Local Government Community of Practice:
Housing and Homelessness

7-8 August 2023

Melbourne Town Hall

Contents

Introduction

As the closest level of government to the community, Australia's 537 city, regional and rural councils have an important role to play in ending our country's homelessness crisis. But to date, only a few have the resources, knowledge, systems, or the finances to make a real difference.

This is because Australia's Commonwealth, State and Territory governments have held most of the policy and financial levers, leaving local government out of the picture. However, as costs of living rise and housing pressures increase, more communities are turning to their local councils to take action.

During Homelessness Week 2023, the Council of Capital City Lord Mayors (CCCLM) and Local Government Professionals (LG Pro) hosted an inaugural national event - Local Government Community of Practice: Housing and Homelessness.

With more than 120 participants from over 40 Councils and 15 allied associations gathering at Melbourne Town Hall on August 7-8, this was the first time that Australian local government practitioners, from capital cities, urban, regional and rural locations had come together at an event to share knowledge, information and best practice about housing and homelessness responses.

Focusing on the unique experience of local government, the event provided an opportunity for leaders and practitioners working across diverse roles to present, share their experiences and knowledge and plan for future action.

Through presentations, panel discussions, sharing best practice case studies and participating in group activities, participants planned for a future where local government takes a seat at the national table in homelessness and housing responses. Participants considered what action

councils can take in in their own areas as well as how, as a group, the sector can participate and influence state and national policy and practice.

Importantly, this event took a vital first step towards establishing a national community of practice, focused on the unique role that local government can play to end homelessness in Australia.

Workshop format

The Local Government Community of Practice: Housing and Homelessness event ran over two days. See the full agenda in the Appendix section.

Day one: Setting the scene

1. Introductions – Welcome to country and a lived experience perspective
2. Framing the issue and panel discussion
3. Panel One: Homelessness – where are the failures?
4. Panel Two: Economic impacts and affordability
5. Panel Three: Meeting the housing need

Day two: Practice and policy

1. Introduction to the day
2. Lessons from overseas: Churchill Fellowship presentations
3. Australian case studies
4. Workshops - Homelessness and Housing
5. Building a national community of practice
6. Contributing to a national housing and homelessness plan

This report

This highlights report summarises key points covered through the two-day event.

It is not a full transcript of the presentations and discussions, but rather highlights themes and ideas which may form the basis for future work.

Five key points

- Recognise that local government has valuable local insights, data and connections with community that Federal and State/Territory governments can draw upon to shape housing and homelessness policy and practice.

- Explore and embed local government's specific role in homelessness prevention.

- Prioritise social and affordable housing as essential infrastructure

- Introduce mandatory inclusionary zoning to enable ongoing sustainable funding streams and equitable cost sharing.

- Establish a clear mandate for state and federal governments to deliver ongoing funding streams for local government in their homelessness and housing response.
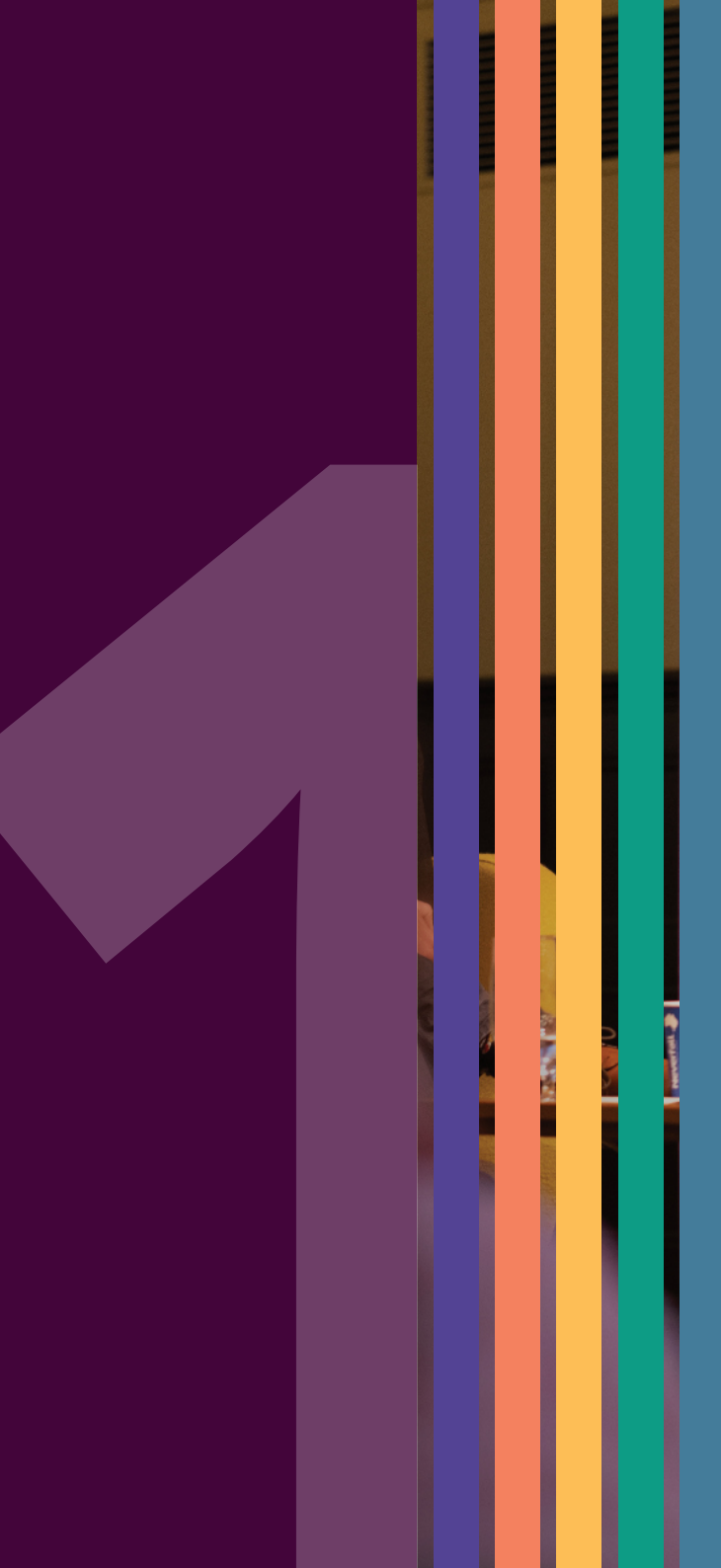
Day 1: Setting the scene

Elder Tony Garvey, Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation

Welcome to Country

We as the owners of the lands offer our hearty welcome to the land and hope together as citizens of this beautiful country, we can build, develop and unite strong connections for all peoples.

Jody Letts, Council to Homeless Persons

Lived experience perspective

I represented Australia in the Army, and I came home broken with both medical and physical injuries that took over my life and forced me to live in a vehicle. I was lucky enough to be selected to work in the Council to Homeless Persons' Peer Education Support Programme.

We are conversation starters ... We have invaluable insights... We want to shape your experience and we want to make your understanding of what the experience is like very real.

Please feel welcome to ask us to come along and have a conversation.

CCCLM – Alison Leighton, City of Melbourne

Welcome and introduction

- This gathering marks the first nationwide event for local government practitioners across urban and rural areas addressing housing and homelessness.

"Our community expects us to act. We have an explicit moral, ethical and leadership responsibility to create a city where every person has a home. We must break the cycle of homelessness and we cannot do it alone."

Alison Leighton, City of Melbourne

- Housing and homelessness are key priorities for the City of Melbourne and CCCLM, representing a critical challenge.
- Everyone has a role to play in tackling these issues. All levels of government, the private sector, the property and development sectors, community and housing organisations and the broader community.
- That's what this event is all about. It's about bringing together subject matter experts to share learnings, challenges, successes and to generate optimism and energy about what can be done and about what we can achieve.

Liana Thompson – LG Pro

- When we look at the housing crisis from the LG Pro perspective, we see a multifaceted problem that affects all of our roles in serving our community. We see an issue that permeates every division of our organisations, from planning to community services.
- For LG Pro, the question is how can we support you as you support your community? A key part of this connection mission is providing opportunity for those in our sector to meet and learn from each other.
- A key part of our engagement goal is to link up with organisations that positively impact our sector and provide real opportunities for our people to learn and better themselves. This event with the CCCLM is the perfect synergy of these two ideals, and LG Pro is proud to be part of it

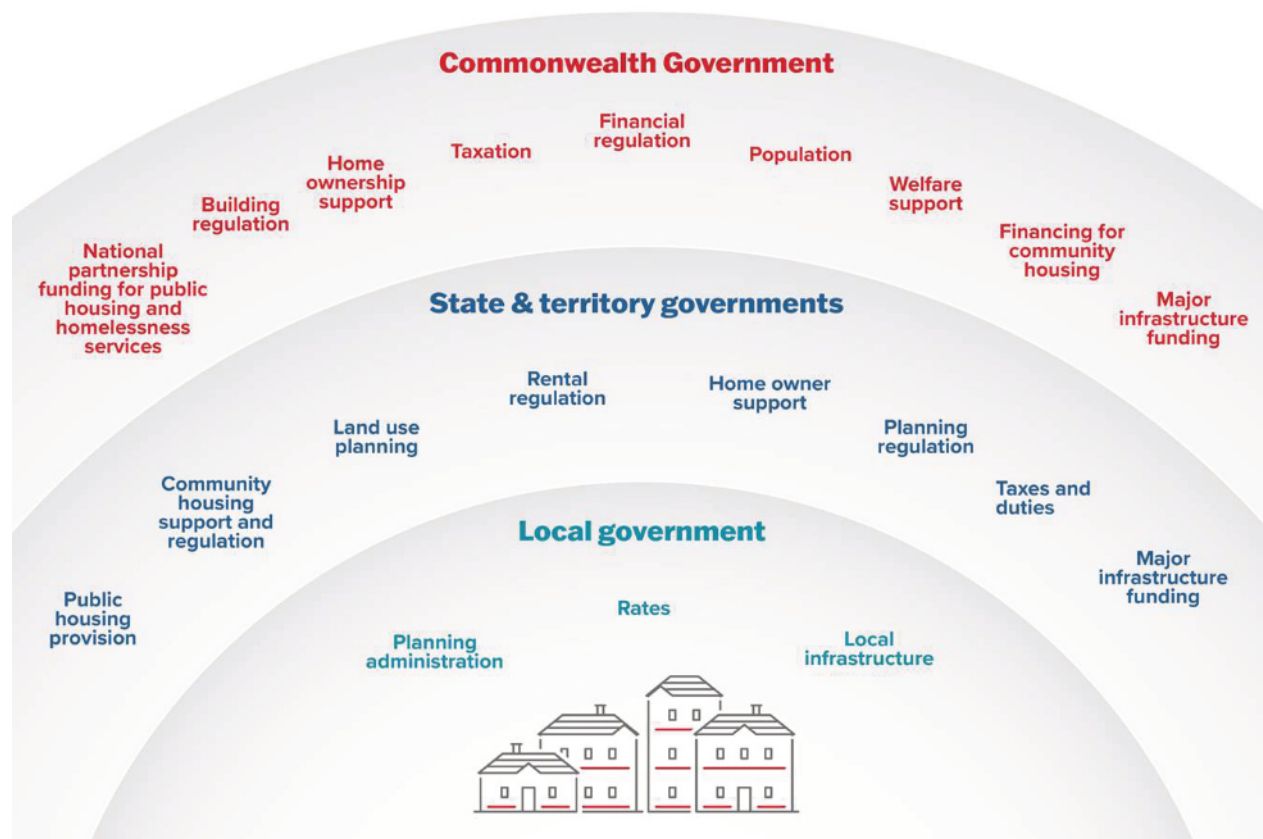**Michael Fotheringham – AHURI**

National Housing and Homelessness Landscape

- Diagram opposite explains the roles and responsibilities of three tiers of government.
- Presented as a national picture, there is not a lot listed under local government.
- There is a general movement towards greater involvement of local governments, and I look forward in a couple of years' time to updating this diagram.

Commonwealth Government

- Financial regulation
- Taxation
- Population
- Home ownership support
- Welfare support
- Building regulation
- Financing for community housing
- National partnership funding for public housing and homelessness services
- Major infrastructure funding

State & territory governments

- Rental regulation
- Home owner support
- Land use planning
- Planning regulation
- Community housing support and regulation
- Taxes and duties
- Public housing provision
- Major infrastructure funding

Local government

- Rates
- Planning administration
- Local infrastructure

National housing policy highlights:

- **National Housing Accord** addresses housing supply challenges for improved affordability, enabling social and affordable housing.
- A 10-year **National Housing and Homelessness Plan** sets a shared vision for Australia's future housing policies.
- **Social Housing Accelerator** provides rapid funding of $2 billion for new social housing, aiming to bridge funding until Housing Australia Future Fund (HAFF) proceeds begin to be realised.
- **Housing Australia Future Fund** package establishes a National Housing Supply and Affordability Council, a perpetual Housing Australia Future Fund, and expands National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation (NHFIC) role. **National Cabinet** reforms to strengthen renters' rights across the country to increase housing supply and affordability.

Meeting the housing need

- Giulia Baggio, ...
- Lisa Marigliano, NHFIC
- Jo Cannington, City of Melbourne (C...
- Jason Perdriau, CHIA (Victoria)
- Emma Greenhalgh, National Shelter
- Jaime Chubb, Centre Against Violence

Panel

Panel 1: Homelessness – what are the failures?

Panelists

- Chair: Barney Wilson, City of Melbourne
- Deborah Di Natale, Council to Homeless Persons
- Jon Swain, City of Sydney
- Bevan Warner, Launch Housing
- Professor Alison Young, University of Melbourne

Professor Alison Young, Melbourne University

- The word "homeless" carries negative connotations due to the media's blame-focused portrayal. Consider using "unhoused" or "houseless" for a more respectful description.
- Instead of "begging" say "donation seeking" to use a neutral and accurate term.
- We continue to rely on police and council officers to maintain what we might think of as public order. What is this? Is it visually pristine streets? Is it streets without traces of peoples left behind belongings? Is it streets without the bodies?

> "We have to think of real alternatives. What would be a welfare first response? What would be a response that's centred on the needs of the unhoused person rather than the sense of what public order needs?"
>
> Professor Alison Young, Melbourne University

Jon Swain, City of Sydney

- Local government is unique. Often, we are the touch point for community and residents. A lot of our internal teams will ask us to respond to a situation, but what is the point of our work if there isn't a housing pathway?
- At an interagency group meeting we noticed a growing number of individuals sleeping on the street who didn't have residency status. There was no housing pathway for them.
- We brought attention to this. Through our connections we created a peer group of people with lived experience who are non-residents. We also created a community of practice of specialist homelessness services, local government and refugee services.

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Deborah DiNatale, Council to Homeless persons

- Of all the three tiers of Government, local government is up front and centre in terms of everything that we know about place-based community.
- We're hearing a lot in the public debate around housing and absolutely the way to end homelessness is to build more homes. But we're really concerned that we don't want the debate to miss out on the fact that we need the supports to sustain those tenancies.
- We've got the opportunity in terms of the national plan. Let's try and make this not one of those usual plans that is sitting on a shelf, but actually make it worthwhile.

Bevan Warner, Launch Housing

- The average length of time that people have been in contact with our agency is 8.2 years and the average number of times they had reached out to us was 56.
- It's not that we don't know what works. We just don't seem to stick at scale.

"It's when homelessness presents in parks and on high streets and suburbs for the first time that people often go to local governments. So, we want that local government response to be a compassionate and empathetic response, not a compliance, policing and move on response."

Bevan Warner, Launch Housing

Questions

What role does housing play and how important is it to get the language right?

Deborah:
It has dawned on me how much we haven't brought the community along with us…What we need to do is continue with the language that things are not equal for everyone.

John:
At the end of the day at its purest form know a person's name. Using a person's name changes the dynamic.

There 537 councils across Australia. What is required so that regional and rural councils can better resource the community?

Bevan:
It would be lovely to have our three levels of government playing their roles and working in symphony… Bottom up is best. We need to find a way to engage local government without people thinking they are going outside of their role because it's not rates, roads and rubbish… We have to break that stereotype.

Panel

Panel 2: Economic impacts and affordability

Panelists

- Chair: Ilia Houridis, City of Adelaide
- Marcus Spiller, SGS Consulting
- Giulia Baggio, G21
- Lisa Marigliano, National Housing Finance & Investment Corporation (NHFIC)

Ilia Houridis

- Traditionally local government was thought of as the partner in the supply piece, perhaps the land provider and let others do the delivery, but we are so many other things.
- We are advocates, enablers, investors, increasingly we are agents of delivery, and we are visionaries. We know our places well and we curate those places.

Marcus Spiller

- The cost of providing social and affordable housing isn't actually the build cost. It is the supply cost, which involves bridging the gap between an affordable rent and the market rent. The total cost of meeting that need would be $55 billion.
- Investment in housing brings benefits back to the community, like reduced social expenditures and improved health outcomes, similar to major infrastructure projects.

> **"I**f we think of social and affordable housing as infrastructure, like most urban infrastructure or Community infrastructure, it is a shared responsibility. We don't expect users to pay for it. We expect it to be a cost that's split between the community."

Marcus Spiller, SGS Consulting

2

- The responsibility for funding social and affordable housing can be divided:

  - Commonwealth government covers social security
  - State governments focus on microeconomic performance
  - The development sector – those who build the cities. They also have a responsibility, but to comprehensively address the problem, universal inclusionary zoning arrangements are essential, distributing the funding burden equitably.

Guilia Baggio

- Geelong is experiencing rapid growth but struggling to keep up with housing demand.
- There is a story of great wealth in the region but underneath there is a story of great disadvantage. ... We discovered along the way that it wasn't just a social housing issue - it was an affordable and key worker housing issue.
- G21 takes a regional approach to drive investment and address housing needs, developing the Regional Social Housing Project...We advocate ferociously at state and local government levels.

Lisa Marigliano

- When passed, the HAFF will be a $10 billion future fund with expected annual returns of around $500 million to fund 30,000 new social and affordable homes in the next nine years.
- Unlike previous efforts, the HAFF is a subsidy program that bridges the gap between discounted rent and market rent to enable more housing.
- The National Housing Accord aims to add 10,000 affordable homes, supporting local governments in various ways, including planning, partnerships, and innovations.

Questions

The business case is strong. Why have governments ignored this infrastructure?

Marcus:
The prevailing view among leaders of economic thinking is that if only we can get the market to work well, we'd produce enough new housing, and the filtering effect would mean that we'd have enough housing for all. Including those with low incomes and key workers. The problem with that is that it doesn't accept that social and affordable housing is infrastructure.

Local G21 Councils. You have taken matters into your own hands as much as you can. What are the barriers that can be removed to speed things up?

Giulia:
Tax. Negative gearing, capital gains discounts. Look at land tax, streamlining. Everything needs to be on the table for one big discussion. Address the reality on the ground.

How can local government participate in the HAFF?

Lisa:
Local Government can leverage its strengths through land holdings, planning controls, development approvals strategic policies, community connections and strategic relationships with federal and state governments. Obviously taking an enabling approach is going to be really important.

> "Local government can transfer or lease their surplus land on a peppercorn to community housing providers so they can deliver affordable housing. That enables housing because community housing providers can leverage a lot of the funding. They just need the land. "

Lisa Marigliano, National Housing Finance & Investment Corporation (NHFIC)

Panel 3: Meeting the housing need

Panelists

- Chair: Jo Cannington, City of Melbourne
- Emma Greenhalgh, National Shelter
- Jason Perdriau, Community Housing Industry Association
- Jaime Chubb, Centre Against Violence

Jo Cannington

- I think we can get really overwhelmed with this problem and working out how to tackle the crisis, because we're so behind.

> "We're not just tackling the crisis of today, we're tackling the crisis of yesterday, the year before that, the decades before that. So, we're constantly backfilling these issues and trying to understand it."

Jo Cannington, City of Melbourne

Jason Perdiau

- Australia has around 150 diverse Community Housing organisations.
- Local government can partner with these organisations to address housing needs in specific areas, with various scales and with specialised communities.
- Land is a crucial asset for partnerships, with gifted, leased, or discounted land being valuable for unlocking Community Housing.
- Other partnership opportunities also exist. An example involves utilising air rights above council car parks for housing, providing low-cost, underutilised space without sacrificing amenities.

3

Emma Greenhalgh

- Councils can have very different responses in addressing housing and homelessness – taking a leadership role or remaining limited by what is perceived to be local government's role
- Four steps to start addressing housing and homelessness:

    1. Review current council approaches to housing and homelessness
    2. Develop a council policy
    3. Conduct a housing needs assessment, including homelessness
    4. Develop a housing and homelessness strategy

- The role of the federal government in addressing these issues is crucial.

> **"H**aving a committed mayor can drive a cultural change within the organisation and community."

Emma Greenhalgh, National Shelter

Considerations in local government

The political realm

- What is the view in your local government of responses to housing and homelessness?
- What are the expectations of local government?
- Is there a consistent view across the council? Are there differing voices?
- Budget capacity?

Regulatory and legislative requirements

- What are your regulatory and legislative requirements?
- Local laws, rates, infrastructure changes, planning, community development.
- Flexibility or rigidity?

Community values and expectations

- What are the expectations in your community about how your local government responds to housing and homelessness?
- Are there many 'loud' voices?
- Does your community have a clear understanding about how your local government responds to housing and homelessness issues?

Jaime Chubb, Centre Against Violence

- Alarming statistics show high rates of violence, with one in 4 women and one in 13 men experiencing violence in Australia.
- Family violence is a major cause of homelessness, making up 41% of those seeking specialist homelessness services.
- Limited safe accommodation results in people returning to unsafe situations, despite the risks.
- The rise of tourism-driven short stay housing reduces available housing, impacting crisis and long-term accommodation options, particularly in areas with increased tourism.

Questions

What is the best role that councils can play with the not-for-profit sector?

Jaime:
"Please get to know us ... You have such a powerful voice that many of you don't actually even realise... We can help give you the collateral to be able to get your councillors to understand the impact because I know that's a really difficult part of your job."

Emma:
"Go on site, do tours. Touch, feel, talk to the tenants. It is one thing to have a meeting in a room, it's another thing to get on a bus and go and talk to providers, tenants and look at the product."

Day 2: Practice and Policy

Vijaya Vaidyanath, Homes Melbourne

Welcome and outline of the day

- Today is about what can help us and how we can take a pathway forward.
- Homes Melbourne is a special entity which is not technically part of the mainstream of the City of Melbourne, but its sole purpose is to end homelessness and increase safe, secure and affordable housing in our city.
- Homes Melbourne focuses on:

  - utilisation of council-owned land
  - advocacy and collaboration with developers
  - attracting funding and partnerships
  - identifying pathways out of homelessness.

- We recognise the importance of working closely with developers and aim to provide clarity and consistency through the planning system. The council seeks to create a partnership that benefits both developers and the community.
- Working with partners is often the toughest part of our role. We convene a group of 18 CEOs in the city, representing hospitals and major institutions, working with the police and state government, talking about what chronic homelessness is and how we can have pathways out.

“I urge upon all of you to go back to your CEOs and look at how you actually put homelessness and affordable housing on top of your agenda.”

Vijaya Vaidyanath, Homes Melbourne

Leanne Mitchell, Brimbank City Council | Churchill Fellow

Lessons from overseas

“State and federal governments hold the money and the mandate to respond to homelessness, but they overlook the unique potential of local councils to intervene early, “respond nimbly, and capitalise on community connections.

Leanne Mitchell, Brimbank City Council | Churchill Fellow

Often when crisis hits, councils don't know what they can do, but there are four key areas where they can provide value when responding to homelessness:

1. KNOW your local homelessness situation – take the time to listen and learn from your community. Through contacts and collaborations local councils are well equipped to paint a picture of housing stress and homelessness in their own area. With this knowledge, councils can see the places where early intervention is possible, provide the right kinds of support and potentially stop the flow into homelessness.
   - In Manchester and London [legislative theatre](#) has allowed local government to learn first-hand from community and partners

2. LEAD the narrative and drive collaboration - nurture community alliances – step back and let the community lead. An empowered council can involve all parts of a community and government in efforts and communicate and educate to break stereotypes and change attitudes about homelessness.
   - Leicester's homelessness charter is community driven. It includes a signed commitment from multiple partners and residents

3. ORGANISE your approach and your workforce - rethink and realign budgets. Tight budgets may become the fundamental barrier to a council taking action on homelessness. Think creatively about where in your organisation you assign funds and ultimately, responsibility.
   - In Haringey and Glasgow, councils are working on collaborative budgeting tactics both within their organisations and with community partners.

4. ACT to prevent and end homelessness - partner with the non-experts – value their connections into the community. Librarians and social workers in libraries – and people working in parks, on street cleaning, maternal and child health are key response partners in homelessness response.
   - At the [Baltimore library](#) a drug and alcohol lived experience program increases engagement with the local community – and creates local job opportunities.

Churchill Fellowship report:
https://www.churchilltrust.com.au/fellow/leanne-mitchell-vic-2019/

Five big steps for local government

1. Make homelessness everyone's business.
2. Focus on homelessness beyond rough sleeping.
3. Know what you can do to prevent homelessness.
4. Educate and change the public narrative.
5. Take your seat at the table.

Jennifer Kulas, Housing Choices Australia | Churchill Fellow

All cities are facing immediate and growing challenges when it comes to housing affordability.

> "Cities are becoming the engine rooms for change. Some of the most innovative and effective measures are being introduced and enacted by municipal governments."

Jennifer Kulas, Housing Choices Australia | Churchill Fellow

Vienna:

Vienna has become synonymous with affordable housing internationally, often hailed as having cracked the code on the elusive question of how exactly to battle diminishing housing affordability.

- For over 100 years the city has consistently invested in affordable housing.

- Historically, the city directly delivered public housing. Today, the majority of affordable housing is delivered by Limited Profit Housing Associations (LPHAs), in many ways a close equivalent to Australia's Registered Housing Agencies or CHPs.
- LPHAs receive subsidies, land access, planning support, and tax concessions for long-term affordable housing. Today, roughly 40% of the city's housing stock is affordable housing.
- Affordable housing subsidies are funded through a federal income tax. All employers and employees pay a 0.5% levy on income which is collected by the Federal Government and distributed to the states to spend as they see fit.

Barcelona:

- Barcelona has very little affordable housing stock - even less than Australia.
- However, despite this context, the city has managed to almost double the amount of affordable housing in just eight years, delivering almost 6000 homes.
- It all started with a good plan – the Barcelona Right to Housing Plan 2016-2025 and a key proponent, Mayor Ada Colau.
- The plan puts a human rights approach front and centre and clearly outlines the role government plays in addressing the growing need for affordable housing, adopting a market shaping approach.

What we can learn from Vienna and Barcelona

- Vienna and Barcelona demonstrate ground-up approaches, demonstrating that national leadership is not absolutely necessary.
- Both take a human rights-based approach
- Both move toward market shaping. Acknowledging that there is a role for government

Churchill Fellowship report: https://www.churchilltrust.com.au/vic/fellow/jennifer-kulas-vic-2020/

PJ Humphreys – Sunshine Coast Regional Council

Case study 1: Community peer education program

The Sunshine Coast is one of Australia's fastest-growing local government areas, with the population of around 365,000 people growing at around 8000 annually.

In line with this, homelessness has also been on the rise - the area saw a 54 per cent increase between the 2016 and 2020 census – and, given rising living costs, this trend is likely to continue.

An increase in the visibility of people sleeping rough, has seen more complaints to the council, especially from an older and more conservative demographic, many of whom are not in favour of greater density.

In response to the situation, in 2020 and 2021, the Sunshine Coast mayor initiated a storytelling project, focused on
raising awareness and involving people with lived experience in addressing local issues.

"I came in after that," said Community Development Officer, PJ Humphreys, "and I was new to local government, so I just listened".

> ❝**W**hat I heard was that we really needed to raise awareness within the community and hear from people with a lived experience to share the impact and the different types of homelessness that was occurring".

PJ Humphreys – Sunshine Coast Regional Council

Attending a homelessness conference, PJ learned about the Council to Homelessness Persons peer education support program.

"I was like, OK, this is a ground up approach. I'm a community development worker. How can we do something like this on the Sunshine Coast?"

"We started having lots of conversations, sharing the idea, testing, co-designing. We also consulted with people who had a lived experience of homelessness and really
modelled it on what the Council to Homeless Persons do.

"The program started with six people and now we have four. It doesn't sound like a lot, but for a pilot it's a manageable amount and to create a safe trusting environment and equalise power, we held training sessions not on Council sites, but in at various neighbourhood centres".

Lived experience workers now partner with PJ in her work across council's various departments, helping colleagues to learn more and consider the perspectives of people who have experienced homelessness when they plan and deliver their work.

Neighbouring councils have also booked the lived experience experts to come and share their stories as part of their homelessness awareness training.

"It's a humanising project at its core", PJ says. "It creates a sense of purpose and belonging. People stand tall. It's also humanising council, which is something that I didn't really anticipate when I started this.

"The community also realises how much more Council is doing in this space."

Kimbra Parker, City of Hobart

Case study 2: Housing with Dignity

In late 2018, homelessness became very visible in Hobart. It seemed for the first time that people were suddenly seen sleeping rough in public spaces.

"The local community responded," said City of Hobart's Manager of Community Programs, Kimbra Parker. "They were seeking action from government at all levels. Some of that was from a negative point of view and some was positive."

"Our elected Members called for action and in February 2019, resolved to establish a group to bring the voice of lived experience into the discussion."

Hobart Council established the Housing with Dignity Reference Group to provide the chance to hear from people with a lived experience of homelessness or severe housing stress.

Members of the group self-select, with roughly six to 12 in the group at any one time. Two elected council members participate, and the community co-chair is the designated spokesperson.

"It's really important that they're the ones that are the voice," Kimbra says.

"With a shared understanding, the group use their experience to engage more authentically. It's a powerful mechanism for these often-ignored voices to be heard and it provides an opportunity to advocate and lobby for improved housing and support."

The group meets bi-monthly, or more regularly when they are planning events. Their roles include reviewing strategies and plans and being a voice in the decisions made by Council that involve homelessness. The group helps identify advocacy priorities, they participate in promotional and media opportunities, develop submissions and strategic documentation and deliver initiatives and projects.

"Our members are active and engaged, and they have delivered across many areas," Kimbra said.

Initiatives have included.

1. **Health With Dignity** - initiated by one of the group members, the project aims to meet an ongoing struggle for many to access a GP in Tasmania that bulk bills. A $15,000 initiative grant from the Hobart Airport was matched by the City of Hobart, supporting a partnership with the Salvation Army and a local GP practice to provide free visits. The reference group is currently undertaking fundraising activities, to keep the much-needed program running.

2. **Street to Stage** is a fundraising activity initiated by the group that also celebrates the creative talents of the community. Held at a local Hobart bar, anyone with experience of homelessness or severe housing stress who makes music was able to participate. It was free to perform. There were no auditions. The event was open to musicians of all kinds and also offered an opportunity to win prizes including a free recording session.

3. **I Am Somebody** is a project that explores the human side of homelessness and offers an insight into the diversity of people who have experienced homelessness, breaks down barriers and reduces stigma. Over the past four years, 16 short podcasts have been developed, exploring the lives and stories of people experiencing homelessness and sending a very clear message - that systems are letting people down.

> "I can say that I've never seen art making have a negative influence on someone's life. It is a really good way to share something is positive,"

Kimbra Parker, City of Hobart

Visit: https://www.hobartcity.com.au/Community/Action-on-homelessness/I-Am-Somebody

Alicia Hooper, Surf Coast Shire

Case study 3: Increasing affordable housing supply

Like many regional and coastal areas around the country, Surf Coast Shire, has seen a huge growth in population between the 2016 and 2021 censuses. The 4.7 per cent spike is more than double the average in Victoria.

Surf Coast Shire's Strategic Initiatives Coordinator, Alicia Hooper says the 'great' COVID era migration had a lot to do with the growth. "We also saw a key worker shortage – and a lot of businesses had to close because they couldn't get workers," she said.

During this time, property prices increased by an average of 50 per cent and medium rents rose significantly, up by 33 per percent. A collapse of the rental market was probably aided by a growing number of properties moving off the long-term market and into shorter rentals.

"There is a situation in surf coast shire where people are renting their places over summer and then putting them out for eight-to-10-month rentals. You see families with young children camping for three or four months of the year and going back into a house when school starts".

Alicia Hooper, Surf Coast Shire

Surf Coast officers worked with G21 to understand the local housing need. The work resulted in the council developing a social housing policy.

"Increased access to affordable accommodation has been identified as a council plan priority and out of that came the affordable accommodation action plan, which is essentially my work plan," Alicia said.

"We are also looking at all our existing strategic and statutory processes and trying to get affordable housing in there wherever we can. They might be on our land or leveraging third party investment. Advocacy is an important part of that as well as a lot of comms and engagement."

The Airey's Inlet Affordable Housing project involved identifying land that could be developed for social and affordable housing. A key part was getting resources together to start a conversation with the community.

"We started crowdsourcing – essentially there are a lot of semi-retired architects, builders, engineers living over there, so we thought we'd get everyone with these amazing skills involved, along with people with lived experience.

"Over a number of sessions, we built design principles and then came together with a registered housing agency to work through how it would all look on the site.

The planning is paying off. And we have even created a little byline for our community – "social and affordable housing is vital social infrastructure and a part of whole communities".

Deb Stafford & Ianna Murray, Byron Shire Council

Case study 4: Climate justice and homelessness

Following a series of back-to-back natural disasters and with the highest homelessness rates in the state, Byron Shire in northern New South Wales has found itself at the forefront in managing climate change, emergency response and homelessness.

Byron Shire is one of the least affordable places to live in Australia. The median house price in Byron Bay is $2.3 million and the area sees a whopping 4.5 million visitor nights per year.

At the same time, more than 50 percent of residents experience housing stress. "There are virtually no housing pathways. No temporary accommodation options. No crisis accommodation facilities," said the Council's rough sleeping project officer, Ianna Murray.

In 2022 around 8000 homes in the Northern Rivers region were impacted by floods and more than 10,000 people were displaced. With limited services and capacity through the State Government, the local council stepped in.

"Homelessness and climate change are deeply entwined," said Byron Shire Council's Manager of Social and Cultural Planning, Deb Stafford.

"Climate change is increasing homelessness through impacts to housing and local communities. And climate change is increasing the impact of the experience of homelessness on individual health, wellbeing, and the ability to access support".

In response, the council has taken a climate justice approach to ensure varying needs in the community are met.

"When we talk about Climate Justice we talk about ensuring that the burden and impacts of climate change are not disproportionately experienced by some groups in our community," said Deb.

"Byron is highly vulnerable to climate impacts and sadly, for our small sector that means staff burnout – the cumulative impact of back-to-back disasters."

"We have 1300 people in our region still living in emergency and temporary accommodation with no exit pathways, and increased stress and desperation for both service providers and service users."

"Extreme weather events have a real impact on our team on the ground. In the wake of the devastating 2022 floods, our small team who delivers our homelessness response, was also the Council lead for disaster recovery."

The team has demonstrated how they can integrate homelessness considerations with other areas of council responsibility, including emergency response and recovery. Their preparedness work with services and people sleeping rough positioned them to respond. The team resourced extreme weather shelter responses and ran the Shire's Recovery Centre for a number of months, introducing trauma informed practice. They coordinated outreach services and collected data.

"The current thinking remains narrow in terms of acknowledging climate impacts' intersection with homelessness. But for people who are working on the same portfolios due to their role in Council, and for people sleeping rough, it just makes sense."

"Of course, we aren't resourced adequately or sustainably, despite the fact that local government is both well-placed and looked to by community to partner in these spaces.

"But when state or federal systems fail and break, we're there, quite literally."

Workshops: Homelessness

Participants on day two had a choice to join workshops focusing on key opportunities and challenges faced by local government in either the housing or homelessness space.

With small round table discussions hosted by sector colleagues, the workshops offered participants opportunities to consider individual responses, discuss experiences and establish new connections for future impact.

Responding to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander homelessness

Recognising the disparities and delivering culturally safe responses

Why should local government be involved?

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are disproportionately over-represented in homelessness data in communities across Australia
- Be in the position to foster partnerships
- Can listen to community and respond to gaps
- Facilitate engagement and collaboration
- Ability to influence employment

What can we do?

✓ Develop an Aboriginal homelessness policy/strategy.

✓ Recruit identified positions - within council e.g., service coordinators. Establishes trust. Reduce cultural load on existing staff (often single).

✓ Build capacity internally and with partners through cultural guidelines and training.

✓ Lead engagement with First Nations communities - facilitate yarns to find out what community wants/needs.

Three Key Priorities

1. Welcome and help First Nations people feel culturally safe through the design of spaces e.g., art on walls, native planting.
2. Facilitate consultation with First Nations people who have experienced homelessness to understand situation and responses.
3. Develop cultural safety guidelines to share across council.

Examples:

City of Melbourne – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander engagement within the Make Room project

Managing homelessness in crisis | Staff, safety and support

Understanding where Councils can add value - delivering service coordination, outreach, service hubs and encampment response.

Providing a safe and supportive workplace. Staffing structures, supervision, trauma management.

Why should local government be involved?

- Neutrality
- Local, on the ground knowledge. Can provide localised response.
- Impacts local community and intersects with amenity and space management.
- Touch points with other services. Can connect (but not case manage).
- Already lead emergency responses.
- Can advocate to other levels of government – councils have a political advantage over NGOs/ NFPs.

What can we do?

- ✓ Understanding the situation by capturing data.

- ✓ Providing support (e.g., Showers in libraries).

- ✓ Utilising existing council amenities for shelter.

- ✓ Qualified council staff can aid in an emergency.

- ✓ Equip community members with knowledge/skills to contact council.

Three Key Priorities

Managing crisis

1. Develop policies, procedures, protocols to manage encampments.
2. Provide support through council facilities and provide amenities for emergency shelter.
3. Equip community members with knowledge/ skills to contact council.

Staff safety

1. Establish practices and risk management to ensure staff are safe.
2. Build knowledge and skills among staff who interact with people experiencing homelessness to help ensure their safety.
3. Consider how you structure teams to enable interaction across council.

Early interventions - the power of prevention

Establishing cross-council education and engagement, utilising trigger points, social work in libraries .

Why should local government be involved?

- The depth and breadth of council's role in a community is unlike other arms of government.
- Perspective – councils see their community close up and understand challenges. Many staff, if trained properly, could contribute.
- Councils have arms into the community - run facilities and amenities and employ community navigators.
- Ability to partner and collaborate.
- Good access to data.
- Councillors can influence and guide community.

What can we do?

- Collect local data.

- Share knowledge across councils.

- Utilise connection points – like social work in libraries, child and family health services and youth services.

- Establish co-located services/ partnerships with local stakeholders to deliver preventative programs.

- Advocacy. Establish a collective response among LGAs nationally to feed back to Federal Government – including new funding streams.

- Deliberate rather than incidental work – establish a network, like Welcoming Cities.

Three Key Priorities

1. Organisation training, engagement and communications plans.
2. Shared resources and templates across councils (see Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) preventing violence against women resources).
3. Establish a collective response among LGAs nationally to feed back to Federal Government – including new funding streams.

Examples:

City of Monash – numerous training and education programs for all staff.

City of Melton – reconnect program – youth service is going to schools to provide education. Also making connections in aged, disability and community development.

City of Sydney – weekly service hubs capture rough sleepers and those at risk. Run by local services and council provides venue.

City of Melbourne – connecting with child and family services – capacity building, wellbeing, co-located services.

Cardinia Shire – Friday night meals with co-located services.

Collaboration to address safety, amenity and prevention

Establishing coordinated partnerships -- protocols, hotspots, compliance and nurturing community alliances

Why should local government be involved?

- Role in setting policy to manage spaces.
- Ability to influence and shift public perceptions.
- Can manage service coordination, involving a diversity of neighbourhood stakeholders.
- Able to initiate a combined focus of safety and amenity with health and wellbeing.

What can we do?

- ✓ Develop policy/procedure for managing pathways out of rough sleeping.
- ✓ Make amenities (like public toilets, showers) open and accessible.
- ✓ Establish community hubs – wrap around services, storage, laundry.
- ✓ Open funding streams to local organisations.
- ✓ Improving and enhancing partnerships with NFPs and services with a neighbourhood approach.

Three Key Priorities

1. Make amenities (like public toilets, showers) open and accessible.
2. Establish community hubs – wrap around services, storage, laundry.
3. Open funding streams (grants?) to local organisations.

Examples:

City of Brimbank – weekly homelessness hub through local neighbourhood house, Tin Shed.

Leading the homelessness narrative

How councils can influence community perceptions and change the story - including lived experience and good giving.

Why should local government be involved?

- Councils understand their community.
- Councils can help communities understand homelessness.
- Influential spokespersons through Mayors and Councillors.
- Draw on lived experience workers to identify needs and barriers (an ongoing dialogue is needed).

What can we do?

- Provide education to challenge myths and change perceptions.
- Create a role for people experiencing homelessness in the community.
- Coordinate good giving efforts.
- Offer lived experience induction training to educate frontline staff about homelessness.
- Provide information about local homelessness services.

Three Key Priorities

1. Provide education through council to challenge myths and change perceptions. (Engage lived experience workers to deliver and utilise local data to frame local story).
2. Develop a proactive communications approach to lead the narrative, reframe the language and take a person-centred approach.
3. Consider council's role in overseeing/ managing /coordinating spontaneous giving in the community.

Examples:

City of Melbourne - Connect Respect.

Housing - the built form response

Emergency/crisis accommodation and affordable housing for people sleeping rough .

Why should local government be involved?

- Filling a gap – lack of inner-metro area housing stock.
- Provision of housing is a social responsibility, human right.
- Ability to establish a collaborative approach with other levels of government/services.
- Offers community development and economic benefits.

What can we do?

✓ Contributing council assets and vacant land, peppercorn lease.

✓ Sharing learnings, models of housing projects – successes and lessons learned.

✓ Information sharing between councils. Sharing ideas, practice, ways of working with broader community.

✓ Keeping the state accountable.

Three Key Priorities

1. Undertake demonstration project/models that can be replicated in other LGAs.
2. Identify suitable land in your municipality (council owned or other).
3. Advocate to State to fund/support housing need in local area.

Examples:

City of Melbourne Make Room Project

Supply, demand Monitoring progress

Understanding the need for affordable housing, what currently exists and how to monitor the delivery of affordable housing over time.

Why should local government be involved?

- Local Government best knows its local community so should be included in development of monitoring systems/platforms to ensure it represents local need.
- Local Government is best placed to monitor local conditions and should be empowered with resources/ tools.
- Opportunity to collaborate. Councils are currently using a variety of sources and methodologies to determine need - at great cost to each individual council.

What can we do?

✓ Create a "one stop shop" for good practice resources and tools (e.g. supply methodologies, data sources) that support councils in this complex space.

✓ Pooling local government resources for housing information (such as .id Consulting's Housing Monitor) could potentially deliver a better deal and improved product.

Three Key Priorities

1. Pool resources for more comprehensive and cost-efficient data platforms.
2. Establish a research hub for officers to have ready access to data/ resources/ methodologies in one place.
3. Advocate to state to provide preferred supply/ demand methodologies and co-design local targets.
4.

Planning: diversity, agreements and case studies

Achieving quality affordable housing outcomes through the planning permit process.

Why should local government be involved?

- Ability to manage advocacy and voluntary negotiation.
- Opportunity to clarify the levers (including planning policy, council land holdings) available to councils to influence affordable housing outcomes.

What can we do?

- ✓ Inclusionary zoning with same DA process of Community Housing Providers.

- ✓ Affordable housing EOI. Put an EOI out to seek interest from the market to deliver on a series of targets. Rather than just putting council land up for a small number of outcomes.

- ✓ Understand the financial model that impacts planning.

- ✓ Advocacy/training – how to engage in voluntary negotiations.

Three Key Priorities

1. Clarify what levers are available for councils to influence affordable housing outcomes.
2. Establish statewide affordable housing positions/targets embedded within state development regulations (one state-wide approach ensures clarity and mitigates potential confusion across council boundaries).
3. Work to build better understanding between councils and developers in building financial models that developers use to meet affordable housing obligations.

Examples:

Sydney has had inclusionary zoning since 1996.

Victoria – Big Housing Build Funding Program.

Financial and funding modelling

Delivering housing with innovative models that leverage limited funding opportunities.

Why should local government be involved?

- Land is a significant cost in the development of social and affordable housing. Registered Housing Agencies (RHAs) and Community Housing Orgs are directly competitive with private developers. There needs to be a way to quarantine land for the development of social and affordable housing.
- Local government can use local knowledge and connections to identify and undertake preliminary analysis on Council-owned or suitable third-party land. This includes engaging the community on the social and economic benefits of social and affordable housing.

What can we do?

- Establish housing targets (metro and regional) and align policy, funding (i.e., minimum investment guarantees) and processes to achieve them.

- Pilot a body involving a number of councils and other relevant organisations, i.e., regional business associations, that can legally hold funds and land and work with a range of partners including community housing to build and manage social and affordable housing.

- Where much of the low hanging fruit of council land suitable for the development of social and affordable housing has been explored, this body could facilitate investigating use of air rights, third party land, etc. to bring more housing online.

- Support local government to commit to contributing land for the development of social and affordable housing. (i.e., in policy and/or in their planning scheme define who needs the housing, where they want the housing and what type of housing they want to encourage).

- Save social and affordable housing developers time and money by streamlining systems and processes to approve planning applications.

Three Key Priorities

1. Align objectives for the delivery of social and affordable housing across three tiers of government which translates to consistent policy and less uncertainty, inefficiency, competition and duplication.
2. Advocate for funding models and financing to build equity into project selection criteria, i.e., make allowances for additional costs and lower yields for housing in rural and regional areas. Also consider leasehold projects.
3. Establish a mechanism for the broad-based collection of funds that can contribute to the development of social and affordable housing, e.g. Mandatory Inclusionary Zoning.

Key worker Housing

Ensuring key workers can live and work in the communities they serve.

Why should local government be involved?

- Individual councils need to be involved because key worker cohorts vary across local government areas and responses must be adapted to local circumstances.
- Local government areas are at risk of losing services in areas if the cost of housing is too high. Local councils have a role to play in negotiating affordable agreements through the planning process.

What can we do?

- ✓ Create an agreed definition regarding who key workers (by region? By LGA?) are and identify what their needs would be.
- ✓ Develop local area actions plans (like Homes Victoria compact).
- ✓ Work with employers to ensure needs are met.

Three Key Priorities

1. Agree on a definition of "key worker housing".
2. Advocate for State and business sector buy-in funding the delivery of affordable housing, with clear social and economic impact statement.
3. Mandatory inclusionary zoning in strategic planning process to help increase affordable housing stock.

Vacant homes and Short-term holiday accommodation

Utilising existing housing to increase the number of long-term rental homes.

Why should local government be involved?

- There are opportunities to address housing supply through regulation of short-term rental accommodation.

What can we do?

- Undertake local audit to help understand the situation (e.g. Is there any demographic particularly impacted).

- Cap number of short-term rental days. (Byron Bay – cap to 180 days/year).

- Introduce different rates for under-utilised properties (e.g. Hobart). Impacts short stay rentals, houses that are underutilised, illegal boarding houses.

- Incentives to re-fit under-utilised properties for accommodation (e.g. English model – funds are released to Local Government to refit properties.

- Introduce schemes for shared homes (addressing under-utilised properties, unregulated backpackers).

Three Key Priorities

1. Collect the data – how do we know? And undertake gap analysis.
2. Work in partnership with other LGAs to plan on how to regulate short term accommodation / advocate to the planning minister together / to collect data and commission research.
3. Introduce short stay rental tax/levy – different rate for underutilised properties.

Examples:

Byron Bay currently has a short stay rental cap of 180 days in a one-year period. A reduction to 60 days cap is due to come into place in 2024, pending approval from the State Government.

Engaging Communities

Up-skilling communities and finding community champions for affordable housing projects.

Why should local government be involved?

- Provide leadership.
- Champion diversity.
- To represent residents, particularly those without a voice.
- Reduce barriers and increase inclusion.
- Utilise council's reach into the community.
- Shift NIMBY (not in my backyard) attitudes.

What can we do?

- Education – internal. Inform council and address the many different priorities and strategies within council.

- Education – external. Break down stigma. Create and lead conversations to help change attitudes and increase desirability of affordable housing.

- Increase diversity and inclusion within a community.

- Foster community champions to educate and help reduce stigma.

- Utilise lived experience to inform understanding but be aware that each person's experience is different.

Three Key Priorities

1. Education within council re: how to contribute better and align strategic work.
2. Educate community about social and affordable housing to reduce stigma.
3. Welcome and include everyone.

Examples:

CHIA Victoria has excellent resources about affordable housing.

Common Cause campaign to improve community support for social housing.

Southeast metro councils of Melbourne – housing charter.

Creating a community of practice

Groups considered how the sector might work together in future, though a community of practice.

i. What might a community of practice look like?

Structure

- Use the architecture of an existing forum – e.g. LG Pro has 35 professional groups. Explore possibility of using their platform.
- Secretariat support - Regular facilitated engagement – led by dedicated resource.
- Find our niche, link with existing forums and build on what already exists – don't duplicate existing networks (including Victorian Southeastern alliance, South East Queensland, Australian Alliance to End Homelessness, M9, Municipal Association of Victoria, LG Professionals).

How it will run

- Face to face opportunities to connect / workshop.
- Online connection.
- City/suburb/regional focus (different sub-groups).
- Informal/ non-hierarchical.
- Don't become burdensome e.g., too much admin, reporting, talking not doing.

ii. What do you want from a community of practice?

Focus

- A safe space to share ideas.
- A connection point between councils/ networking.
- Shared vision, goals, objectives.
- Focus groups for specific areas of interest.
- New ideas/ creative thinking/innovation.

Outputs

- Joint advocacy on sector interests/issues - be a voice of change together.
- Establish joint understanding of Councils' role in homelessness/housing response

- Joint advocacy for Federal and/or State/ Territory funding.
- Collective response (where possible), with a consistent National approach.

Information sharing/Skill development

- Best practice sharing - Project / topic focused (purpose and outcomes), methodologies.
- Like minded councils working together. Learn from each other.
- Clearing house for relevant research and data (like an online hub).
- Mechanism to share key documents (like SharePoint) – strategies, policies, communications plans, project outcomes, protocols.
- Project/program/service delivery collaboration – test pilot ideas.
- Problem solving – truthful reflection (not just good news).
- Best practice sharing - ways of working – evaluations, budgets/financials, staff resources (secondments, shadowing, skill building).
- Case studies.

- Ways to work across municipal/state boundaries.

Education and connection

- Networking/Relationships /Support – debrief, socialise.
- Education opportunities for councillors and senior management.
- Subject matter expert reference list.
- Build officer's skills / reduce isolation (many single officers).

iii. What can you contribute to a community of practice?

Expertise and tools of the trade

- **Resources – stats, measurement frameworks.**
- Database – names contacts, areas of interest, share projects.
- Presentations – what worked, didn't work.
- Individuals – champions, advocates.

Support to run a Community of Practice

- Secretariat support.
- Identify a way to keep group connected online (could be LinkedIn or similar).
- LGPro can host in Victoria and potentially nationally. Can make into one of their professional groups (have 35 across country). Use existing infrastructure.

iv. Who do you want to connect with?

- **Other councils (in all parts of country)**
- **Frontline organisations (homelessness and housing)**
- **State governments (for funding/ programming)**
- **Philanthropists**
- **People with lived experience**
- Community housing providers
- Peak bodies
- Federal government
- Social and affordable compact (Homes Victoria)
- Academic institutions/ key thinkers/ researchers
- Community groups

- Property developers
- Businesses
- Other council frontline workers (not homelessness workers)

Next steps - Advocacy and Policy

1. What are our top strategic priorities and actions in housing and homelessness?

Housing

- Affordable housing/ policy
- Increase local supply of social and affordable housing | Key worker housing |Indigenous housing | housing for singles
- Advocacy to change planning levers (including inclusionary zoning)
- Exploration of council land /for development and use
- Land use planning
- Diversity of housing

Homelessness

- End homelessness
- Safety and wellbeing
- Work cross-corporately
- Relationships building (including being part of a collaboration network)
- Finding funding streams
- Establishing assertive outreach – homelessness, AOD, mental health

2. What priorities should we include in national advocacy efforts?

- Set targets for social/affordable housing
- Mandatory inclusionary zoning
- Incentivise and remove barriers in planning and delivery of housing
- Tax reform – capital gains exemptions/ discounts. Negative gearing
- Funding streams to local government
- Recognising the role of local government
- Highlight cost of living /advocacy for income support
- National funding for community of practice

3. What are local government's priorities in a National Housing and Homelessness Plan?

- Clarity regarding the role local government plays
- Formalising the partnership between all three levels of government – get local government a seat at the table
- Establish long term stable funding streams
- Recognition that local government can contribute vital local knowledge (including planning policies, political context, community expectations, links to community
- Acknowledge local government's ability to engage, partner and collaborate with communities.
- Acknowledge local government's role in homelessness prevention

4. How can we better harness existing local government advocacy efforts?

- Share data
- Use CEO groups to highlight issues to federal and state government - MAV, CCCLM
- Establish working groups like CCCLM
- Collective voice – consistent collaboration and advocacy
- Shared submissions

Appendix

Meeting agenda

National Local Government Community of Practice: Housing & Homelessness | **7-8 August 2023, Melbourne Town Hall**

Day 1 schedule

Time	Session	Speaker
1.05pm – 1.15pm	Welcome to Country	Elder Tony Garvey Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corp
1.15pm – 1.30pm	Lived experience	Jody Letts
1.30pm - 1.45pm	Welcome and introduction	CCCLM – Alison Leighton, City of Melbourne LGPro – Liana Thompson, City of Wyndham
1.45pm – 2.15pm	National housing and homelessness landscape	Michael Fotheringham, Australian Housing & Urban Research Institute (AHURI)
2.30pm – 3.15pm	**Homelessness – where are the failures** Chair: Barney Wilson, City of Melbourne	Prof Alison Young Melbourne University Deborah Di Natale Council to Homeless Persons Jon Swain City of Sydney Bevan Warner Launch Housing
3.20pm – 4.05pm	**Economic impacts and affordability** Chair: Ilia Houridis, City of Adelaide	Marcus Spiller SGS Consulting Lisa Marigliano National Housing Finance & Investment Corporation (NHFIC) Giulia Baggio G21
3.20pm – 4.05pm	**Meeting the housing need** Chair: Jo Cannington, City of Melbourne	Jason Perdriau, Community Housing Industry Association (Vic) Emma Greenhalgh National Shelter Jaime Chubb Centre Against Violence
5.00pm – 5.10pm	End of day closing comments	Chris Kotur

Day 2 schedule

8.50am	Welcome and outline of day	Vijaya Vaidyanath, Homes Melbourne
1.15pm – 1.30pm	Lessons from overseas: Churchill Fellows presentations Q&A	Leanne Mitchell Jennifer Kulas
9.40am	Case studies - Community peer education program - Housing with Dignity - Increasing affordable housing supply - A collaborative approach	- PJ Humphreys, Sunshine Coast City Council - Kimbra Parker, City of Hobart - Alicia Hooper, Surf Coast Council - Deb Stafford & Ianna Murray, Byron Shire Council
10:45am	**Workshop 1 – Homelessness.** Facilitator: Barney Wilson **1. Responding to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander homelessness:** Recognising the disparities and delivering culturally safe responses **2. Managing homelessness in crisis:** Understanding where Councils can add value - delivering service coordination, outreach, service hubs and encampment response **3. Early interventions - the power of prevention:** Establishing cross-council education and engagement, utilising trigger points, social work in libraries **4. Collaboration to address safety, amenity and prevention:** Establishing coordinated partnerships -- protocols, hotspots, compliance **5. Nurturing community alliances:** Building effective alliances and knowing when to step in and when to step away **6. Leading the homelessness narrative:** How councils can influence community perceptions and change the story - including lived experience and good giving **7. Staff, safety and support:** Providing a safe and supportive workplace. Staffing structures, supervision, trauma management **8. Housing - the built form response:** Emergency/crisis accommodation and affordable housing for people sleeping rough	**Workshop 2 – Housing.** Facilitator: John Smith **1. Supply, demand Monitoring progress:** Understanding the need for affordable housing, what currently exists and how to monitor the delivery of affordable housing over time **2. Planning: diversity, agreements and case studies:** Achieving quality affordable housing outcomes through the planning permit process **3. Financial and funding modelling:** Delivering housing with innovative models that leverage limited funding opportunities **4. Key workers:** Ensuring key workers can live and work in the communities they serve **5. Disaster response:** Preparing for (and responding to) the impacts of disasters on our housing markets **6. Vacant homes and Short term holiday accommodation:** Utilising existing housing to increase the number of long-term rental homes **7. Engaging Communities:** Upskilling communities and finding community champions for affordable housing projects
1:30am	**Workshop 3:** - Building and National Community of Practice - Contributing to a National Housing and Homelessness Plan	

Speakers and facilitators

- Elder Tony Garvey, Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation
- Alison Leighton, City of Melbourne, CCCLM
- Liana Thompson, City of Wyndham, LGPro
- Michael Fotheringham, Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI)
- Professor Alison Young, Melbourne University
- Deborah DiNatale, Council to Homeless Persons
- Jon Swain, City of Sydney
- Bevan Warner, Launch Housing
- Marcus Spiller, SGS Consulting
- Lisa Marigliano, National Finance and Investment Corporation (NHFIC)
- Giulia Baggio G21
- Jason Perdriau, Community Housing Industry Association (Vic)
- Emma Greenhalgh National Shelter
- Jaime Chubb Centre Against Violence
- Vijaya Vaidyanath, Homes Melbourne
- Leanne Mitchell, Brimbank City Council, Churchill Fellow
- Jennifer Kulas, Housing Choices Australia, Churchill Fellow
- PJ Humphreys, Sunshine Coast City Council
- Kimbra Parker, City of Hobart
- Alicia Hooper, Surf Coast Council
- Deb Stafford Byron Shire Council
- Ianna Murray, Byron Shire Council
- John Smith, Municipal Association of Australia

- Chris Kotur, Chris Kotur Consulting
- Barney Wilson, City of Melbourne
- Jo Cannington, City of Melbourne

Participating councils

- Albury City Council
- Banyule City Council
- Brimbank City Council
- Brisbane City Council
- Byron Shire Council
- Campbelltown City Council
- Cardinia Shire Council
- City of Adelaide
- City of Ballarat
- City of Boroondara
- City of Casey
- City of Hobart
- City of Launceston
- City of Melbourne
- City of Monash
- City of Port Adelaide Enfield
- City of Port Phillip
- City of Sydney
- City of Whittlesea
- Cumberland City Council
- Darebin Council

- Frankston City Council
- Glen Eira City Council
- Greater Dandenong City Council
- Hobsons Bay City Council
- Hume City Council
- Inner West Council
- Knox City Council
- Macedon Ranges Shire Council
- Manningham City Council
- Maribyrnong City Council
- Maroondah City Council
- Melton City Council
- Merri-bek City Council
- Mitchell Shire Council
- Moira Shire Council
- Monash City Council
- Moonee Valley City Council
- Moorabool Shire Council
- Mornington Peninsula Shire Council
- Mount Alexander Shire Council
- Stonington Council
- Surf Coast Shire Council
- Warrnambool City Council
- Wyndham City Council
- Yarra Ranges Council

Participating partners

- Aboriginal Housing Victoria
- Australian Local Government Association
- Centre Against Violence (CAV)
- CHIA Vic
- Council to Homeless Persons
- Department of Environment Land Water and Planning
- DFFH - Homes Victoria
- Eastern Region Group of Councils
- G21 - Geelong Region Alliance
- Ingenium Research
- Launch Housing
- LG Pro
- Melbourne University
- Municipal Association of Victoria
- National Growth Areas Alliance
- National Shelter
- National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation
- SGS Consulting

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COUNCIL OF CAPITAL CITY LORD MAYORS

The CCCLM has a history of over 50 years. We aim to provide national leadership for the effective co-ordination and representation of the special interests of the Capital Cities of the Australian States and Territories, especially in their relations with other spheres of government.