



CITY OF HOBART

# **AGENDA**

## **Community, Culture and Events Committee Meeting**

### **Open Portion**

**Wednesday, 10 July 2019**

**at 5:30 pm**

**Lady Osborne Room, Town Hall**

## **SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM**

### **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

- 11 HOUSING WITH DIGNITY REFERENCE GROUP UPDATE..... 3**

**The General Manager reports:**

“That in accordance with the provisions of Part 2 Regulation 8(6) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*, these supplementary matters are submitted for the consideration of the Committee.

Pursuant to Regulation 8(6), I report that:

- (a) information in relation to the matter was provided subsequent to the distribution of the agenda;
- (b) the matter is regarded as urgent; and
- (c) advice is provided pursuant to Section 65 of the Act.”

**11. Housing with Dignity Reference Group Update**  
**File Ref: F19/92942; 17/239**

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Memorandum of the Director Community Life of 9 July 2019 and attachment.

Delegation: Committee



City of **HOBART**

## **MEMORANDUM: COMMUNITY, CULTURE AND EVENTS COMMITTEE**

### **Housing with Dignity Reference Group Update**

#### **Introduction**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Council with an update of initiatives to be progressed following the recent Housing with Dignity Reference Group (HWDRG). The notes from this meeting are shown as **Attachment A**.

The HWDRG has now met on three occasions and is progressing with specific actions in line with the priority areas that the group has identified.

#### **Background**

On 18 February 2019, the Council approved the establishment of a Housing with Dignity Reference Group comprising community members with a lived experience of homelessness or extreme housing stress.

The group has now been formed and comprises a diverse mix of people with a lived experience of homelessness including: representatives from Bethlehem House; Trinity Hill; UTAS student voice; older people; Common Ground Campbell Street; Goulburn Street facility residents; people who have experienced shelters and chronic housing stress.

The reference group met twice in April and most recently on 25 June. The group has resolved to meet monthly for the rest of the year.

#### **Key Actions / Initiatives**

##### **Media**

It was noted that members of the Committee have recently been interviewed on ABC radio and that the visibility of this group is important in terms of promoting the changing face of homelessness.

It was resolved that an opinion piece for the Mercury newspaper be prepared within the next week by the Co-Chairs on behalf of the group and that a communications/media plan be developed to guide the group narrative for the next six months.

##### **Priority Area 1 – Data Information**

The availability of reliable data with a projection of future social and affordable housing needs over the next five years was further discussed with a resolution that the Co-Chairs write to the Greater Hobart Homelessness Alliance identifying this key issue.

**Priority Area 2 – Breaking down the stigma**

The group agreed to take an active role in sharing their individual stories through a storytelling type project and to change the narrative from a homeless person to “a person without a home”. This will involve communicating the broadness and complex nature of this issue and sharing the different faces, as a worker/mother/older person. The group will work towards gathering a story from each participant and developing a project to share the stories.

**Priority Area 3 - Community Housing Models**

The group agreed that it has a strong interest in looking at opportunities currently being discussed to assist in the immediate crisis to see where they can provide tangible support.

The group are also interested in looking at supported housing models that operate in other states and areas that are successful and could be translated into a Hobart environment. One model mentioned was ‘Stable One’ - a Christian charity that operates winter night shelters in the Yarra Ranges. It was resolved that a range of potential models be considered and investigated by members of the group for further action and advocacy.

The group also agreed that it needs to have a target to work towards to deliver tangible outcomes for people without a home. The agreed target is an increase of 10 beds per night in Greater Hobart.

**RECOMMENDATION**

***That the Council note the minutes from the Housing with Dignity Reference Group on 25 June and endorse the key initiatives and actions that members of the group will be progressing.***

*As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.*



Tim Short  
**DIRECTOR COMMUNITY LIFE**

Date: 9 July 2019  
File Reference: F19/92942; 17/239

Attachment A: Meeting notes ↓



Item	Description	Action by whom
	<p>A call for reliable and timely data was noted as a priority at the recent Homelessness Forum. This echoes the priority area for the reference group and the need for information detailing the current situation and the projections for the next 3, 5 and 10 years in greater Hobart.</p> <p>Kate identified that there is a range of data that is easily accessible and the group can also research and share information that they find.</p> <p>It was proposed that in order to understand the issue, we need to understand the reason. The need is currently unknown. This group would like to call on the State Government to engage a body such as the Institute for Social Change (UTAS) or SARC (Anglicare) to undertake an independent research project within the next 6 months to produce an accurate future projection of housing needs.</p>	
	<p><i>The following action was agreed:</i></p> <p><i>It was agreed that the best way forward would be that a letter from the Co-Chairs of the Housing with Dignity Group be sent to the Greater Hobart Homelessness Alliance advocating for this research to be undertaken.</i></p>	Co-Chairs
	<p><b>2. Break down the stigma about housing and homelessness, including public understanding and perceptions of homelessness.</b></p>	
	<p>Development of a media campaign with consistent messaging and wording to support group members who are confident to speak out.</p>	Danielle and Comms
	<p>This group needs to be a point of difference, and utilise the language of people experiencing homelessness. This group holds the expertise and needs to utilise its knowledge.</p>	
	<p>Language to include: "Person without a Home" – rather than homeless person. We are people first. "Not without us- for us"</p>	
	<p>We need to communicate the broadness and complex nature of this issue. What does it mean to not have a home? To share this with different faces – as a worker/mother/older person.</p>	
	<p>How do we identify the source of the stigma? Challenge the media outlets that we feel don't support us – and get the story in this space.</p>	
	<p>A project was supported that would work towards obtaining a story from each participant (as long as they are willing to participate). Each story will reflect that person, and with the stories combined, highlight the diversity of this group. This will</p>	

Item	Description	Action by whom
	<p>then reflect the reality of “people without a home” in the community. This project will need to develop ways to support easy access to this story.</p> <p>The group needs to help to destroy myths. Create stories with a voice to be heard.</p> <p><i>The following action was agreed:</i></p> <p><b>Commence the development of a storytelling project, potentially using existing processes that utilise the ‘Wayfinder’ sound booth. Group members to think about their own stories and how they would like to share their experiences.</b></p> <p><b>3. Find/develop a new model or project for community/affordable housing in Southern Tasmania</b></p> <p>It was noted that very early discussions have been held between the Salvation Army and the Hobart PCYC about the potential for an overnight supported model of emergency accommodation. There will be more information to share at the next meeting. <b>(Confidential)</b></p> <p>Alderman Thomas spoke about a model operating in Victoria – ‘Stable One’. This group accommodates 10 people each night, seven days a week. Food is also offered. This is coordinated through the churches. The ‘Zero Adelaide’ model is a collective impact project that was also mentioned as a potential for investigation.</p> <p>The group discussed the importance of standards and personal safety in any model or initiative. It was noted that the safety of vulnerable people particularly with short-term crisis solutions was a major concern at the Housing Crisis Forum. The safety of workers, staff and volunteers was also noted as potential issues. Safety standards need to be set and maintained in any model.</p> <p>Safe spaces need to be created. Risks need to be managed; there needs to be correct checks and balances.</p> <p>The group discussed the importance of having a target to work towards in terms of having input and influence.</p> <p>It was noted that according to services, there are about 120 people sleeping rough in greater Hobart.</p> <p>The group resolved that their target is <b>10 extra beds per night being made available.</b></p> <p>This could be achieved through this group potentially working with/ advocating for/ or supporting existing initiatives; groups; facilities; churches etc.</p>	<p><b>Danielle Group members</b></p>



Item	Description	Action by whom
	<p><i>The following actions were agreed:</i></p> <p><i>The group resolved that their target is 10 extra beds per night being made available and that they would consider opportunities for potentially working with/ advocating for/ or supporting existing initiatives; groups; facilities; churches etc.</i></p> <p><i>The group would like to obtain further information related to supported housing and shelter models such as ‘Stable One’, ‘Zero Adelaide’ etc. to determine if such models could be appropriate for Greater Hobart.</i></p>	<p><b>Group members</b></p> <p><b>Group members</b></p>
3.	<p><b>National Homelessness Week Launch – Monday 5 August – Mathers Place</b></p> <p>10.30am – All welcome to attend this free event. This will be a combination of the launch of the City of Hobart’s Soapbox Project, and the National Launch of Homelessness Week. It is anticipated that there will be significant media and political interest in this event.</p> <p>Kate has been heavily involved in the development of the artworks through the 50/50 Art Campaign. This is a great opportunity to share the message in a creative way for a three month period.</p> <p>Monique Brumby will be supporting two acts – a young lady singing about her experience of being moved continuously due to rental stress; and the Roadhouse Ravens.</p>	<p><b>Danielle and Kate</b></p>
	<p><i>The following action was agreed:</i></p> <p><i>The group agreed to spread the word about this event – and invite people they represent</i></p>	<p><b>Group members</b></p>
4.	<p><b>Parity Magazine</b></p> <p>Parity is a National Homelessness Magazine and produces 10 editions a year. It has been in print since 1998.</p> <p>Parity will focus on Tasmania in the November issue. Members of the Housing with Dignity Group have been asked to contribute their stories.</p> <p><i>The following action was agreed:</i></p> <p><i>Kate will draft an article from the group – highlighting a snapshot of the group, how it came about, goals for the year and an overview of the local issues for Hobart. Individual stories are invited and will be coordinated by Kate.</i></p>	<p><b>Kate</b></p>

Item	Description	Action by whom
5.	<b>Professional Development</b> Danielle is investigating training for the reference group. This peer-led training would be delivered by the Council to Homeless Persons (CHP) peak Victorian body representing organisations and individuals with a commitment to ending homelessness. Dates and delivery costs are currently being negotiated.	<b><i>Danielle</i></b>
6.	<b>City of Hobart = Capital City Strategic Plan</b> The new Strategic Plan for the City is currently open for community input and group members are encouraged to have a look and have a say into the proposed future direction of the City.  The plan can be found on the City of Hobart Website – <i>Your Say</i> page. You are encouraged to share your views. If you would like support accessing the document or in providing feedback, please let Danielle or Kimbra know and they will be happy to help you.	<b><i>Group members</i></b>

**Next Meeting:            Tuesday 13 August 2019, 12 noon - 2 pm**  
**Criterion House, Mathers Place**