

Homelessness Taskforce Shoalhaven

Meeting Date: Monday, 23 September, 2019

Location: E-Meeting

Time:

Please note: Council's Code of Meeting Practice permits the electronic recording and broadcast of the proceedings of meetings of the Council which are open to the public. Your attendance at this meeting is taken as consent to the possibility that your image and/or voice may be recorded and broadcast to the public.

Agenda

1. Apologies

2. Confirmation of Minutes

- Homelessness Taskforce Shoalhaven - 17 June 2019 1

3. Declarations of Interest

4. Reports

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Membership

Clr Findley - Chairperson

All Councillors

Chief Executive Officer or Nominee

Tamie Harvie - Community / volunteer – interested in mental health and D&A

Penni Wildi – Community Member / Waminda

Wendy Woodward - Nowra Show Society / community volunteer

Deborah Ferrier – Community volunteer

Lesley Labka - SAHSSI – Shoalhaven Women’s Homeless and DV Service

Wendi Hobbs - Shoalhaven Suicide Prevention and Awareness Network (SSPAN)

Rev Matthew Wilson – Nowra Uniting Church

Patricia David – Unions Shoalhaven

Peter Dover – Salt Ministries

Roslyn Poole - ISLHD – Homelessness Mental Health Program

Ashleigh Hudson - Mobile Response Vehicle coordinator (services for homeless)

Alan Heard – Nowra Baptist Church

Julie Bugden - Shoalhaven Homelessness Hub

Bernard Gleeson - St Vincent De Paul Nowra

Sharlene Naismith – Legal Aid

Natalie Beckett - HARP Unit – Sexual Health & Blood Borne Infections; and Aboriginal community member

Eric Coulter - Southern Cross Community Housing

Nicky Sloan – Community Industry Group

Quorum - 8

Purpose

To provide appropriate and considered strategic advice on homelessness and related issues that can be dealt with at Council level. The Taskforce will work with Council to address issues, develop options and assist with the identification of preferred solutions as part of Council’s decision making process.

Role of the Taskforce

The role of the Homelessness Taskforce is:-

- Provide Council with strategic advice on homelessness and related issues that can be dealt with at a Local Government level.
- Work with Council to address issues, develop options and assist with the identification of preferred solutions as part of Council’s decision making process
- Advise on the development and application of a Homelessness Strategic Plan
- Provide comment on relevant Council policies and strategies
- Advocate community views on homelessness issues

Homelessness Taskforce Shoalhaven - The Wish List:

- Plan and Strategy for dealing with homelessness and any ‘incidents’ that arise
- Adopting the Affordable Housing Strategy to Shoalhaven
- Permanent Shelter for the Shoalhaven
- Education of the community (possibly a forum)
- Building connections between homeless persons and wrap around services

- Permanent but temporary accommodation
- Future of Public Housing – mapping the way forward and advocating for tenants
- Business Involvement
- Plan and Policy for Emergency nights (crisis accommodation)
- Creating policy that works on the ground (Homeless protocol for the showground as an example)
- Improving life outcomes for those who have experienced/are experiencing homelessness
- What Next? – who can help after the Safe Shelter closes?
- Continue to lobbying for the State Government to get on board with the demonstration affordable housing site at Bomaderry
- Knowing who the homeless are (anywhere between 100 – 375 homeless on any given night in the Shoalhaven)

MINUTES OF THE HOMELESSNESS TASKFORCE SHOALHAVEN

Meeting Date: Monday, 17 June 2019
Location: Jervis Bay Rooms, City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra
Time: 4.00pm

The following members were present:

Clr John Levett
Clr Nina Digiglio
Lesley Labka
Wendi Hobbs
Rev Matthew Wilson
Patricia David
Peter Dover
Ashleigh Hudson
Sharlene Naismith
Lynne Dooley – Waminda
Adrianna Burnes-Nguyen – Southern Cross Community Housing
Jane Lewis, Acting Director, Finance Corporate & Community Services

Also present:

Gordon Clark – Manager, Strategic Planning
Colin Wood – Manager, Building & Compliance
Donna Corbyn – Community Development Officer

Apologies / Leave of Absence

Apologies were received from Clr Findley, Clr Alldrick, Penni Wildi, Nicky Sloan, Eric Coulter, and Alan Heard.

Election of Chairperson

RESOLVED (By Consent)

That Clr John Levett be appointed as the Acting Chairperson for this Homelessness Taskforce Shoalhaven meeting.

CARRIED

Confirmation of the Minutes**RESOLVED** (Wendi Hobbs / Clr Digiglio)

That the Minutes of the Homelessness Taskforce Shoalhaven held on Monday 04 March 2019 be confirmed.

CARRIED

Declarations of Interest

Nil

PRESENTATIONS**HT19.4 SALT Reboot Program****HPERM Ref:
D19/147648**

Peter Dover (Salt Ministries) reported on the proposed Salt RE-BOOT Program. This will offer job skills training and accommodation to homeless and marginalised men, women and youth, to enable them to change their lives and become productive members of their communities. He tabled a description of the project (attached).

RE-BOOT is envisaged as a 12-month live-in program for 20 candidates in the first year, developing into an accommodation service with training and employment support, plus a therapeutic community aspect with psychotherapists and mentors.

A video clip was shown featuring Fr Gregory Boyle, founder of Homeboy Industries in the USA. This program is the model on which RE-BOOT will be based. Salt Care is planning to send 13 people to train with Homeboy Industries in the delivery of the program at a cost of \$30,000. Council has been approached for a donation of \$2,000; Peter has also been meeting Federal and State Members to seek support.

There is currently no other program that operates on the same basis in Australia; similar programs exist, but none are intentionally bringing people into a community for 12 months to work with them socially, physical and mentally to get them back into their communities. It is an ambitious and costly program. However, there would be economic benefits in the long term: given the cost over the last 12 months of 4000 beds being used at the Shelter, it could ultimately save the government money by reducing offending.

Peter explained that some 70% of Safe Shelter clients have been offenders; many eventually are returned to prison. Long-term homeless people are at particular risk of offending. RE-BOOT addresses the ex-offender group to stop them reoffending, so it is likely there will be more male than female participants at first.

The building will need to facilitate accommodation as well as training, and Salt has been investigating suitable properties with Council.

Peter noted that a significant amount of community donations has been received by Salt Care in the last three years, but none have been received from government. The budget for the program is not included in the prospectus, but is approximately \$750,000, of which \$200,000 is being sourced from a number of organisations. There has been difficulty obtaining firm commitments from State and Federal Government for assistance with the remaining \$550,000. The Taskforce discussed this issue and the proposal emerged to invite the respective Members of Parliament, among others, to attend an event during Homelessness Week (first week of August) at which Salt could present the RE-BOOT project.

The Homelessness Taskforce members were asked to review the prospectus and give feedback.

RECOMMENDATION (Patricia David / Lesley Labka)

That the Homelessness Taskforce recommend that Council:

1. Note that the Shoalhaven Homelessness Interagency is to facilitate an event to bring together relevant organisations, including business chambers and the Shoalhaven Professional Business Association, to receive information including a presentation on the Salt RE-BOOT Program and tour of existing homeless services.
2. By way of support of the RE-BOOT Program, write to the appropriate members of Parliament, including Local Members, to encourage their attendance at the Homelessness Interagency event.
3. Staff work with SALT to source possible opportunities for a building that may be capable of supporting the RE-BOOT program.

CARRIED

REPORTS**HT19.5 May 2019 - Status Report****HPERM Ref:
D19/120012**

Donna Corbyn (Community Development Officer) provided updates on the Actions:

Item 1: The Working Group has met twice and decided on the central theme, a Call to Action around volunteering and donations. Council's media staff are happy to support one media release per month over a six-month period, which will at this point run from July to December 2019. It was requested that all Taskforce members complete media release forms to facilitate publicity.

Gordon Clark recommended that Item 2 (Land options) and 4 (Transport for NSW Second Life) be removed from the Action List as there has been no further progress on these matters.

Southern Cross Community Housing will give a presentation at a future meeting of the Taskforce.

Item 3: It was clarified that the Homeless Hub have provided statistics for June 2019: there have been 439 new clients, and the Hub is servicing 2,752 per month. Lesley Labka noted that the Family and Community Services (FACS) database will hold more comprehensive information. It is important to have the most accurate figures available for forwarding monthly statistics to State Members. It may require a Memorandum of Understanding between the Homelessness Taskforce and FACS to access this data.

Item 5: The Communications Working Group has completed its task and this Action may also be removed from the list.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the Homelessness Taskforce:

1. Receive the May 2019 Status report for information and;
2. Note Item 5 - Shoalhaven Housing Strategy Media Release – is now complete and will be removed from the list.

RESOLVED (Wendi Hobbs / Matthew Wilson)

That the Homelessness Taskforce:

1. Receive the May 2019 Status report for information.
2. Note Item 5 - Shoalhaven Housing Strategy Media Release – is now complete and will be

removed from the Action List.

3. Note that items 2 and 4 will be removed from the Action List.
4. Request homelessness statistics be provided by FACS on a quarterly basis.
5. Members complete and return the Media Release Forms to facilitate media releases.

CARRIED

HT19.6 Shoalhaven Homelessness and Good Living Conditions Interagency

**HPERM Ref:
D19/99771**

The report was received for information.

RESOLVED (Patricia David / Clr Digiglio)

That the Shoalhaven Homelessness Taskforce:

1. Receive copies of the Homelessness and Good Living Interagency minutes for February, March and April 2019 for their information;
2. Acknowledge the Homelessness and Good Living Interagency Position Paper;
3. Receive an annual report that outlines progress against KPIs that are contained in the Shoalhaven Affordable Housing Strategy.

CARRIED

HT19.7 Older Women's Risk of Homelessness

**HPERM Ref:
D19/135406**

The report was received for information.

RESOLVED (Lesley Labka / Clr Digiglio)

That the Homelessness Taskforce note the release of the Older Women's Risk of Homelessness: Background Paper and receive the copy provided to members under attachments for information.

CARRIED

HT19.8 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People: Housing and Homelessness

**HPERM Ref:
D19/135430**

The report was received for information.

RESOLVED (Clr Digiglio / Matthew Wilson)

That the Homelessness Taskforce note the release of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: A Focus Report on Housing and Homelessness.

CARRIED

HT19.9 Housing and Mental Health Agreement Review

**HPERM Ref:
D19/152424**

Several of the agencies on the Taskforce have already submitted feedback separately on the Review. Sharlene Naismith (Legal Aid) noted that this is an agreement between FACS and the Department of Health – it is not clear how it binds non-signatories such as Southern Cross

Community Housing, who are now the primary managers of housing in this area. What is the plan for the future? Jane Lewis (Acting Director, Finance Corporate & Community Services) advised this question can be raised as part of the submission process.

The deadline for Council to submit its feedback is 24 June. Taskforce members were advised they should forward any comments to staff as soon as possible.

RESOLVED (Sharlene Naismith / Clr Digiglio)

That:

1. The Homelessness Taskforce note the review of the Housing and Mental Health Agreement.
2. The Homelessness Taskforce receive a copy of the Consultation Background Paper and the August 2011 Housing and Mental Health Agreement.
3. The Homelessness Taskforce provide feedback regarding the NSW State Government Housing and Mental Health Agreement at its 17 June 2019 meeting.
4. The feedback be reviewed and collated by Council Community Development staff into a submission from the Shoalhaven Homelessness Taskforce and sent to the coordinating consultant.

CARRIED

GENERAL BUSINESS

Safe Shelter funding

Peter Dover advised that Safe Shelter currently has three full-time staff who are unpaid, plus 140 volunteers. Funding has been sought to pay the managers, ideally by end of the year as they will not be able to stay beyond that. The amount totals \$250,000 on top of the Shelter's other budgets.

Emmanuel Ministries

Peter Dover reported that he has received phone calls regarding Emmanuel Ministries, who operate accommodation based in Worrigea for homeless people. A number of Safe Shelter clients have taken up the offer of accommodation with Emmanuel but it is known that some have since become homeless again. He advised that Salt does not endorse this organisation.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded, the time being 5.25pm.

Clr John Levett
CHAIRPERSON

HT19.10 September 2019 - Status Report

HPERM Ref: D19/262080

Group: Finance Corporate & Community Services Group
Section: Recreation Community & Culture

Attachments: 1. September 2019 - Action Table [↓](#)

Purpose / Summary

To update the Homelessness Taskforce on progress made against actions and resolutions that have been passed at previous meetings.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the Homelessness Taskforce:

1. Receive the September 2019 Action Table (Attachment 1) for its information; and
2. Note that item 3 – Housing and Mental Health Agreement Review – is now complete and will be removed from the Action List.

Options

1. Adopt the recommendation as written above.

Implications: The Taskforce is kept updated about progress towards the completion of identified actions.

2. Request more information.

Implications: Further information will be provided about progress towards the completion of identified actions.

Background

A record of action requests from previous meetings is listed in the Homelessness Taskforce Action Table. At each meeting Council staff provide an update on actions recorded (Attachment 1).

Community Engagement

This report provides progress updates regarding actions and projects that have been the subject of discussions at meetings of the Committee.

No.	TRIM Reference Number	Included in Action Table	Issue and Allocated Person	Action Comments	Update / Outcome September 2019
1.	HT19.1 Communications Plan HPERM Ref: D18/397629		<p>RESOLVED (Matthew Wilson / Clr Digiglio) That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Taskforce members endorse the Homelessness Taskforce Communication Plan 2. The following actions be undertaken during the period January 2019 – June 2019: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Develop a series of hypothetical case studies to explain homelessness and its impact b. Compile and distribute monthly media releases to highlight the Taskforce in the media and engage the public 3. A working group be established to support Council's Community Development Team to develop hypothetical case studies and regular monthly media releases, comprising: Wendi Hobbs, Peter Dover, Matt Wilson, Clr Levett 		<p>JUNE 2019 The working group is scheduled to meet on Thursday 16 May 2019 to discuss the scope of the project and to develop a project and communications plan. A verbal update will be provided to members at the June 19 meeting.</p> <p>SEPTEMBER 2019 The first media release (available at https://www.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au/My-Council/Media-Releases/ID/3254/Homelessness-Taskforce-Shoalhaven) was published on 1 August 2019 provided background information on the Taskforce which included when it was established and its role, as well as the most recent activities of the Taskforce.</p> <p>The working group continues to meet to develop the series of hypothetical case studies and media releases.</p>
2.		August 2017	<p>Continuing Actions – Patricia David & Julie Bugden</p> <p>Statistics</p>	<p>Patricia and Julie to form a monthly report to the Mayor in respect to statistics to digest to Politicians.</p> <p>HT18.15 (Sept. 2018)</p>	<p>No updated statistics available at time of preparing this report.</p> <p>Updated statistics provided at June 2019 meeting.</p> <p>JUNE 2019</p> <p>Request homelessness statistics be provided by FACS on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>Waiting on response from AIHW for quarterly statistics.</p>

No.	TRIM Reference Number	Included in Action Table	Issue and Allocated Person	Action Comments	Update / Outcome September 2019															
				<p>The original intention had been to receive statistics quarterly so they can be forwarded to the State Member as part of our advocacy. The statistics can be gathered annually and an annual report produced. This can be aligned with the Anti-Poverty report / statistics. A letter from Shoalhaven every three months to the State continues to build the story."</p>	<p>SEPTEMBER 2019 Quarterly statistics on Client Counts for Specialist Homelessness Services in the Shoalhaven Local Government Area are not publicly available. Community Development has followed up with the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare – Housing and Homelessness Collection Operations requesting quarterly statistics reported by Specialist Homelessness Services in the Shoalhaven. The taskforce will be kept updated in this regard.</p> <p>Annual statistics on Client Counts for Specialist Homelessness Services in the Shoalhaven Local Government Area from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.</p> <p>SHSC geographical location of client – LGA</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1346 794 1910 882"> <thead> <tr> <th>Financial year</th> <th>2014-15</th> <th>2015-16</th> <th>2016-17</th> <th>2017-18</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>Client count</td> <td>Client count</td> <td>Client count</td> <td>Client count</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shoalhaven (C)</td> <td>765</td> <td>1,063</td> <td>1,057</td> <td>1,080</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2018, <i>CHSC geographical location of client – LGA, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare</i>, Canberra, Available at https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports-data/health-welfare-services/homelessness-services/data</p> <p>Council is also looking at subscribing to an extension of its existing online population information tools that are supplied by iD called 'housing.id' that may provide an ongoing evidence base on housing supply, demand and affordability in Shoalhaven. The Taskforce will be kept up dated in this regard.</p>	Financial year	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18		Client count	Client count	Client count	Client count	Shoalhaven (C)	765	1,063	1,057	1,080
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3.	D19/235998	June 2019	<p>RESOLVED (Patricia David / Cllr Digiglio)</p> <p>Receive an annual report that outlines progress against KPIs that are contained in the Shoalhaven Affordable Housing Strategy.</p> <p>CARRIED</p> <p>Allocated to: Council Strategic Planning Section</p>	<p>Actions that are contained in the Shoalhaven Affordable Housing Strategy are included in Council's adopted Strategic Planning Works Program.</p> <p>The adopted Strategy also identifies a series of Key Performance Indicators (Section 2.4) and Council Strategic Planning Section are currently looking at efficient ways to gather and present the KPI data to Council. Future reports will be presented to the Homelessness Taskforce when available.</p>	<p>SEPTEMBER 2019</p> <p>This action requests an 'annual' report on the Housing Strategy KPI's – Council staff are currently investigating the best way to source and deliver this information. The 'annual' report will be presented to the Taskforce when ready.</p>