

Local Government Homelessness Knowledge Hub Case Study



Submitted by **City of Perth**
Case Study **Safe Night Space for Men**

Background

As part of the needs assessment through the development of the Rough Sleeper Plan, there was a gap in inner-city emergency shelter for men. The City of Perth, in partnership with St Bart's was able to initiate a trial of the Citiplace Safe Night Space for Men to meet this need.

The project was funded by the City of Perth, as part of its Rough Sleeper Plan as committed to in the Perth City Deal.

Goals/objectives

The City recognises homelessness and rough sleeping has become critical in inner city spaces with limited accommodation options available. Whilst awaiting the development of the Boorloo Bidee Mia and the East Perth Common Ground facility, the City provided a short-term trial of inner-city emergency and crisis shelter for men.

The space created shelter for up to 15 men aged 18 years or older with seven nights a week availability and the provision of initial support to make referrals to partner services.



Lessons learned

The City of Perth expected many lessons would be learnt.

- Awareness and Engagement

Through the early operational period, the shelter experienced low numbers. Several contributory factors were identified: including lack of awareness from other service providers and clients, individual perceptions around what the space may be like, unsure of who may already be at the shelter centre and personal dynamics. It was noted some people may have pets with them which were not able to be accommodated.

- Operational Times

As the service used a shared site, the operational times were limited from 10:00pm to 6:30am. This was to allow for an hour either side to set up and return the space to daytime needs. This timeframe was considered too late to open as potential users of the Safe Night Space would typically bed down before 10:00pm. 6:30am is too early to close and posed difficulties with needing to wake people up to leave to allow for cleaning and returning site to day to operational set up.

- Shared Space & Location

The shared space presented challenges as the site was not always accommodating of some of the complex needs presenting at daytime whilst frequented by patrons, therefore this may have impacted on who would access in the evening. Space was located at Perth Train station.

- Staffing

As a trial service, there was significant difficulties with securing and retaining staff. This challenge is experienced across the sector as an ongoing difficulty to efficient operations.

Outcomes

Throughout the two-month Citiplace trial the following outcomes were achieved:

Estimated number of individuals assisted:		65
Estimated number of instances of support provided:	341	
By Name list consent completed:		22
Referrals to St Barts transitional accommodation:		10
Referrals to other transitional support services:	6	
Referred to Step-Up Step-Down:		1
Referred to housing first outreach support:		2

