

# **Housing with Dignity Reference Group**

## **Terms of Reference & Statement of Commitment**

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of the Housing with Dignity Reference Group is to offer an opportunity to people with a lived experience of homelessness to have a voice, and to provide a place to be heard.

The group will:

- Support the Council in the review of the *Housing and Homelessness Strategy* as well as other relevant strategies and plans.
- Be represented by the Community and Council Co-Chairs on the *Greater Hobart Regional Homelessness Alliance*.
- Be a crucial reference point, and place for consultation for decisions made by Council about homelessness.
- Identify priorities for people without a home to advocate and lobby the State and Federal Governments.
- Identify and participate in promotional and media opportunities to advocate for people without a home.
- Develop submissions and strategic documents where appropriate.
- Have the scope to invite experts and develop working groups in areas of interest for sharing relevant information and/or for forming policy direction.
- Develop and implement initiatives and projects.
- Meet bi-monthly (with additional working group meetings when required).
- Review the Community Co-Chair every 12 months.

### **Membership:**

The reference group will comprise representatives and community members and support people where appropriate, from the following groups who have an interest in homelessness issues in the City:

- Primary homelessness - where a person has an improvised dwelling, tent or no accommodation at all; also known as rough sleeping.
- Secondary homelessness - where a person is accommodated in a hostel, shelter, refuge or another person's home on a temporary basis.
- Tertiary homelessness - where a person is accommodated in a boarding house, shelter or hotel on a medium basis.
- People who are housed, but have experienced homelessness or severe housing stress.

Elected Members nominated by the Council will participate on this reference group, with one elected member holding the position of Co-Chair.

The group (maximum 16 people) to be established through self-selection, and targeted invitation to ensure a diverse range of voices are being heard.

New members are welcome to join the group, with new community member nominations to be discussed by the group prior to them joining.

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### **Communication:**

The Community Co-Chair of the group will be the only member to speak to the media or at public events on behalf of the whole group.

The Community Co-Chair, at their discretion and in communication with other members, may nominate another member to speak on behalf of the group if it is agreed that member is the best person to represent the group on a particular topic, issue or project.

### **Administration:**

- Administrative support will be provided by the City of Hobart.
- The reference group will be reviewed every 12 months.

### **Member Commitment:**

As a Housing with Dignity Reference Group member I agree to work in the following way while participating in group meetings, activities and projects:

- To acknowledge and respect each member's lived experience.
- To ensure confidentiality and respect each member's privacy (Chatham House Rule.)\*
- To contribute to creating a safe space so each member can have their say.
- To work collaboratively with a focus on consensus decision making.
- To focus on each member's strengths and what each member can contribute.
- To be inclusive of each member - even when they can't attend meetings.
- To listen to each member with an open mind, even if I disagree with them.
- To look towards the future while learning from every member's experience.
- To be focussed and to keep on track during meetings. (Turn off my phone!)
- To have fun and to not take myself too seriously while acknowledging the seriousness of the issues being discussed.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\* 'Under the Chatham House Rule, anyone who comes to a meeting is free to use information from the discussion, but is not allowed to reveal who made any comment. It is designed to increase openness of discussion, as it allows people to express and discuss controversial opinions and arguments without suffering the risk of stalling their career or even dismissal from their job, and with a clear separation from the opinion and the view of their employer.' ([Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chatham_House_Rule))