



Chief Allied Health Office homeless health action plan 2022-2025

Progress update 2022-2023



Stream 1 Equity

Equity: Coordination of contracts with **Homeless Healthcare** and two **Street Doctor** programs; **1,499 mobile GP clinics** and **14,711 consultations provided**. **360 Street Doctor secured a new truck** with medical fit-out to expand service provision including a new Armadale clinic. The new truck has the very latest technology and has **improved accessibility** for clients who need mobility assistance.

The Home2Health Research Team completed evaluation of **discretionary brokerage funds** provided to hospital social workers which supported **safer discharges** and health access: 207 patients experiencing homelessness supported; 85% of expenditure spent on short-term accommodation; 57% of individuals had **fewer emergency department presentations**.



Stream 2 Integration

Integration: Health Innovation Fund - Completed research to identify key components of **integrated primary healthcare** service models. 27 interviews completed with service providers and people with a lived experience of homelessness. Twelve key components identified including five theories on how and why integration works: **client self-efficacy**; **client self-determination**; **staff self-efficacy** to deliver adequate care; **organisational culture**; and **individual and systemic trust** between staff, clients, organisations, and sectors. Commenced an **evaluation trial** of key components of integrated service delivery models in 2023-2024.



Stream 3 Engagement

Engagement: Department of Health **representation on relevant working groups and forums** including with Department of Communities Office of Homelessness; and Common Ground; Mental Health Commission; Australian and Western Australian Alliances to End Homelessness (A3HN, WAAEH); WA Primary Health Alliance. Convene the interagency Department of Health Homelessness Advisory Committee to inform **coordinated healthcare responses** for people experiencing homelessness.



Stream 4 Information

Information: Engaged Deloitte and the Centre for Social Impact UWA (CSI UWA) to **clarify homelessness definitions in WA Health**, and review trends in hospital use. A WA Health **standardised definition** based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics was proposed as part of the 2016 Clinical Senate of WA recommendations. Deloitte and CSI UWA identified barriers to operationalising a standard definition including: inconsistent implementation within patient administration systems; and limited training and education to health staff on homelessness. Work continues to **gather information about homelessness definitions for use within healthcare**.



Stream 5 Workforce development

Workforce development: Scoping existing **workforce training modules** on homelessness (e.g. trauma-informed care, strengths-based, person-centred to meet diverse needs) in partnership with the Curtin University Allied Health Honours program. Fourth-year occupational therapy students are conducting a **systematic scope of national and international literature** to identify content around homelessness for health professionals.