<b>2. Welcome &amp; Introduction</b>	Record of attendance provided after minutes
<b>3. Previous Minutes</b>	February Minutes confirmed – Debra Ireson and Kim Yorke
<b>4. Business Arising</b>	N/A
<b>5. Guest Speaker</b> Jessie Halligan, Census Engagement Manager, Australian Bureau of Statistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation was made available to members following the meeting.</li> <li>• Census will be held on 10 August 2021. Forms can be completed a few days either side of that date, and community engagement teams will be working with outreach workers and people experiencing homelessness through that week to complete forms.</li> <li>• Jessie highlighted the importance of accurate enumeration of homelessness via the census, as results determine funding and service allocations, and identify where vulnerable people are located.</li> <li>• The ABS is working with DCJ to identify rough sleeping hotspots. They are connected to funded services but sought to be connected to any homelessness services that do not receive government funding.</li> <li>• Some changes to capture overcrowding – now up to 25 people can complete one household form</li> <li>• Two new questions – on service in the armed forces and on long term health conditions</li> <li>• ABS is seeking assistance of the homelessness sector to support communications with service users to ensure census completed by all. Also opportunities for short term recruitment.</li> </ul>
<b>6. Info share and Agency Updates</b>	<p>a) <b>Relationships Australia, Anne</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wattle Place is a service for ‘Forgotten Australians’ who have experienced trauma and institutionalisation. The minimum age is 26 yrs in 1990. Service may be of particular use to older Australians who are facing the prospect of re-institutionalisation as they age.</li> </ul> <p>b) <b>Australian Childhood Foundation, Kamalina</b></p>

- Outreach program for children and carers in the Out of Home Care System. Provides a 7 week, trauma informed program that works to develop a sense of self and identity, in the best interests of the child. Services can refer. New funding to work with domestic violence refuges.

**c) Jesuit Refugee Service, Anjali**

- A new research piece on the homelessness experiences of people seeking asylum, delivered with WSU. Survey found that of 165 respondents (most living in Cumberland LGA), 60% had been evicted or forced to move during pandemic. Almost no one has formal rental agreements. Mostly women with children. 75% were in some form of insecure housing (though not much rough sleeping). 40% people currently feel unsafe in their housing. Respondents were asked about affordability, freedom to use space, play, privacy. The average response to 'how many more bedrooms would you need to feel safe and comfortable?' was 5 rooms.
- Next step is more advocacy. These people lost jobs, pay taxes. Looking for partners in slow advocacy.
- JRS to present on this research at the next meeting.

**d) City of Parramatta Council, Tanya and Tarina**

- SAMSN recently ran a workshop for male survivors of sexual abuse (18-64). Upcoming workshop for family friends of survivors and how to support. If orgs have people in mind, contact SAMSN directly.
- Suggestion to develop budgeting workshops for young people. These would be delivered in a hub format, i.e. get Salvos or others with relevant expertise to deliver workshop, but with other services present for referral/links. Young people will be initial target group, but concept could be expanded later for other groups. Could be good for people newly on Jobseeker. **ACTION: Contact Tanya if services interested in participating.**
- Homelessness Street Count in February found 32 people rough sleeping in Parramatta LGA, and an additional 145 in crisis and temporary accommodation. Attendees attributed the drop in rough sleeping compared to 2020 to improvements in outreach locally, and impact of Together Home program.
- Council has been in discussion with the End Street Sleeping Collaboration and is about to embark on a community engagement process to understand if there is interest from the sector to implement a collaboration in Parramatta. ESSC will present at the next Interagency meeting.
- 1 organisation has shared data collected over March regarding number of people seeking asylum attending their service. Others are having challenges capturing this information.

**e) High Street Youth Health, Fay**

- Flu Vax – if organisations have populations of people homeless or at risk of homelessness who may need assistance with vaccination then please contact Nina Livingstone on 88602500 (Youth Health – High Street Youth Health Service HSYHS)

**f) Homes for Heroes, Paul**

- Service for ADF personnel leaving military, working alongside Open Arms 24/7 service for veterans. This group faces complex issues – mental health, drugs and alcohol. Can refer for wraparound supports and access 6 months transitional housing, if meet certain requirements (stability).

**g) DCJ Housing, (notes provided by Simone Halaby)**

- DCJ are currently negotiating with SHS providers for the new Homelessness contracts to commence July 2021.
- DCJ Housing continues to work in Partnership with SHS providers and Councils to do Assertive Outreach Patrols in Parramatta
- Street Count 2021 – Rough Sleepers counted - Parramatta (32), Blacktown (4), Mount Druitt (4), Cumberland (7) and Penrith (10) Total 57
- The Accommodation Options panel is still operating to find housing options for clients – Rough sleepers and clients in TA are the priority target group for referrals. Meeting are by invite only.
- Accommodation for single women over 55 available in Fairfield/Liverpool

**h) DCJ Housing, Kim**

- Housing is no longer accepting paper/hard copy applications. Electronic applications must be submitted via a MyHousing account. For those who can't do so, it must be done by phone. A kiosk is available to call through and documents can be brought through. Kim requested that services support people through this change in process.
- Medical assessment forms and living skills assessment are needed prior to application. There is a huge backlog of incomplete applications without these – hoping that the change will shorten waitlists.
- Kim acknowledged that there is a issue with communications between Corrective Services and Housing, even though assessments have been completed they cannot be shared.

<b>7. Other Business</b>	<b>a) Future Guest Speakers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• End Street Sleeping Collaboration</li><li>• JRS research</li></ul> Meetings will alternate online/in-person for the time being.
<b>8. Next Meeting</b>	Meeting closed at 12pm  <b>Next meeting: 17 June 2021, 10:00am – 12:00pm - online</b>

## Attendance

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Attended</b>
Indri Windyasari	Parramatta Mission	Y
Laurie Besant	Parramatta Mission	Y
Simone Halaby	DCJ	Apology
Rachel Browning	Salvation Army	Apology
Michelle Besant	Amelie Housing	Y
Debra Ireson	Evolve Housing	Y
Arioke Degei	Arbias	
Elizabeth Cremen	FACS	Y
Kim Yorke	FACS	Y
Fay Jelley	NSW Health	Y
Julie Tai	Parramatta Community Corrections	Y
Janine Tomkins	Mission Australia	Y
Angela Daynes	Parramatta Mission	Apology
Michael Matthews	Parramatta Mission	Y
Jessie Halligan	ABS	Y
Deborah Howitt	Geoff Lee's office	Y
Steve Fisher	Parramatta Mission	Y
Ann McKinnon-Baker	Relationships Australia	Y
Juliana Misiloi	Vinnies	Y
Kamalini Fernando	Childhood	Y
Jacqui Leonard	Homes for Heroes	Apology
Paul	Homes for Heroes	Y
Juliana Misiloi	Vinnies	Y
Anjali Roberts	JRS	Y
Rodrigo Gutierrez	City of Parramatta	Y
Tanya Owen	City of Parramatta	Y
Tarina Rubis	City of Parramatta	Y