

Homelessness Taskforce Shoalhaven

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 24 May, 2022

Location: Jervis Bay Rooms, City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra

Minutes Attachments

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HT22.10	Community Workshop for Homelessness 2022	
Attachment 1	Presentation - Community Workshop for Homelessness - 2022	3



Community Workshop for Homelessness

Working together to find ways to help people doing it tough



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Community Workshop for Homelessness



**Wednesday 11th May
10:00am – 2:00pm
Shoalhaven Indoor
Sports Centre**



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Taskforce Working Group Members

Patricia David (Unions)
Justine O'Reilly & Erin Mulally (Shoalcoast Community Legal Centre)
Julie Bugden (SAHSSI)
Cathy Campbell (Southern Cross Housing)
Sammi Stiff (Headspace)
Lindy Meeves (ISLHD)
Peter Dover (Salt)
Coralee Rough (Shoalhaven's Women Resource Group)
Anna and Melissa (Community Industry Group)
Marsha Makary (Shoalhaven City Council)





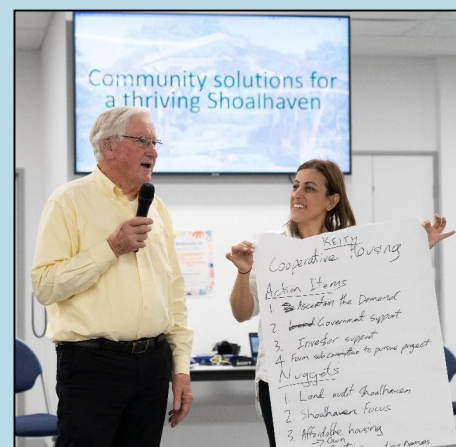
Workshop Purpose and Attendance

Invitations went out to:

- MP's, councillors and council staff
- Housing service providers
- Aboriginal services
- People with lived experiences
- Community members
- Community organisations
- Business chambers
- Real estate agents
- Police representatives
- Services Australia
- DCJ
- Various services in areas of:
Health, aged care and disability, legal, youth,
crisis and recovery, welfare and outreach
support

Total of 55 Attendees

*Utilising community assets
to form community responses
to community issues*





Workshop Facilitation



Open Space Technology (OST) facilitation process:

1. Participants were asked to identify any issue or opportunity as a question or a challenge, and propose it to the group
2. Participants could choose which challenges they would like to address and discussion groups were formed
3. Each discussion group were tasked with presenting three key action items and three 'nuggets of gold'



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Outcomes

- Built enthusiasm and ignited thought-provoking conversation
- Networking and new connections opportunities
- Encouraged creative solutions to local problems
- Built the foundation for collaborative community approach
- Identified new and existing assets
- Identified strategies, ideas and action groups





Proposed 'Challenges'

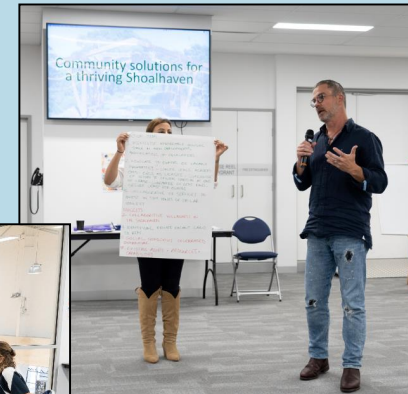
- Community Education and Awareness - Brendan Latache, Nowra Showground Coordinator
- How to get creative in filling the gaps - Sarah Date, Safe Waters
- Cooperative Housing - Keith Davis, Community Member
- Here and now actions and solutions - Peter Dover, Salt Care
- How do we meet the psychosocial needs of people experiencing homelessness and how do we offer centralised access to support networks? - Lindsay Murphy, Lifeline
- What Services can we utilise in the Bay and Basin Area? How can we guide people who are about to become homeless? - Rohanna Holland, Bay & Basin Community Resources
- Supported Transitional Housing - Tony Briggs, Safe Care
- Activate empty buildings - Cheryl Hunter, Council Facilities Officer
- How to encourage all levels of government to get involved and address housing and low income – Jo Efaraimo, Services Australia
- Supported Transitional Housing - Tony Briggs, Safe Care





Themes

1. Early Intervention & collaborative support
2. Community awareness & education
3. Housing & accommodation
4. Advocacy & lobbying





1. Early Intervention & Collaborative Support

- Community education on rental rights
- Collaboration of services
- Creating one-stop-shop service hubs to improve access to services
- Utilising community buildings (libraries, wellness centres etc.) to create safe spaces for people experiencing homelessness
- Volunteers to fill in gaps in service provision and allow flexibility





2. Community awareness and education

- Declare Homelessness as a 'Social Emergency' and raise public awareness
- Build awareness and relationships with property owners, real estate agents, and developers
- Education on where to get help for yourself and others
- Education on how to help (Volunteer Register, 'Kindness Week')





3. Housing & Accommodation

- Meanwhile use of vacant buildings vacant buildings identified: Bridge Tavern, Betta Electrical, Bunnings
- Collaboration of services to invest in 'tiny homes' or similar concept
- Cooperative housing
- Incentivise affordable housing stock in new developments
- Incentivise use of holiday homes as long-term rentals and/or transitional accommodation





4. Advocacy & Lobbying

- Advocate to Local, State and Federal governments for funding and support
- Lobby State and Federal governments for legislative changes
- Target NSW State election 2023
- Develop a unified approach to advocate for all of Shoalhaven





Next steps?

- Develop Action Plan in consultation with Homelessness Taskforce
- Follow-Up Community Workshop
- Develop community Action Groups to lead actions

