



HOMELESSNESS PLAN

Report Card 2021 - 2024

Working together
for a safe community



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The City of Canning acknowledges the Whadjuk people as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live, work and play. We recognise their continued connection to Country, their resilience and commitment to community. We pay our respects to Elders past and present. We would like to further acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in our community and their leaders of tomorrow.

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HOMELESSNESS PLAN REPORT CARD

The City of Canning is committed to working collaboratively across government, not-for-profits, community, business and those with lived experience.

The City's Homelessness Plan provides the framework to guide the implementation of initiatives and programs, working in partnership to prevent and respond to the challenges of homelessness.

This Report Card provides a summary of the progress and key achievements completed throughout the duration of the **Homelessness Plan** (July 2021 - June 2024).

The various elements have been grouped within three key outcome areas:

KEY OUTCOME AREAS

Build Capacity and Understanding



Prevention and Support



Advocacy



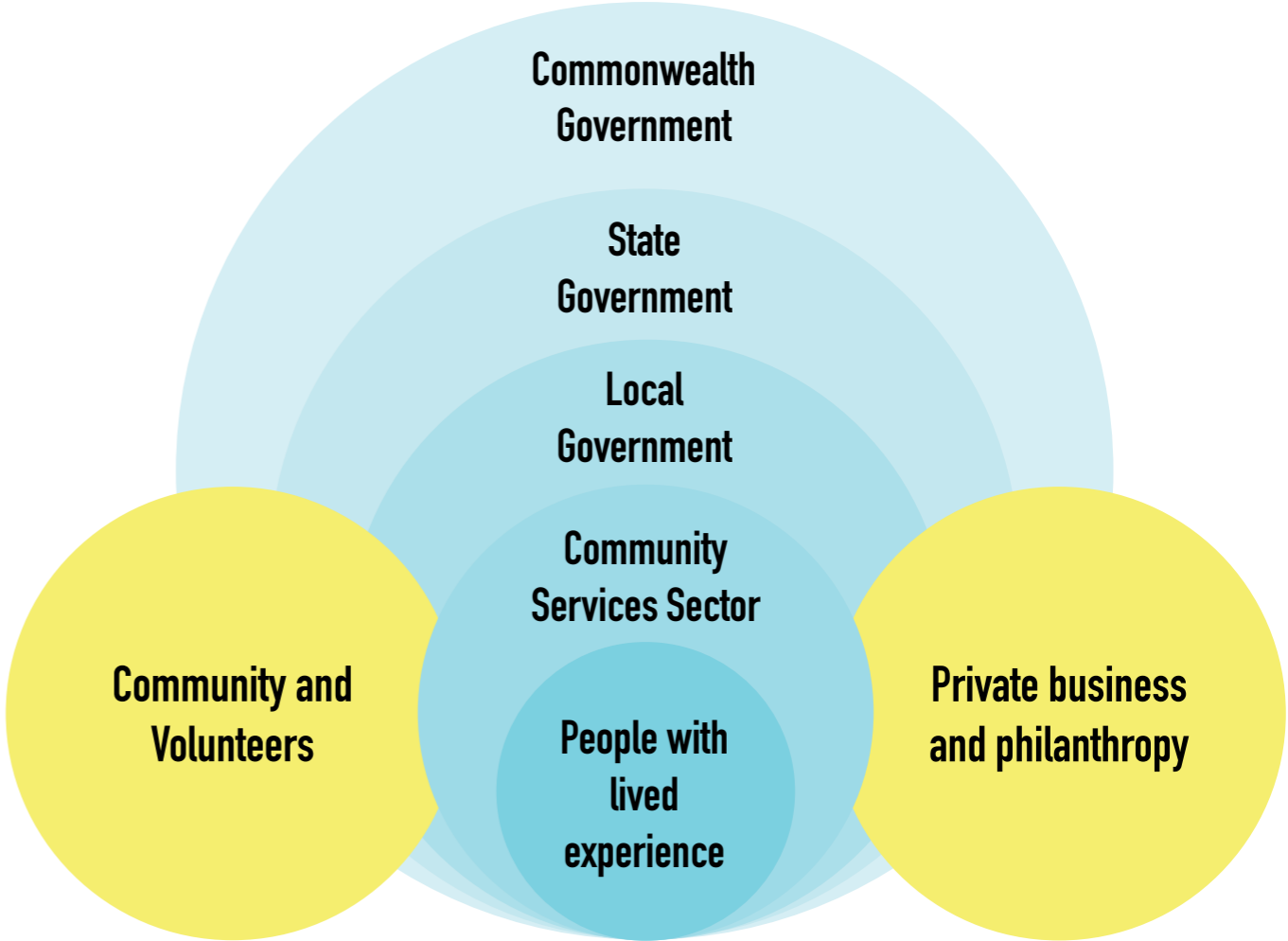
OUR COMMITMENT

The City developed its first dedicated Homelessness Plan (the Plan) in 2021.

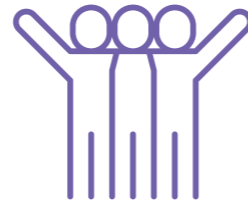
The Plan was developed to support the release of the State Government's *10 Year Strategy on Homelessness - All Paths Lead to a Home* - and in response to the growing complexity of homelessness throughout Western Australia and the City of Canning.

The Plan aims to align with the State Strategy and work collaboratively with all tiers of Government, community services, and the local community to provide those at risk of/experiencing homelessness with every opportunity to improve their circumstances.

In addition to anecdotal local data, the City relies heavily on data collected via the **Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census**; the primary tool for gauging trends in homelessness.



BUILD CAPACITY AND UNDERSTANDING



Working collaboratively and in support of those experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

- ✓ Partnership established with Black Swan Health to deliver the **Freo Street Doctor** service in Canning.
- ✓ Partnership established with Good Sammy, providing 'Get Going Vouchers' to residents facing social and economic disadvantage to be redeemed for clothing, home accessories and children's toys.
- ✓ Over \$72,000 raised through the Camco Engineering - Mayor's Charity Gala Dinner, contributing towards delivering four new Canning-centred social programs that will assist locals with disability, as well as those facing social and economic disadvantage.
- ✓ South East Corridor Council Alliance (SECCA) forum hosted at Hillview Intercultural Centre to respond to and optimise the benefits of the increasing cultural diversity in our region.

Strong relationships with the community services sector, WA Police, Government and peak bodies.

- ✓ Partnered with local service providers to establish **two local support hubs** in Bentley and Cannington, offering free healthcare and approximately 300+ free meals and 15+ free laundry washes a week to those in need.
- ✓ Partnered with key service providers, agencies and community groups to develop a Stakeholder Management Plan.
- ✓ Corporate membership with Shelter WA who actively advocate for affordable and social housing.
- ✓ Memorandum of Understanding established with WA Police.

Sound understanding of interagency relationships and actively encourage increased collaboration.

- ✓ **Support Providers Directory** developed in consultation with key stakeholders, with 10,000+ copies distributed to support local services to assist our most vulnerable community members
- ✓ **Interactive Map** with 30+ local support services uploaded to the City's website.
- ✓ Hosted a Homelessness Forum to discuss the issues local governments and support services are facing surrounding homelessness.
- ✓ Annual facilitation of Homelessness Week events and initiatives, including a **Foodbank WA** food drive, **Eye Contact Homelessness Art Exhibition** and donation pop-ups.

City Staff demonstrate compassion in the management of homeless people and rough sleepers throughout Canning

- ✓ Guidelines for frontline staff developed in consultation with people with lived experience.
- ✓ Training sessions facilitated by Uniting WA for Frontline Staff to better understand and connect with those at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness.
- ✓ Training provided to City staff by Shelter WA, covering essential information about homelessness in WA, including the role and function of Local, State, and Federal Governments in ending homelessness.
- ✓ Internal Staff Food Drive, collecting 62kgs of non-perishable food items to donate to Foodbank WA.
- ✓ Confidential 'By Name List' of individuals sleeping rough within the district developed to assist staff to connect individuals to support services.
- ✓ Free multilingual counselling, mental health sessions, nutrition and physio workshops made available through Canning Libraries.

Local community groups and businesses have a greater awareness of the contributing factors of homelessness and are able to connect with those experiencing homelessness.

- ✓ Dedicated Communications Plan developed to increase community awareness and reduce the stigma associated with homelessness.
- ✓ Regular targeted submissions to the City's In-Focus, and Business e-newsletters.
- ✓ Regular meetings with local community groups to discuss community issues, trends and needs.
- ✓ Hillview Intercultural Community Centre spaces made available for community groups and service organisations to run support programs / drop-in sessions for at risk clients.



PREVENTION AND SUPPORT



Greater awareness and understanding of the causes/triggers leading to homelessness and support services that are available.

- ✓ New **Homelessness and Crisis Support** webpage developed and updated regularly on the City's website.
- ✓ Active membership of the Healthy Relationship Strategy Group, Youth Homelessness Advisory Council (YHAC), Canning Cultural Ambassador (CCA) program, and Canning Access & Inclusion Advisory Group (AIAG).
- ✓ Partnered with Foodbank WA to run annual food drive, resulting in 830+ kgs of non-perishable food, household and sanitary items donated by community members and staff, equating to 1,500+ meals for those in need.
- ✓ Winter Blanket Drive pilot initiative collected 320+ blankets and sleeping bags, to distribute to local charities and service providers.

Provide opportunities that support the wellbeing of the community and fosters connection.

- ✓ Implemented Neighbourhood Welcome Points at all City libraries.
- ✓ Launch of the City's **Digital Welcome Pack**, including links to Support and Resources Services.
- ✓ Improved skate plazas at Lynwood and Willetton supporting positive sport-based diversionary activities for young people.
- ✓ Opening of the first south-of-the-river emergency relief service out of Lynwood Youth Hub.
- ✓ 14,000 interactions with young people through the City's youth programs and services.
- ✓ Held two City of Canning Job Expos (1,400+ attendees), with the aim to connect job seekers and employers.
- ✓ Supported the monthly delivery of 120+ food parcels through an Enriching Canning Grant.
- ✓ Community Safety Stations established at all City libraries with 5000+ resources distributed.
- ✓ Partnered with Ishar Multicultural Women's Health Services, Communicare and the Muslim Women's Support Centre to develop and deliver a series of events that focus on women's safety.

Support an affordable and effective housing system.

- ✓ Provided affordable housing for financially vulnerable over-55s at Caprice Place Independent Living Units, Rossmoyne and Wilson Retirement Villages.
- ✓ Delivered quarterly community learning opportunities targeting housing and homelessness issues, including tenancy rights, financial literacy and basic life skills that target individuals and families at risk of homelessness.
- ✓ Planning decisions that allow higher density development and subdivisions in an effort to address the housing shortage.

Provide tailored support for vulnerable cohorts

- ✓ Opening of the Hillview Intercultural Community Centre; a safe space for people of all backgrounds to come together to connect, share ideas and learn new skills.
- ✓ Delivery of the Urban Arts, Hoops and Wellbeing program for the diversion of young people at risk.
- ✓ Lynwood Youth Hub is now fully operational with integrated services including Youth Accommodation Support, Emergency Relief, Drop in sessions and partner programming from the Edmund Rice Centre of WA.
- ✓ Youth Accommodation and Support Service (YASS) delivered from Lynwood Youth Hub, where young people experiencing/at risk of homelessness are able to be connected directly to the support they need.
- ✓ Free multilingual counselling, mental health sessions, nutrition and physio workshops made available through Canning Libraries.
- ✓ Community Safety Service available 24-hours a day 7 days a week to assist our community.
- ✓ Partnerships established with services such as Headspace, Mission Australia and MercyCare to engage with young people attending Canning programs that could use further support.



ADVOCACY



Advocate on homelessness and rough sleeping matters to support positive and effective outcomes

- ✓ Hosted a Homelessness Forum engage neighbouring Local Governments to better understand homelessness and promote positive responses.
- ✓ City representation at the WA Alliance to End Homelessness Strategic Planning Workshop.
- ✓ City policies, local laws, and procedures were reviewed to be reflective of consideration of and for homelessness.
- ✓ Educational **Homelessness Week video** produced featuring local providers such as the Shop Front, Foodbank WA and Black Swan Health (Freo Street Doctor).
- ✓ Research report prepared to assist in understanding the latest trends and opportunities in the social housing space.
- ✓ Advocated for State Government to develop strategic landholdings within the City to provide additional housing and support the regeneration of these areas.
- ✓ The City is now a Bronze Member of the 'Committee for Perth' an independent, not-for-profit organisation that advocates to make Perth one of the most liveable cities in the world.



For more information scan the QR code or visit canning.wa.gov.au/homelessness



CITY OF CANNING

To find out more visit canning.wa.gov.au/homelessness



If you need an interpreter, please call
TIS National on 131 450 or call the
City on 1300 422 664 for assistance.

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