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Homelessness Taskforce Shoalhaven

Meeting Date:Thursday, 09 February, 2023Location:Jervis Bay Rooms, City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, NowraTime:2:00 pm

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 29 November 2022.....1
- 3. Declarations of Interest
- 4. Reports
 - HT23.1 Mayoral Relief Fund For Homelessness Update5
 - HT23.2 Action Table Report Update 9 February 202310

5. General Business

HT23.3 Strategic Plan Update - Working Groups

Update on the work of the four (4) Working Groups of the Homelessness Strategic Plan – Advocacy and Lobbying.

Details:

Members of the four (4) working groups will be asked to provide any updates on the work undertaken by their group since the Homelessness Strategic Planning Day, held on 11 October 2022.



Membership Clr Findley - Chairperson All Councillors Chief Executive Officer or Nominee

Penni Wildi – Waminda Mitchell Bagou - St Vincent De Paul Cathy Campbell - Southern Cross Housing Donna Corbyn - Bay & Basin Community Resources Patricia David – Unions Shoalhaven Peter Dover - Salt Ministries Erin Gliddon - Services Australia - South Coast NSW Bernard Gleeson – St Vincent De Paul Welfare Belle Grossetti – Mission Australia Rohanna Holland – Bay & Basin Community Resources Emilie Martin - Grand Pacific Health Maria Mitchell - Ulladulla & Districts Community Resources Centre Nicole Nicholls - Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District Justine O'Reilly – Shoalcoast Community Legal Centre Kristy Puckeridge - Southern Youth and Family Services Nicky Sloane - Cl Group Samantha Stiff – Headspace Nowra Matthew Sutcliffe - The Salvation Army Olivia Todhunter – Legal Aid NSW Libby Topp – Shoalhaven Drug and Alcohol Service Rheanna Williamson – Primary and Community Care Services Lindy Meeves – Nowra Community Mental Health Team Cassie Michaux - Manager Commissioning and Planning, Illawarra Shoalhaven and Southern NSW District Joanne Grant – AMS Nowra Anna Bacik – CI Group (Illawarra Forum) Julie Bugden – Shoalhaven Homelessness Hub Ruby Hansen-Tarrant – Age Matters Alice Russack – Yumaro Liz O'Connell - Mission Australia Grace Rey - Socks n Jocks Lucinda Knapp – Aboriginal Legal Service Michael Sweeney – North Shoalhaven Julianne Hopkins – North Shoalhaven Raul Arregui – North Shoalhaven Stuart Bellingham – South Shoalhaven Keith Davis - South Shoalhaven Shirley Taylor – South Shoalhaven

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



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MINUTES OF THE HOMELESSNESS TASKFORCE SHOALHAVEN

Meeting Date:Tuesday, 29 November 2022Location:Jervis Bay Rooms, City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, NowraTime:2.00pm

The following members were present:

Mayor Amanda Findley - Chairperson Clr John Kotlash Clr Liza Butler (Remotely) Clr John Wells (Remotely) Clr Tonia Gray – Joined 2:13pm (Remotely) Ms Patricia David - Unions Shoalhaven Ms Ash Hudson – SALT Ministries Ms Olivia Todhunter - Legal Aid NSW - Joined 2:15pm (Remotely) Ms Erin Mulally - Shoalcoast Community Legal Centre (Remotely) Ms Emilie Martin - Grand Pacific Health (Remotely) Ms Cathy Campbell - Southern Cross Housing (Remotely) Ms Alice Russack - Yumaro (Remotely) Ms Lucinda Knapp - Aboriginal Legal Service Mr Keith Davis (Remotely) Ms Shirlev Taylor Ms Julianne Hopkins Mr Raul Arregui (Remotely)

Others present:

Mr Gareth Ward – Member for Kiama (Remotely) Mr Shane Meijer - Southern Cross Housing (Remotely) Mr Carey McIntyre – Director - City Futures – Joined 2:18pm Mr Michael Paine - Manager - Community Connections Ms Carly McWalters – Lead - Community Capacity Building Ms Marsha Makary - Community Capacity Builder - Homelessness

The Chairperson opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country.

Apologies / Leave of Absence

Apologies were received from CIr White, Lindy Meeves, Sarah Date and Eric Coulter.

Confirmation of the Minutes

RESOLVED (By consent)

That the Minutes of the Homelessness Taskforce Shoalhaven held on Thursday 1 September 2022 be confirmed.

CARRIED



Declarations of Interest

Nil

REPORTS

HT22.28 Notification of Council Resolution

HPERM Ref: D22/432232

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the Homelessness Taskforce Shoalhaven receive the Notification of Council Resolution – Homelessness Taskforce Shoalhaven Re-establishment report for information.

RESOLVED (By consent)

That the Homelessness Taskforce Shoalhaven receive the Notification of Council Resolution – Homelessness Taskforce Shoalhaven Re-establishment report for information.

CARRIED

HT22.29	Action Table Update Report	HPERM Ref:
		D22/488409

Mayor Findley updated the Taskforce regarding the Mayors giving box and noted that SALT Ministries, Cullunghutti Preschool, Lyrebird Preschool and Clipper Rd Preschool were recipients of donations from the Mayors giving box.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the Shoalhaven Homelessness Taskforce acknowledge the following actions as being complete and remove from the action table:

- 1. HT22.13 Taskforce Strategic Priorities investigations Crisis Accommodation / Holiday rentals / Affordable Social housing / Income support
- 2. HT22.27 Homeshare Funding Project Shoalhaven Letter to Seek Support Gareth Ward MP

RESOLVED (By consent)

That the Shoalhaven Homelessness Taskforce acknowledge the following actions as being complete and remove from the action table:

- 1. HT22.13 Taskforce Strategic Priorities investigations Crisis Accommodation / Holiday rentals / Affordable Social housing / Income support
- 2. HT22.27 Homeshare Funding Project Shoalhaven Letter to Seek Support Gareth Ward MP

CARRIED

HT22.30 Shoalhaven Community Led Plan for Homelessness

HPERM Ref: D22/449544

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the Homelessness Taskforce Shoalhaven:

1. Accept the 'Shoalhaven Community Led Plan for Homelessness' (The Plan).

D22/475523



- 2. Commit to regular progress tracking and evaluation of The Plan and agree to include it as a standing agenda item at each meeting.
- 3. Conduct an annual review of The Plan and include it as a standing agenda item at the last meeting of each calendar year.
- 4. Commit to a full review and update of The Plan every 5 years.

RESOLVED (By consent)

That the Homelessness Taskforce Shoalhaven:

- 1. Accept the 'Shoalhaven Community Led Plan for Homelessness' (The Plan).
- 2. Commit to regular progress tracking and evaluation of The Plan and agree to include it as a standing agenda item at each meeting.
- 3. Conduct an annual review of The Plan and include it as a standing agenda item at the last meeting of each calendar year.
- 4. Commit to a full review and update of The Plan every 5 years.

CARRIED

HT22.31	Development of Protocols and Guidelines to Assist	HPERM Ref:
	Shoalhaven City Council Staff to work with People	D22/449519
	Experiencing Homelessness	

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the Shoalhaven Homelessness Taskforce receive this report for information

RESOLVED (By consent)

That the Shoalhaven Homelessness Taskforce receive this report for information

CARRIED

GENERAL BUSINESS

HT22.32 Strategic Plan Update - Working Group 3 HPERM Ref:

Update on the work of Working Group 3 of the Homelessness Strategic Plan – Advocacy and Lobbying.

Details:

Ms Erin Mulally provided an update on the work undertaken by Working Group 3 since the Homelessness Strategic Planning Day, held on 11 October 2022. Ms Mulally advised that the Working Group is currently advocating for the following:

- More accessible transport options south of Bomaderry and the inclusion of the Opal card system into the transport network.
- A more comprehensive report on the status of social and affordable housing in the Shoalhaven area and the homelessness support systems that need more support or resources.

HT22.33 Presentation - Southern Cross Housing - 2023 Street Count

HPERM Ref: D22/493809

Southern Cross Housing are coordinating the 2023 Street Count on behalf of the NSW State Government and presented an overview of plans for the count. Input was sought from members for the draft list of known street sleeper hotspots.

Mayor Findley thanked the Taskforce and Council staff for a year of hard work and wished them the best for the time ahead. There being no further business, the meeting concluded, the time being 3:03pm.

Mayor Amanda Findley CHAIRPERSON



HT23.1 Mayoral Relief Fund For Homelessness Update

HPERM Ref: D22/529251

Department:Community ConnectionsApprover:Jane Lewis, Director - City Lifestyles

Reason for Report

The reason for this report is to provide the Homelessness Taskforce Shoalhaven with an update on the Mayoral Relief Fund for Homelessness and to seek feedback on the proposed model for distribution of appeal funds.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the Homelessness Taskforce Shoalhaven:

- 1. Receive this report as an update on the Mayoral Relief Fund Appeal for people 'Doing It Tough'.
- 2. Support the allocation of funds as more fully detailed in the report being:
 - a) The first \$15,000 of the funds raised will be allocated towards the creation of 500 crisis 'care packs'.
 - b) Any funds over \$15,000 (and up to \$40,000) will be distributed evenly to provide crisis/relief support to community members in need.
 - c) After the first \$40,000 of funds raised are allocated, further funds will be available to service providers throughout Shoalhaven via an EOI process for relief/crisis initiatives.
- 3. Support the nomination of Digby Hughes, Homelessness NSW representative, to be the independent member to sit on the assessment panel for Expressions of Interest for distribution of funds.
- 4. Acknowledge that the Mayoral Relief Fund Appeal has already commenced and thank Digby Hughes, Peter Dover, and Lesley Labka for participating in the media launch.
- 5. Endorse that the options provided in this report will be presented to the Mayoral Relief Fund Committee. The Mayoral Relief Committee will have the final endorsement of the proposal for distribution of funds.
- 6. Request an update report on the outcomes of the Mayoral Relief Fund Appeal following its completion

Options

1. The Homelessness Taskforce Shoalhaven note the report for information and accept the recommendations as written.

<u>Implications</u>: The Homelessness Taskforce Shoalhaven receive the information and support the Mayoral Relief Fund Appeal for homelessness as outlined in the report

2. The Homelessness Taskforce Shoalhaven provide an alternative recommendation

<u>Implications</u>: The Homelessness Taskforce Shoalhaven do not accept the recommendations as written and provide an alternative recommendation.

Background

During the Shoalhaven City Council's Mayoral Relief Fund meeting on 16 August 2022 the following resolution was made:

That:

- 1. Council conduct an appeal to support services for the homeless in the Shoalhaven including:
 - a. Establish an online platform for receiving funds
 - b. A communications plan
 - c. Formulating a process for distribution of funds
- 2. The appeal (in part 1) be raised at the next Homelessness Taskforce Shoalhaven meeting scheduled for 1 September to seek their feedback & thoughts on how this appeal may roll out.
- 3. A further report to the Mayors Relief Fund be received outlining how the funds will be expended.

At the following Homelessness Taskforce Shoalhaven (HTS) meeting held on 1 September 2022 a resolution was made to endorse the proposal for the Mayors Relief Fund for Homelessness in the Shoalhaven. It was resolved:

That the Homelessness Taskforce:

- 1. Receive the Mayors Relief Fund for Homelessness in Shoalhaven report for information.
- 2. Endorse the proposal for the Mayors Relief Fund for Homelessness in the Shoalhaven. This proposal will consist of two components:
 - a. Conduct a community wide appeal for monetary donations to the Mayoral Relief Fund for Homelessness, and
 - b. Administer a funding program to provide quick access funding for the Shoalhaven community to support initiatives that assist people who are, or are at risk of, experiencing homelessness.

This report outlines the proposed model for this appeal and seeks feedback from the local service providers and organisational representatives of the HTS for the most suitable way to distribute funds to community.

Following the above resolution an internal council working group was formed that included staff from the mayor's office, Community Connections Team, Media and Communications, Business Assurance and Risk and Finance Departments. The proposed model for the Mayoral Relief Fund Appeal is outlined below.

Name of appeal

The Thrive Together Fair takes place annually in August, leading up to this, a donations drive is conducted during June and July to collect donations from the community to provide dignity packs for attendees at the Fair. Due to concerns that having consecutive fundraising campaigns may cause compassion fatigue amongst the community the Thrive Together Fair and Dignity Drive will sit within an umbrella campaign referred to as '**The Year to Thrive Together**'.

There will be several elements that sit within The Year to Thrive Together Campaign, including: The Mayoral Relief Fund, donation drive for Thrive Together Fair 'Care Packs', call out for stallholders to get involved in the Thrive Together Fair, and the Thrive Together Fair event. Through the Mayoral Relief Fund and Care Pack Donation Drive community and businesses will have the option of providing monetary or goods donations.

<u>Timeframe</u>

The Mayoral Relief Fundraising campaign will begin on 30 January and end on the 27 March 2023

Campaign Promotion

Shoalhaven City Council's Communication and Media Team will manage the promotion of the fundraising campaign. The campaign will be promoted to community members through a media release, and social media and community radio advertising.

The HTS members are encouraged to share the media release through their website and social media channels. In addition, a letter from the Mayor of Shoalhaven City Council will be directed towards local businesses to encourage monetary and goods donations to the appeal.

Distribution of funds

There are three proposed options for distributing funds to community following closure of the appeal. These will be contingent on the funds raised throughout the appeal and are outlined below:

Funding raised: \$15,000 or less:

The first \$15,000 of the funds raised will be allocated towards the creation of 500 crisis 'care packs' that will be given away to attendees of the Thrive Together Fair 2023 (The Fair). As high attendee numbers are expected at The Fair funds will be used to supplement the goods donations received through the 'Give Dignity This Winter' campaign and ensure that 500 dignity packs are available for distribution. Organisers will ensure methods are put in place for equitable distribution of the Care Packs to all attendees.

Funding raised: Between \$15,000 to \$40,000:

After the first \$15,000 of funds raised are allocated for the Thrive Together Fair, any funds over \$15,000 (and up to \$40,000) will be distributed evenly to provide crisis/relief support to community members in need. Three eligible organisations representing North, Central and South Shoalhaven will be selected through an Expression of Interest (EOI) process to distribute funds according to set criteria. To be eligible to receive funding these organisations must be accessible to a broad cross-section of the community.

Funding Raised: Above \$40,000:

After the first \$40,000 of funds raised are allocated, further funds will be available to service providers throughout Shoalhaven via an EOI process for relief/crisis initiatives. Services can apply for funding for relief/crisis response initiatives outside of business-as-usual funding/service provision to provide additional support to those in need in community.

Individual community members can also request funding through these service providers for relief support.

Funding allocation criteria

City Council

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It is recommended that funds above \$15,000 can be used by service providers to assist community members who request support for any of the following reasons:

- Temporary/emergency accommodation including hotel rooms and showground bookings
- Rental bonds
- Emergency rent payments
- Emergency utility bills
- Grocery or food vouchers
- Assistance for rough sleepers, including tents, bedding, and clothing
- Caravan or car registration or towing
- Medical bills not subsided under Medicare, including non-bulk billing psychiatrist appointments which may be necessary for NDIS assessments.
- Transport costs, including taxi vouchers and petrol vouchers
- Repairs or replacements for essential home or vehicle needs i.e., fridges, ovens, air conditioning, washing machines, blocked drains
- Veterinarian bills

<u>Eligibility</u>

- Funds will be accessible to any individuals residing in the Shoalhaven LGA; many rough sleepers and people staying at Showgrounds cannot prove their residential status so will not be required to provide evidence of residential status or address.
- In addition, bank and/or Centrelink statements will not be required in order to access support as these requirements can be hindrances to people in crisis.
- Service providers are not required to follow their usual processes to determine need. Community who requests financial support that meets the funding allocation criteria are eligible to receive funds. Service providers are responsible for ensuring the funds are spent in a fair and equitable manner
- Individuals and households may access funding more than once, as needed.

Expression of Interest

To distribute funds via options two or three, as outlined above, an EOI will be run for service providers to apply for funding.

The applications will be reviewed by a panel that will include the Mayor of Shoalhaven City Council, a Council staff member from the Community Connections Team, Governance Coordinator, and Digby Hughes from Homelessness NSW as an independent panel member.

This independent panel member - Homelessness NSW, offers specialist knowledge of the local homelessness sector and as they are not eligible to apply for funding, do not have any pecuniary interest in the distribution of funds.



Community Engagement

Feedback has been sought from the Homelessness Taskforce Shoalhaven service provider members and organisational representatives on how local service providers are best able to receive and distribute funding.

HT23.2 Action Table Report Update 9 February 2023

HPERM Ref: D23/7158

Department:Community ConnectionsApprover:Jane Lewis, Director - City Lifestyles

Attachments: 1. Homelessness Taskforce Action Table for 09 February 2023 Meeting &

Reason for Report

To provide the Homelessness Taskforce Shoalhaven with a progress report on outstanding actions.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the Homelessness Taskforce Shoalhaven acknowledge the following actions as being complete and remove from the action table:

- 1. HT22.15 Additional Item Social / Affordable Housing Funding advocate to Federal Government Cooperative housing Regional Planning
- 2. HT22.16 Additional Item Doing it Tough Guide / Access to NSW Register Airbnb Report Request

HT23.2

Options

1. Adopt the recommendation as written.

<u>Implications</u>: The Homelessness Taskforce Shoalhaven is updated of actions and recommendations made at previous meetings

2. Request more information.

Implications: The Homelessness Taskforce Shoalhaven request further information

Background

This report is to update the Homelessness Taskforce on outstanding actions from previous meetings.

HT22.15 Additional Item - Social / Affordable Housing Funding - advocate to Federal Government - Cooperative housing - Regional Planning

Part 1 to remain open until letter is complete. Set to be completed by the Homelessness Taskforce Meeting on 9 February 2023.

Part 2, 3 and 4 to be closed on the basis that these actions will be placed into consideration under the Affordable Housing Strategy which is in the process of being updated.

HT22.16 Additional Item - Doing it Tough Guide / Access to NSW Register - Airbnb - Report Request

Closed on the basis that NSW Department of Planning has a list of properties for Short Term Rental Accommodation (STRA) that Council has access to for statutory purposes. However, the list is not accessible to the general public.

Shoalhaven City Council

Un	Homelessness Taskforce Shoalhaven Action Sheets Report Uncompleted as at 12 January 2022 Completed: "Date From" to "Date to"					
Mee Titl	•	Date: 27/06/2022	Item No: HT22.15	Officer: Rose, Matthew e to Federal Government - Cooperative housing -	Completed: 11/01/2023	
RE		ED (Clr Wells / Clr Kotlash)	MIN22.417	Notes: 22 Oct 2022 4:48pm Rose, Mathew		
 Immediately advocate for social housing funding, that is general in nature and not classified, (so that it can be utilised for all classifications of housing) to: 			at it can be utilised for all	The review of Council's adopted Shoalhaven Affordable Housing Strategy will examine the opportunities and challenges of cooperative housing in contributing to the supply of more affordable homes and affordable rental housing (or community housing). Any update of the current Strategy is anticipated to occur in 2023. To		
	A	he Honourable Anthony Alban Justralia. he Minister for Social Services		assist with this work, Council has applied for a \$170,000 grant from the NSW Government's Regional Housing Strategic Planning Fund. If successful, Council will contribute a further \$30,000 to the update of the Strategy.		
	N	IP. Irs Fiona Phillips MP, Member		The updated Strategy will, amongst other things, identify contemporary affordated housing need in Shoalhaven and the opportunities to respond. This will provide the average the supply of management of the supply		
2.	coope		c discussions, how community n solving the affordable housing			
3.	regior	Write to the Federal Minister for Planning and Homes to request that regional plans across NSW better identify social and affordable housing.		The Federal Government's October 2022 Budget included a range of measures grouped together under the Housing Accord – aimed at improving housing supply and affordability. See attached document for a summary of the budget		
4.		art of advocating for Federal fur warded to the equivalent State	nding, the correspondence also counterparts.	announcement and planned activity. The NSW Government also announced billion "Housing Package" containing a range of measures to facilitate an inc supply and easier purchase of homes. See attached Media Re		
FOI	R:		Norris, Clr Butler, Clr D'Ath, ten, Clr White, Clr Wells, Clr Clr Gray	The Greater Cities Commission – the NSV responsible for planning the Six Cities Region	n - released a Discussion Paper in	
	AINST RRIED			September 2022. This proposed the setting affordability targets in its future planning docum housing target (i.e., 10% of all new homes or a to supply elsewhere) on private land and a residential development of NSW Governmen	ing documents. This included a 10% affordable nomes or an equivalent monetary contribution nd and a 30% affordable housing target for	

Ghoalhaven City Council

Homelessness Taskforce Shoalhaven Action Sheets Report Uncompleted as at 12 January 2022 Completed: "Date From" to "Date to"	
	develops and sets these targets, Council will need to consider opportunities to respond, potentially incorporating them into its own planning documents 11 Jan 2023 4:16pm Rose, Matthew Update provided on 22 November 2022
	11 Jan 2023 4:17pm Rose, Matthew - Completion
	Completed by Rose, Matthew (action officer) on 11 January 2023 at 4:17:43 PM - Update provided to Marsha Makary for inclusion in report to Homelessness Taskforce
	17 Jan 2023 5:07pm Makary, Marsha
	Part 1 (advocacy letter) to remain open until letter is complete

ACTIONS COMPLETED

Meeting Date: 24/05/2022	Item No: HT22.16	Officer: Venturini, Julie	Completed: 12/01/2023			
Title: Additional Item - Doing it Tough Guide / Access to NSW Register - Airbnb - Report Request						
RESOLVED (By consent)		Notes:				
 RESOLVED (By consent) That: 1. The Homelessness Taskforce Shoalhaven receive an update report on progress of the Doing It Tough Guide (previously Pathway 2 Home) at the next meeting. 2. Carey McIntyre - Director City Futures explore the opportunity for access to the NSW Register of Airbnb Resource, noting that potentially there could be privacy issues surrounding Council's access to this information. CARRIED 		 10 Jun 2022 10:50am Hollier, Leah For action – Part 1 - Marsha Makary - Part 2 - Carey McIntyre 10 Jun 2022 4:38pm Marshall, Rachel - Reallocation Action reassigned to Venturini, Julie by Marshall, Rachel - Julie., Could you please liaise with the NSW Department of Planning to ascertain whether Council or any private person is able to access the details of an owner of a property listed on the Register for Short Term Rental Accommodation (STRA), which is maintained by the 				
			perties for Short Term Rental Accommodation for statutory purposes however, the list is not			