Local Homelessness Strategy 2021 - 2025



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Acknowledgment

Ngalla City of Bayswater kaatanginy baalapa Noongar Boodja baaranginy Wadjuk moort Noongar moort boordiar's koora boordiar's ye yay ba boordiar's boordawyn wah.

The City of Bayswater acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land the Whadjuk people of the Noongar Nation and pays its respects to elders past present and emerging.

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Message from the Mayor



The City of Bayswater has a longstanding commitment to support the social inclusion of our residents so our community is a better place to connect and call home.

Homelessness is often outside a person's control and can affect people of all ages at any time during their lives. For some people this may be episodic, while for others it can be exposure to cyclical patterns of homelessness due to a number of different experiences. This can include under-employment or unemployment, financial debt, rising rent and house prices, and the lack of public and social housing.

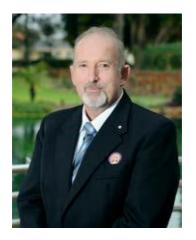
There are many demographics of people at risk of homelessness and personal problems including family breakdowns; chronic health, disability or mental health conditions; domestic violence; or alcohol and drug dependence can also give rise to abrupt housing loss.

There is a stigma associated with being homeless and this needs to be redressed with community empathy. It is likely that before a person even becomes homeless, they may have limited social connections to assist them during periods of adversity.

It is in the interest of our community as a whole to ensure the rights of people experiencing homelessness are respected and protected, and that every effort is made to connect them to the support services they need.

We are calling on our community to take action by showing compassion, volunteering time, or donating money to local charitable organisations that provide services to help support an end to homelessness.

Message from the Chief Executive Officer



The City of Bayswater has a vision to help end homelessness as we work towards being "A better place to connect and call home."

To achieve this, we will work in collaboration with local service providers, business and community groups, and state and local government authorities to address local homelessness and offer the support people need.

The homelessness service sector is evolving, and cities across the globe are adopting evidence-based, contemporary service models such as 'No Wrong Door' and 'Bi-Name List' to better support people experiencing homelessness.

We will contribute by assisting our residents experiencing homelessness to reengage with community life and form partnerships so they can find the support they need to reach their full potential.

About the City of Bayswater

The City of Bayswater spans an area of 34.6km² on the banks of the Swan River, the Derbal Yerrigan; and at its closest boundary, is only four kilometres from the Perth Central Business District. The City is bounded by the City of Swan to the north, the Town of Bassendean to the east, the Swan River and the City of Belmont to the south, and the Cities of Stirling and Vincent to the west.

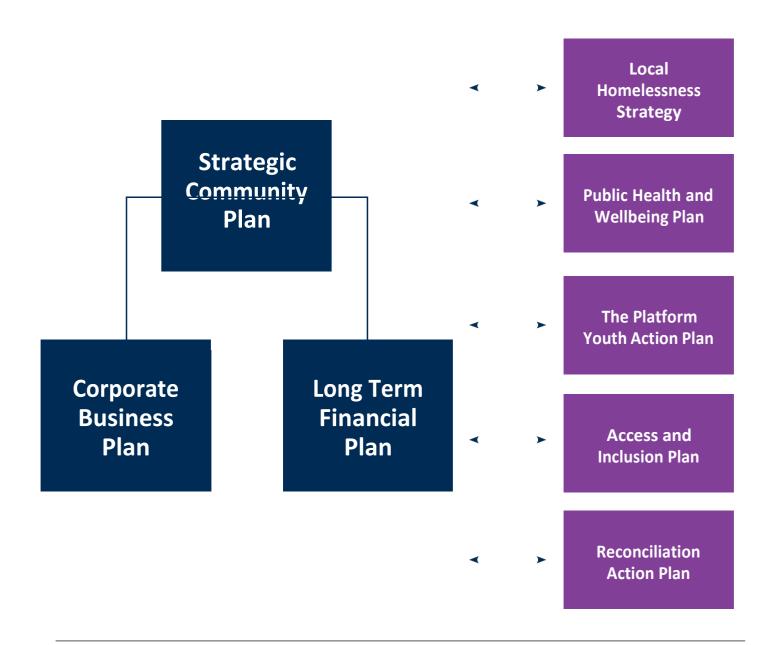
The City maintains approximately 380 hectares of public open space, with 24 sporting parks and 145 passive reserves. This, together with the diverse range of facilities and major landmarks within the suburbs, provides many opportunities to encourage community participation.



City of Bayswater Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

The City has a number of planning and reporting documents that articulate the community's vision, as detailed in the City's Strategic Community Plan. These plans and strategies translate the community's vision into operational plans for the City of Bayswater.

The flowchart below highlights the City's plans and strategies, including how the Local Homelessness Strategy links to the Strategic Community Plan 2021-2031.



Housing and homelessness

Australia is a signatory to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which recognises that housing is more than just shelter. This means:

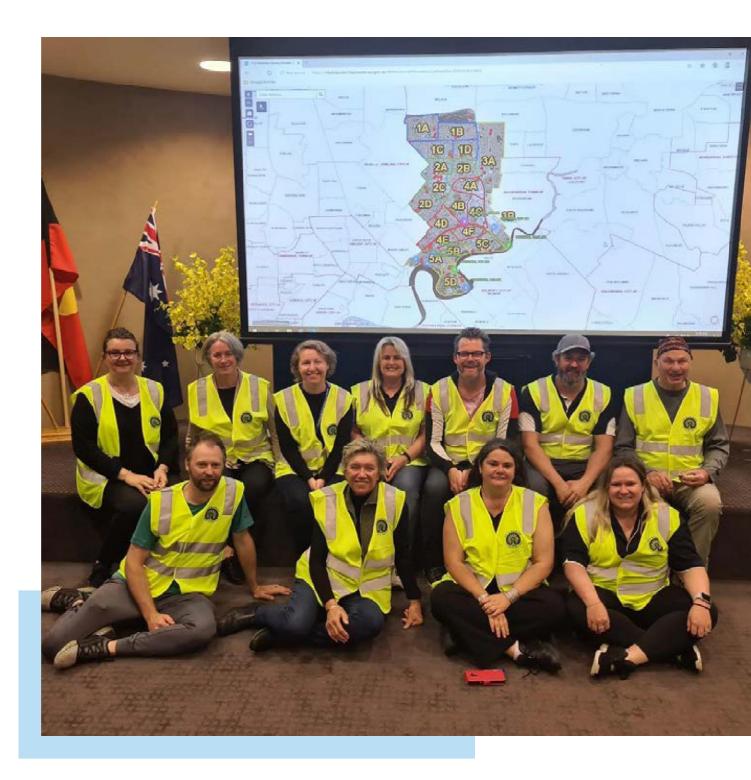
"Adequate shelter... adequate privacy, adequate space, adequate security, adequate lighting and ventilation, adequate basic infrastructure and adequate location with regard to work and basic facilities-all at a reasonable cost. Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and wellbeing of themselves and their family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, older age or lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond their control."

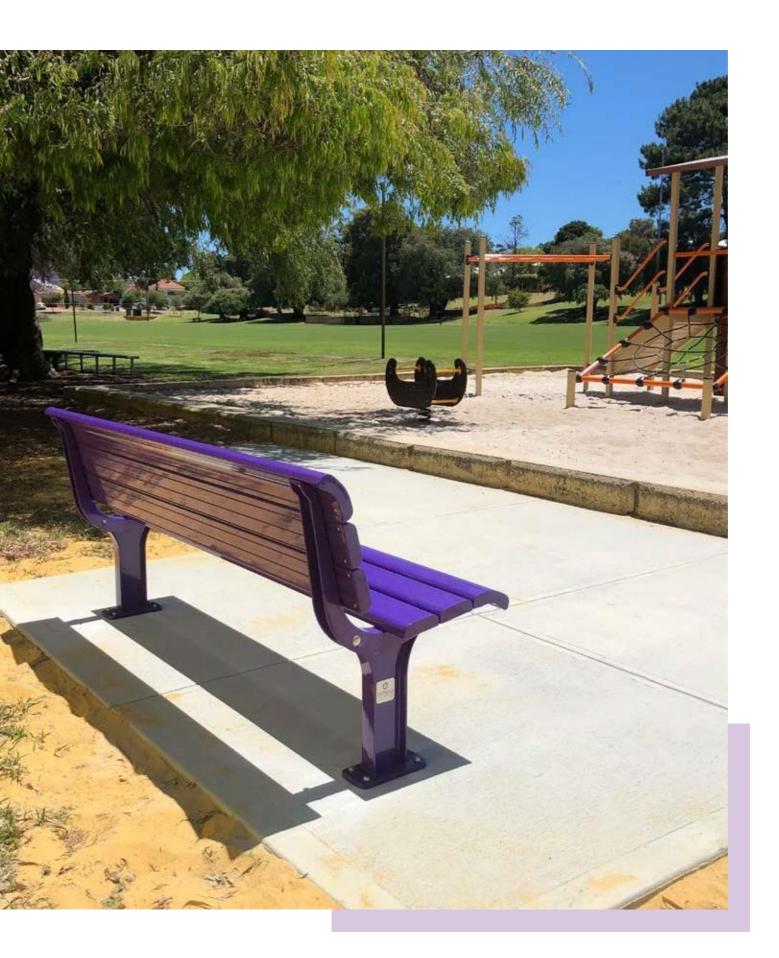
Homelessness is experienced when a person does not have a home in which they can shelter, can exercise control over a physical area, can maintain privacy and enjoy social relations, and have legal title through tenancy rights of ownership.

Homelessness includes:

- Rough sleeping
- Stays in supported accommodation for the homeless
- Couch-surfing
- Living in boarding and rooming houses without private facilities and security of tenure
- Heavy reliance on short-term stays in motels, hotels and other forms of temporary lodging.

Chronic homelessness is described as continuous homelessness for one year or more; or four or more episodes of homelessness within the preceding three years, where the combined length of time homeless on those occasions is at least 12 months.





The role of local government

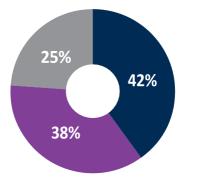
The Department of Communities' 10 year strategy entitled 'All Paths Lead to a Home', is a whole-of-community plan that aims to find better ways to prevent homelessness and support those who are experiencing it.

Local government authorities are noted as being able to contribute to the vision of the strategy in the following ways:

- Investigating models focusing specifically on early intervention and prevention.
- Making information on local services and support available and accessible.
- Ensuring front-line staff are provided with training to interact with people experiencing homelessness and refer them to local services.
- Working with police to support and refer people experiencing homelessness to local services and support.
- Coordinating volunteer and charity groups through a place-based approach that better meets the needs of people experiencing homelessness.
- Using land and assets to create places that are inclusive and can support vulnerable people.

Homelessness in the City of Bayswater

On any given night in Western Australia, it is estimated over 9,000 people are homeless, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016 Census of Population and Housing. Each day, Western Australian specialist homelessness services assist more than 2,400 people.



The three main reasons people sought homelessness assistance in 2016 were:

- Domestic and family violence
- Financial difficulties
- Housing crises

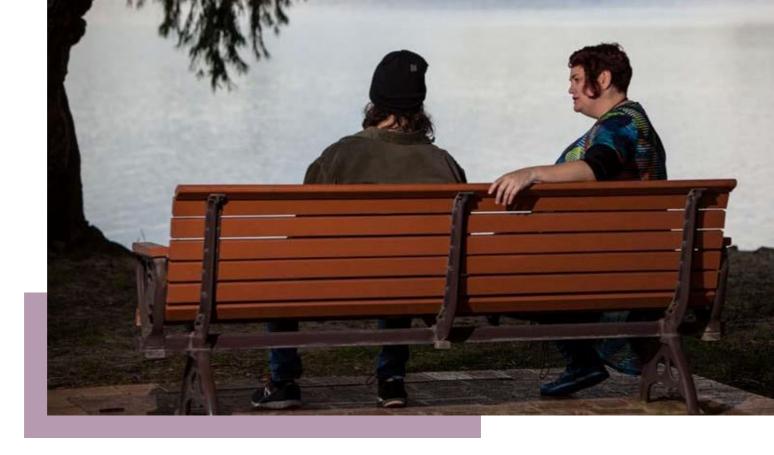
In 2016, there were 210 people aged between 0 and 45 years experiencing homelessness in the City of Bayswater, and living in the following types of accommodation:

- Improvised dwellings, tents, or sleeping outside
- Supported accommodation for the homeless
- Other households on a temporary basis
- Boarding houses
- Other temporary lodgings
- Severely crowded dwellings.

According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, between 2016 and 2019, specialised crisis homelessness accommodation providers based in the City reported that of the 1,103 clients provided with accommodation:

- 659 had experienced family and domestic violence
- 310 aged 10 years and over presented with a mental health issue
- 134 presented with problematic drug and/or alcohol issue.

To better understand the transient nature of homelessness in metropolitan local government areas, the City of Bayswater, in collaboration with eight local government authorities, conducted two Rough Sleeper Counts in 2020.



The first was held on 17 March 2020, just prior to Western Australia declaring the COVID-19 pandemic as a State of Emergency. The second count took place on 27 October 2020, when Western Australia moved to phase five of the state's COVID-19 Roadmap to Recovery.

In the City of Bayswater, there were 12 people sleeping rough during the first Rough Sleeper Count, and I I on the second count. Rough sleepers were found in reserves, car parks, and commercial, industrial and vacant land.

The City's participation in the Rough Sleeper Count helped provide a one night metropolitan snapshot of people sleeping rough, and has informed the development of this plan.

According to Services Australia, during the COVID-19 pandemic the number of City of Bayswater residents eligible to receive a Health Care Card increased by 2,099 between March and June 2020.

During this time, the Residential Tenancies (COVID-19 Response) Act 2020 placed a moratorium on tenancy evictions to address the financial impacts due to loss of income, and to prevent tenants from having to move out or be made homeless during the pandemic.

It is likely there will be residents living in the City of Bayswater who have experienced financial pressure during this time, however the impact on their ability to maintain housing in the future is unknown.

Development of the City of Bayswater Local Homelessness Strategy 2021 - 2025

The development of the Local Homelessness Strategy was overseen by the City's Local Homelessness Advisory Committee, whose role was to:

- Provide appropriate and considered strategic advice and feedback relating to homelessness within the City, that can be dealt with at a local government level to inform the development of the City's draft Local Homelessness Strategy.
- Provide advice and recommendations on how the City of Bayswater Local Homelessness Strategy and actions can align to the Department of Communities' 10 year Strategy on Homelessness 2020-2030 entitled 'All Paths Lead to a Home'.
- Receive reports on the City's Local Homelessness Strategy development progress.

Consultation Process

The consultation process for the development of the City's Local Homelessness Strategy 2021-2025 included:

- Two focus group conversations with people with lived experience of homelessness were undertaken at Orana House Inc. and 55 Central Inc. on 24 and 27 November 2020 respectively. The aim was to better understand their needs in relation to information, programs, events and community connection.
- The City hosted a Local Homelessness Community Engagement Workshop on 10 December 2020 and invited people with lived experience of homelessness, state government agencies, local service providers, community groups, funding bodies and City staff.

There was a two week public comment period on the Draft Local Homelessness Strategy implementation plan between the 28 April and 12 May 2021.

The Local Homelessness Advisory Committee was disbanded following Council adopted of the Local Homelessness Strategy at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 29 June 2021.

Consultation Findings

Community consultation highlighted four areas to inform the implementation plan for the Local Homelessness Strategy:

- Preventing Homelessness
 Goal: Contribute to building and informed resilient and connected community.
- 2. Safety for People Experiencing Homelessness Goal: Keep people safe.
- 3. Exiting Homelessness Goal: Increase access to safe and sustainable housing.
- 4. Service Coordination and Advocacy

Goal: Contribute toward strengthening the homelessness service sector.

The four areas, strategies and associated actions within the Local Homelessness Strategy implementation plan have been developed in consultation with a range of community stakeholders, including people experiencing homelessness.

This is the City of Bayswater's place-based contribution towards supporting the Department of Communities' 10 year strategy on homelessness entitled 'All Paths Lead to Home'.



Homelessness is about many different things for many different people, but for everyone, homelessness is always about one thing – it is about housing.

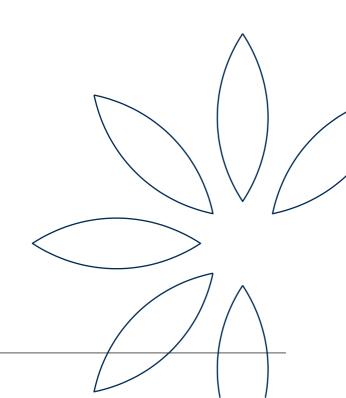
Monitoring progress

The implementation of the City of Bayswater Local Homelessness Strategy 2021-2025 will require collaborative partnerships to design responses and share in the plans' success and learnings.

Progress on the implementation of the City of Bayswater Local Homelessness Strategy 2021-2025 will be in the City's Annual Report, together with a full progress report, which will be on the City's website www.bayswater.wa.gov.au

Local Homelessness Strategy Implementation Plan

The City's inaugural Local Homelessness Strategy 2021-2025 implementation plan has a lifespan of four financial years. The strategy supports community aspirations and includes practical actions that will support the City's contribution to ending homelessness at the local level.





Priority 1: Preventing Homelessness

Goal: Contribute to building an informed, resilient and connected community.

Strategy	Deliverable
1.1 Establish a one-stop-shop community resource hub.	(a) Establish a volunteer-run Library Community Resource Hub to provide information, referral to services and educational sessions to people who are/ or are at risk of homelessness.
	(b) Develop an Operational Management Plan for resourcing the Library Community Resource Hub in consultation with local service providers.
1.2 Actively encourage changes in community behaviour to prevent family and domestic violence, substance misuse	(a) Foster respectful relationships and non-violent behaviour through the delivery of community training in partnership with professional training providers identified through the Library Community Resource Hub.
and trauma relapse.	(b) Encourage schools, community groups and sporting clubs to apply for City grants with a purpose to promote respectful relationships that address family and domestic violence.
	(c) Investigate partnership opportunities with specialist health and local homelessness service providers to establish, deliver and promote a trauma relapse prevention program with an aim to reduce re-presentation into crisis accommodation.
	(d) Collaborate with local high schools, relevant agencies and service providers to deliver programs that raise awareness in young people of how to connect to appropriate supports.
	(e) Establish a partnership with the Constable Care Foundation to educate children in local schools about the importance of personal safety and community safety.
	(f) Partner with service providers and promote campaigns that positively influence, educate and help to change community attitudes and behaviours toward people experiencing homelessness.
1.3 Educate residents at risk of eviction on ways to maintain their tenancy.	(a) Increase resident knowledge on how to manage their tenancy through the delivery of the City's Community UpSkiller workshops in partnership with relevant stakeholders.

Responsibility	Timeframe			Anticipated	
	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	Budget*
Manager Community DevelopmentManager Building Works	•				10,000 (once-off)
Manager Community Development	•				Operational
• Manager Community Development	•	•	•	•	20,000 (5,000 p/a)
Manager Community Development	•	•	•	•	Operational
• Manager Community Development			•		Operational
Manager Community Development	•	•	•	•	Operational
Manager Community DevelopmentManager Rangers and Security Services			•	•	40,000 (20,000 p/a)
 Manager Community Development Principal Communications and Marketing 	•	•	•	•	20,000 (5,000 p/a)
Manager Community Development		•	•	•	1,500 (500 p/a)

Priority 1: Preventing Homelessness (continued)

Goal: Contribute to building an informed, resilient and connected community.

Strategy	Deliverable
1.4 Contribute to reintegrating people with lived experience of homelessness with the broader community.	(a) Work with employment agencies and homelessness service providers to identify community training opportunities and life skill programs for local people who are homeless or are at risk of homelessness.
	(b) In partnership with crisis accommodation providers, investigate and apply for funding to address gaps in employment or life skills programs to increase the economic participation of people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
	(c) Investigate funding opportunities in collaboration with local crisis accommodation providers to co-design a physical health and wellbeing program utilising City recreational facilities to benefit people living in crisis accommodation.
	(d) Investigate the establishment of a Moorditj Yarning Friendship Group for women in the City of Bayswater.
1.5 Increase the knowledge of City of Bayswater frontline staff and volunteers to better	(a) Co-design, develop and trial staff training packages in consultation with people with lived experience and local service providers.
understand and respond to people experiencing homelessness.	(b) Prepare an annual training calendar to increase staff and volunteer knowledge and strengthen the City's ability to refer residents to appropriate support services.
	(c) Recruit and train volunteers to deliver tailored responses that respond to people who are homeless or are at risk of homelessness.
1.6 Assist to connect Aboriginal people without short term accommodation in the City of Bayswater, with social and housing support services.	(a) Work with relevant agencies and local service providers to identify ways the City can assist to connect Aboriginal people coming to the City of Bayswater from Country to access short-term housing and support services.

Responsibility		Time	Anticipated		
	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	Budget*
 Manager Community Development 			•	•	Operational
• Manager Community Development				•	Operational
 Manager Community Development Manager Recreation and Commercial Activities 	•	•	•	•	Operational
Manager Community Development			•		Operational
Manager Community Development	•	•	•	•	20,000 (5,000 p/a)
Manager Community Development	•	•	•	•	Operational
Manager Community Development	•	•	•	•	8,000 (2,000 p/a)
• Manager Community Development			•		Operational

* The anticipated budget amounts listed in the table above are indicative only and are subject to further investigation, as the implementation plan is progressed. Each year, the anticipated budget will be reviewed and considered as part of the City's standard annual budget process.

Priority 2: Safety for People Experiencing Homelessness Goal: Keep people safe

Strategy	Deliverable
2.1 Connect people experiencing homelessness to health, legal and social support services.	(a) Maintain funding of Nyoongar Outreach Services to deliver culturally assertive outreach case management services in the City of Bayswater.
	(b) Encourage local agencies to register and maintain information on Ask Izzy [*] , as a centralised tool to be promoted on the City's website.
2.2 Optimise local public facilities and amenities to promote personal care, safety and wellbeing.	(a) Install a suitable storage locker facility at the Library Resource Hub for temporary storage of personal belongings to enable dignified connection with community or employment service providers.
	(b) Investigate the extent of community need for providing shower / change room facilities in partnership with local service providers and advocate for service provision from a mobile service provider, as necessary.
	(c) Map information to promote the City's public toilet facilities, water refill stations, mobile recharge points and WI-FI hot- spots and make this information available in a range of accessible formats.
2.3 Foster community empathy to positively respond to people experiencing homelessness.	(a) Continue to promote local service providers that specifically support people at risk of or experiencing homelessness in the City's 'Caring for our Community' publication.
	(b) Deliver training for local businesses through the City's Community UpSkiller program to increase awareness and effectively respond to people experiencing homelessness.
	(c) Identify and widely promote inspiring local business champions delivering social initiatives that help to breakdown stigma and stereotypes for people experiencing homelessness.
	(d) Engage local homelessness charities to participate in the City's annual Christmas Food Appeal to support disadvantaged residents and families in the City of Bayswater.

* Ask lzzy is designed to link people experiencing homelessness with food services, shelter, health services and other vital support services.

Responsibility	Timeframe			Anticipated	
	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	Budget*
 Manager Community Development 	•	•	•	•	100,000 (25,000 p/a)
 Manager Community Development 	•	•	•	•	Operational
 Manager Community Development Manager Rangers and Security Services Manager Building Works 		•			5,000 (once-off)
Manager Community Development		•			Operational
 Manager Community Development Manager Development and Place 		•			2,000 (once-off)
 Manager Community Development 	•	•	•	•	8,000 (2,000 p/a)
 Manager Community Development Manager Development and Place 	•		•		6,000 (3,000 p/a)
 Manager Community Development Manager Development and Place 		•	•	•	Operational
Manager Community Development	•	•	•	•	Operational

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Local Homelessness Strategy Implementation Plan

Priority 3: Exiting Homelessness Goal: Increase access to safe and sustainable housing					
Strategy	Deliverable				
3.1 Encourage affordable and diverse housing though local controls, such as rates and planning.	 (a) Offer rate exemptions for charitable housing service providers that are providing accommodation to people experiencing homelessness, in accordance with the Local Government Act. 				
	(b) Investigate potential social/affordable housing options when considering future use of sites identified in the Land Acquisition and Disposal Strategy.				
	(c) Continue to promote and incentivise affordable housing as a part of the town planning scheme review, new developments and precinct plans in accordance with the draft local planning strategy.				
	(d) Invite relevant service providers to submit an expression of interest in vacant community leasing facilities, as they arise.				
	(e) Advocate to all tiers of government for increased affordable and social housing in the City of Bayswater.				

Responsibility	Timeframe		Anticipated		
	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	Budget*
• Manager Financial Services	•	•	•	•	Operational
 Manager Development and Place 	•	•	•	•	Operational
 Manager Development and Place 	•	•	•	•	Operational
 Manager Development and Place 	•	•	•	•	Operational
 Office of the Chief Executive Officer Principal Marketing and Communications Manager Development and Place 	•	•	•	•	Operational

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Local Homelessness Strategy Implementation Plan

Priority 4: Service Coordination and Advocacy Goal: Contribute toward strengthening the homelessness service sector

Strategy	Deliverable
4.1 Monitor and respond to homelessness within the City of Bayswater.	 (a) Advocate and work with local homelessness service providers to support funding applications that aim to improve service delivery in the City of Bayswater.
	(b) Contribute to WALGA discussion papers and relevant submissions to inform State Government decision makers.
	(c) Partner with local service providers and other local government authorities in delivering Connections Week initiatives to gather in-formation and add to the By-Name List with an aim to assist relevant agencies to provide housing and other supports to people experiencing homelessness.
	(d) Utilise and enhance the City of Bayswater City Spatial online portal, as a systems tool to manage data relating to 'hot spot areas' when participating in Connections Week initiatives.
	(e) Improve statistical reporting of people experiencing homelessness within the City of Bayswater using a centralised information system.
	(f) Coordinate inter-agency homelessness meetings to share knowledge, identify and address local service gaps and improve responses to end homelessness.
	(g) Continue to be an organisational member of Shelter WA and attend relevant industry homelessness forums to keep up to date with contemporary trends across the sector.

Responsibility		Time	Anticipated		
	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	Budget*
Manager Community Development	•	•	•	•	Operational
Manager Community Development	•	•	•	•	Operational
Manager Community Development		•	•	•	15,000 (5,000 p/a)
 Manager Engineering and Spatial Services Manager Community Development 		•			Operational
 Manager Rangers and Security Services Manager Community Development 	•	•	•	•	Operational
Manager Community Development	•	•	•	•	2,000 (500 p/a)
Manager Community Development	•	•	•	•	1,200 (300 p/a)

^{*} The anticipated budget amounts listed in the table above are indicative only and are subject to further investigation, as the implementation plan is progressed. Each year, the anticipated budget will be reviewed and considered as part of the City's standard annual budget process.

Appendix A – Contemporary Approaches to Ending Homelessness

Housing First

The Housing First approach, also known as 'Common Ground', aims to facilitate immediate entry for people experiencing homelessness into permanent accommodation. It reverses the established approach, sometimes described as a staircase model, which guides clients through different levels of time-limited temporary housing until they qualify for a permanent residence. The Common Ground model provides dedicated and tailored support services that address the root causes of homelessness. The first Common Ground facility for Perth CBD will commence in the 2021/2022 Financial Year.

By-Name List

A Housing First program that puts policy into practice is the By-Name List data for Perth, Western Australia. The By-Name List is a real-time list of all people experiencing homelessness. It includes a set of data points that support coordinated access and prioritisation to understand who is entering the homelessness system, and success in providing permanent housing to those who need it.

Assertive Outreach

Assertive outreach is a funded service delivery model that brings mobile services to individuals in public places. Support workers offer either referral or support to accommodation and support services.

No Wrong Door

No Wrong Door is a single point of entry service model that aims to gain organisations commitment to work collaboratively and ensure people receive appropriate and adequate support for their needs, regardless of whatever door or service they walk through to find the right support.

The Department of Communities launched a report titled '*Enabling a No Wrong Door System in Homelessness: Proposals from Co-design*' on 2 July 2020, which outlines the co-design process; expectations the system should have for homelessness providers and other system players; the platforms needed to facilitate the No Wrong Door experience; and the incentives that should be in place to ensure the system builds towards those expectations and experiences.

Appendix B – Acknowledgements

A special thank you to the people with lived experience who participated in the focus group conversations and informed the development of the Local Homelessness Strategy.

The City would also like to thank the following people and key stakeholders:

Local Homelessness Advisory Committee

- Cr Stephanie Gray Chairperson
- Kathryn Snell Deputy Chairperson and CEO Uniting Way WA and Board Member of Orana House Inc.
- Cr Lorna Clarke City of Bayswater
- Cr Sally Palmer City of Bayswater
- Cr Georgia Johnson City of Bayswater
- Leah Watkins 50 Lives 50 Homes Manager, RUAH Community Services
- Maria McAtackney CEO, Nyoongar Outreach Services
- Kathy Blitz-Cokis CEO Northern Suburbs Legal Centre
- Razif Ismail General Manager, 55 Central Inc.
- Aaron McGregor President, Perth Homelessness Support Group.

Stakeholders

- Mission Australia
- Services Australia
- Edmund Rice Centre
- Western Australia Local Government Association
- Access Housing
- Holy Trinity Church
- WA Primary Health Alliance
- Morley Senior High School
- Foundation Housing
- St Vincent de Paul
- Bayswater Police Station
- Bayswater Anglican
- Salvation Army, Morley
- City staff.





City of **Bayswater**

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