

Together Home Program

Housing and support for people street
sleeping during COVID-19

September 2020

Program Guidelines

Contents

1. Introduction	4
1.1. Purpose	4
1.2. Context	4
1.2.1 Impact of COVID-19 on people experiencing homelessness	5
2. Program Description	6
2.1 Using capital supply to house program participants	6
2.1.1. SEPP 5 Properties	6
2.2 Evidence-informed program design	7
2.2.1. Supported Transitions and Engagement Program (STEP)	7
2.2.2. Housing First	8
2.2.3. Australian Housing First principles	8
2.3 Community Housing Leasing Program	9
2.4 Supporting Aboriginal people through Together Home	9
2.5 Delivering a culturally appropriate service	10
3. Program principles and objectives	11
4. Program target group and eligibility criteria	12
4.1 Managing a client with a LIVE housing application on the NSW Housing Register	12
4.2 Managing people who are ineligible or unsatisfactory former tenants	13
4.3 Managing registrable persons	13
4.4 Supporting people with higher support needs	13
4.5 Administration of High Needs Support packages	14
5. Referral process for the Together Home program	15
5.1. Referrals from DCJ and SHMT CHP	15
5.2. Referral Form	15
5.3. Assessing suitability for the program	15
5.4. Client Referral Assessment Group	16
5.5. Assessment tools	16
5.5.1. Role of the VI-SPDAT	19
5.5.2. VI-SPDAT and the By-Name List	19
5.6. Referral, assessment and offer process	20
5.7. Referrals to other DCJ products	22
5.8. Referrals to High Needs Panel	23
6. Support	23

6.1. Support Provision	23
6.2 Support activities	26
6.3 Exits from the program	29
6.4 Use of brokerage funds	29
7. Locations for support	29
7.1. Priority locations	29
8. Program Delivery Roles and Responsibilities	31
9. Program funding	33
9.1. Distribution model	33
9.2. Payment mechanism	33
9.3. Accountability	33
10. Contracts	34
10.1 Contract variation	34
10.2 Requirements for engaging support providers.....	34
10.3 Contract management	35
10.4. Managing rental bond requirements.....	35
11. Monitoring and reporting framework	36
11.1 Record Keeping and Privacy and Confidentiality.....	36
12. Governance Structure	37
12.1. Program Management.....	37
12.2. Program Steering Committee	38
12.3. Program Delivery Group	38
13. Program Evaluation	39
Appendix 1. Together Home Program Monitoring and Reporting Framework.....	40
1. Overview	40
2. Reporting cycle	41
3. Together Home Program - Outcomes Framework.....	43
Appendix 2. Together Home Program (THP) Brokerage Policy.....	47
Appendix 3. DCJ Housing Contact Details [as at June 2020]	49

1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose

The Together Home program is a \$36.1m investment by the NSW Government that aims to support people street sleeping across NSW during the COVID-19 pandemic into stable accommodation, linked to wraparound supports.

Together Home is a key initiative to support the [Premier's Priority to halve street homelessness by 2025](#). Its key aim is to transition people onto a trajectory away from homelessness and into long-term, stable housing, whilst improving overall personal wellbeing. The provision of housing and support through the program aims to address people's support needs, build individual capability and capacity, and foster connections to community.

The program will ensure that the spread of COVID-19 is minimised as public health order restrictions are implemented across NSW, by supporting people into affordable, sustainable and supported accommodation.

Together Home is an extension of the Community Housing Leasing Program (CHLP). Community Housing Providers (CHP) across NSW have been engaged to head lease properties in the private rental market in order to house people who are or have been street sleeping.

In line with Housing First principles, Together Home is premised on a separation between housing and support functions. In addition to tenancy supports, program participants will also receive trauma-informed, wrap-around support to address underlying risk factors associated with homelessness.

The purpose of the Program Guidelines is to provide departmental staff, CHPs and other funded services with information regarding the aims, objectives, operational requirements and expectations of Together Home. These Guidelines specify the outcomes to be achieved and the mechanisms for achieving them.

While these Guidelines provide broad parameters for service planning and delivery, CHPs, support providers and DCJ districts are encouraged to work collaboratively at the local level to specify localised program delivery and governance in ways that best suit the local context.

1.2. Context

People who are experiencing homelessness and especially those who experience street homelessness often face a range of complex and compounding issues, including:

- historical and/or current trauma
- abuse
- physical and mental health issues (including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder)
- substance use
- cognitive impairment
- discrimination and racism
- distrust of authorities or services as a result of institutional or custodial experiences

- limited or non-existent history of successful tenancies
- financial difficulties
- other barriers associated with systemic issues that perpetuate homelessness.

Unlike other groups of people that experience homelessness, people entrenched in street sleeping often require intensive, proactive and long-term responses. This group often remain homeless, disengaged from support services and not accessing the assistance they require for long periods. There is often diminished levels of individual capability, which requires intensive, ongoing supports. Evidence demonstrates that the provision of stable, affordable housing and intensive wraparound supports can help to sustain tenancies and address the underlying causes that led to their homelessness¹.

People who are street sleeping are generally unable to access private rental accommodation independently due to the perceived barrier of their high support needs. However, the high degree of specialisation within the housing and homelessness service system, including the effective coordination of housing and support services, provides a strong basis on which to build robust strategies to assist people who are street sleeping via the private rental market.

1.2.1 Impact of COVID-19 on people experiencing homelessness

The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has had wide ranging impacts on the broader community and people experiencing or at risk of homelessness have been impacted significantly.

To support the sector, the NSW Government's second Health and Economic stimulus package announced on 27 March 2020, included \$34 million in funding to prevent people from experiencing homelessness (to June 2021). This included \$14 million for emergency Temporary Accommodation (TA) and \$20 million for additional private rental subsidies.

Since March 2020, the NSW Government has supported people experiencing homelessness by:

1. Accelerating its expansion of Assertive Outreach patrols within existing resources;
2. Supporting larger crisis accommodation centres to improve their capacity for physical distancing and self-isolation options; and
3. Bulk booking a large number of hotel and motel rooms across NSW to provide accommodation for people who were street sleeping during this period.

During the COVID-19 response there has been more than 15,000 people since 1 April 2020 in emergency TA, including over 1,500 people who had been street sleeping (as at July 2020).

The healthiest and safest place for people street sleeping is in stable accommodation with support networks in place.

The Together Home program responds to the needs of the target group by providing a supportive longer term housing solution.

The Together Home program commenced on 1 July 2020 and will operate for two years. An evaluation of the program will be undertaken during this time, with involvement from key stakeholders including CHPs, DCJ districts and support providers.

¹https://www.ahuri.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0012/2064/AHURI_Final_Report_No184_Policy_shift_or_program_drift_Implementing_Housing_First_in_Australia.pdf

2. Program Description

The NSW Government has committed \$36.1m to establish the Together Home program, which will provide housing and support to people street sleeping who currently are or have recently been in TA.

This program will make available properties leased from the private rental market linked to wrap-around, flexible supports. Some of the housing and support packages are High Needs Support packages assessed by the High Needs Assessment Panel (see section 4.4 and 4.5).

The program will operate for two years in a partnership between the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) and Community Housing Providers (CHP). The program is an extension to the Community Housing Leasing Program (CHLP).

Funding was allocated to CHPs in June 2020 to deliver the program. These CHPs have engaged appropriate support providers, such as Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS), to deliver wrap-around support that is tailored to the person's needs.

A key component of each person's support plan will be identifying a long-term, sustainable housing pathway following participation in the program. This will include pathways into social housing by absorbing clients into public or community housing capital supply. Based on an assessment of their capacity, some clients will receive support at the end of the program to remain in the private rental market through the use of private rental products such as Rent Choice.

2.1 Using capital supply to house program participants

There may be instances where the most suitable immediate housing option for a program participant is in a social housing dwelling managed by the Together Home provider, rather than in the private market.

In these instances, a property must still be leased from the private market to ensure the provider is meeting the contracted housing component. The allocation of this lease may go to another Together Home program participant, provided there are sufficient support funds available for this new tenant; or the lease could be provided to a priority approved applicant from the NSW Housing Register. This should be determined locally via the Client Referral Assessment Group (CRAG).

Clients housed in social housing are still considered a participant of the Together Home program and need to be treated as such for support planning, as well as monitoring and reporting purposes to DCJ. The CHP will also need to report on the leasehold property as per the approach to reporting under the CHLP.

2.1.1. SEPP 5 Properties

Some CHPs may have access to SEPP 5 properties. Eligibility for SEPP 5 properties is guided by the State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing for Seniors or People with a Disability) 2004, formerly known as the State Environmental Planning Policy Number 5. In accordance with this policy, eligibility for SEPP 5 properties is limited to seniors or people living with a disability. This includes:

- People over 55 years of age.
- People who receive a disability support pension (regardless of age).
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are 45 years of age or over.
- People whose partner (married or de facto) is aged over 55 years or receives a disability support pension.

It is anticipated that some people who are accepted into the Together Home program will meet the eligibility criteria for SEPP5 housing, as outlined above. For others who do not meet this criteria, SEPP 5 accommodation is not appropriate.

2.2 Evidence-informed program design

Using evidence-based interventions, the program presents an opportunity to both manage immediate public health risks and create a lasting change to address street sleeping, in line with the Premier's Priority to reduce street homelessness.

2.2.1. Supported Transitions and Engagement Program (STEP)

The Together Home program has been designed using the principles of the Supported Transitions and Engagement Program (STEP), which delivers a rapid rehousing response, premised on a Housing First philosophy.

This approach prioritises getting people into housing as quickly as possible and linking them with wrap-around, person-centred support, so that issues contributing to their homelessness can be addressed.

Core principles underpinning the approach include:

- **Equitable and rapid access to housing** – provision of rapid access to safe accommodation with no readiness conditions.
- **Informed choice** – commitment to individual choice and self-determination, wherever possible.
- **Recovery** – recovery oriented approach to service delivery.
- **Intensive support** – wrap-around supports will be strengths based, person centred and trauma informed.
- **Continuity of care** – the program recognises the importance of continuity of care as a key factor in creating trusting, respectful and positive relationships between the person and the service.
- **Community** – the program has a strong focus on social and community integration.
- **Culture** – service delivery will be culturally appropriate and the cultural needs of the person will be considered as part of the overall support planning approach.
- **Stabilisation and sustainability** – long-term housing and wellbeing outcomes will be identified upon entry into the service and worked towards throughout.

2.2.2. Housing First

Housing First is an internationally recognised model that prescribes safe and permanent housing as the first priority for people experiencing homelessness. Whilst models vary, the key foundational principle of the Housing First model is that safe and secure housing is provided prior to, rather than conditional upon, participation in addressing other support needs².

Housing First models were implemented in the USA almost 30 years ago and since then numerous programs around the world have worked to implement the model. The Together Home program incorporates many Housing First principles.

2.2.3. Australian Housing First principles

The following are the Housing First [principles](#) in an Australian context:

1. People have a right to a home
2. Flexible support for as long as it is needed
3. Housing and support are separated
4. Choice and self-determination
5. Active engagement without coercion
6. Recovery oriented practice
7. Social and community inclusion
8. Harm Reduction approach

In practice, the evidence demonstrates that when implementing Housing First to a 'high-fidelity' model, there can be better outcomes for people.

For more information on Australian Housing First principles go to:

<https://www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au/campaigns/housing-first-australia>

² <https://www.ahuri.edu.au/policy/ahuri-briefs/what-is-the-housing-first-model>

Together Home uses 'Housing First' principles that separate housing from support

1. Accommodation

- ✓ The CHP head leases properties in the private rental market
- ✓ Properties are made available for people suitable for the program



2. Support

- ✓ The person receives wrap-around support made available to address their needs
- ✓ Delivered by a support provider

Distinct roles are created to ensure the person can separate their 'home' from support

- ✓ CHP manages tenancy

- ✓ Support provider works with person

2.3 Community Housing Leasing Program

The Community Housing Leasing Program (CHLP) has been in operation since 2000 and is designed to give CHPs increased flexibility in accommodating eligible people in housing that suits their needs. The program is a core part of the community housing sector's supply of social housing.

The program allows CHPs to increase and decrease their supply by location, source suitable property types and/or other factors to respond to the needs and priorities of the person.

CHPs also deliver the Community Housing Leasing Program – Homelessness Housing where funding is used to support the leasing of rental properties from the private rental market to accommodate people who are eligible for Crisis Housing or Transitional Housing. Some CHPs have partnered with SHS to deliver programs which involve head leasing and wrap-around support services, similar to what is being proposed under the Together Home program.

2.4 Supporting Aboriginal people through Together Home

People identifying as Aboriginal access Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) at a significantly higher rate than non-Aboriginal people. In 2017-18 nearly one third (29%) of the people accessing NSW's SHS were Aboriginal. Further to this, while Aboriginal people represent 3.5% of the NSW population, they represented 7.3% of the people who were homeless in NSW on Census night in 2016.

Understanding homelessness within Aboriginal communities requires an understanding of the legacy of colonisation and dispossession. Histories of both cultural and physical displacement increases homelessness risks amongst Indigenous Australians.

People who are Aboriginal are a priority group for the Together Home program. Service practice under Together Home should reflect culturally safe, supportive and inclusive approaches for indigenous people. Aboriginal specific support planning should be adopted and mechanisms put in place to support and assist Aboriginal staff and program participants to resolve issues in a culturally appropriate way.

People who are Aboriginal are a priority cohort for this program. It will be necessary for providers to prioritise referrals of people who are Aboriginal into the program.

Where the number of people who are Aboriginal and have accessed Temporary Accommodation is inadequate to meet the local target, and to ensure there is a pathway for people who are Aboriginal into the program, the Aboriginal representative on the CRAG may be called upon to bring referrals of people street sleeping to the group. A partnership like this can be used to not only provide cultural context but also to utilise the networks and local knowledge to provide options to people not in the service system.

For the High Needs Support packages, a program level target of 30% has been set for any referrals to the High Needs Assessment Panel (see sections 4.4 and 4.5).

2.5 Delivering a culturally appropriate service

Culturally specific strategies will be implemented to support people who identify as Aboriginal. Approaches used for non-Aboriginal people may not necessarily be appropriate or effective for people who identify as Aboriginal. Therefore, the support provider will identify cultural needs, be culturally sensitive and appropriate in their response. Accordingly, the support provider will undertake research and consult with Aboriginal stakeholders to ensure the service approach is culturally appropriate.

Further, the support provider will have policies in place that proactively seek the recruitment and retention of Aboriginal staff, where possible.

The service provider must make cultural competence training available to their staff.

The Support Provider will provide people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds with linkages to services to meet their cultural and language needs and engage interpreters as required.

3. Program principles and objectives

The objectives of the program are to:

Objectives

Rapidly rehouse people who are street sleeping during the COVID-19 pandemic with a plan for longer term housing

Provide access to culturally appropriate health, mental health and wellbeing services (where appropriate)

Rebuild family, community and cultural connections (where appropriate)

Support the development of daily living and self-management skills (where appropriate)

Facilitate engagement with positive structured activities such as social groups, education and/or employment (where appropriate)

- The CHP will make available to the program participant a reasonable offer of long-term accommodation/private rental options while they are in the head-lease property during the 2 year lease period. The two offer policy will apply when allocating social housing.
- DCJ and SHMT CHPs will assist in offers of properties and other Private Rental Assistance products such as Rent Choice to non-SHMT CHPs during that 2 year period (outside SHMT areas) for the longer-term housing solution.

Principles

Focus service delivery on stabilisation and sustainable outcomes

Ensure a commitment to individual choice and self-determination, where possible (in particular for property & location selection, health management & goal setting)

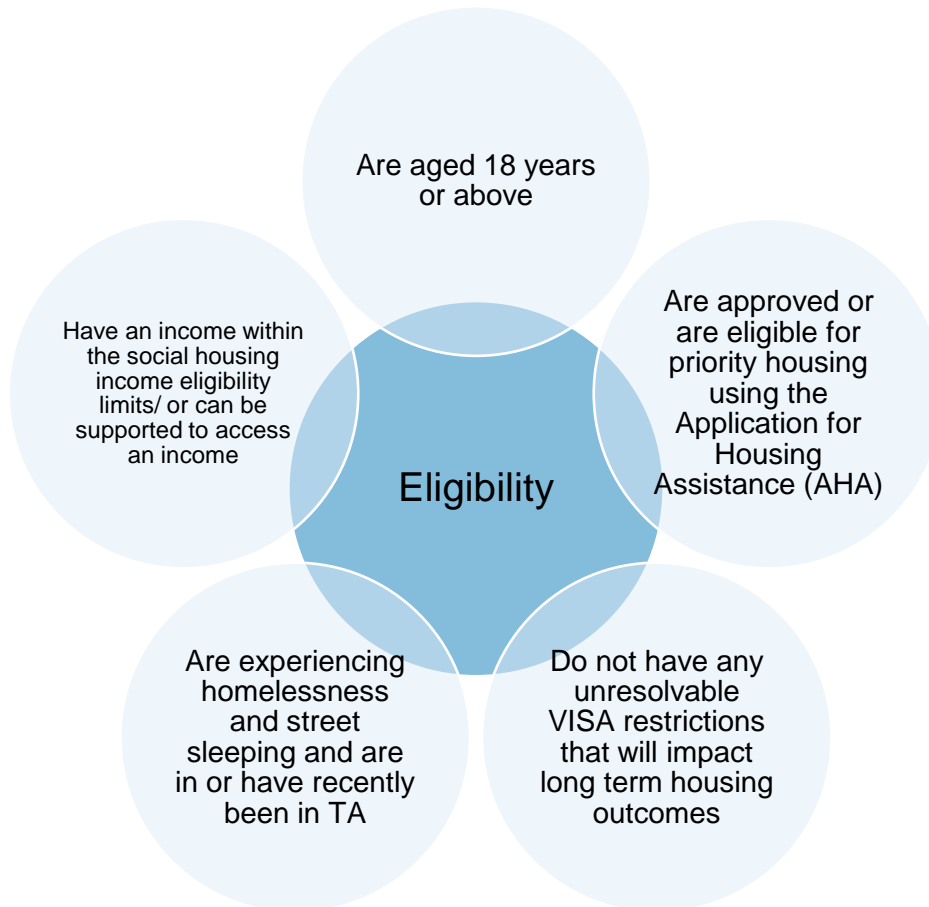
Provide support using a strength based, person centred approach that leads to independence and growth of capability

Enable continuity of care for the program participant which makes assistance look seamless

Require both accommodation and support providers to take a hope-inspiring, recovery-oriented approach to service delivery

4. Program target group and eligibility criteria

The primary target group for this housing assistance is people who were street sleeping and assisted into TA during the COVID-19 pandemic. People who are Aboriginal are a priority group for this program. Packages will be provided to people who:



Program participants with accompanying children are eligible for the program provided they meet other eligibility criteria.

Applicants under the age of 18 years should be managed within existing provider's policies.

4.1 Managing a client with a LIVE housing application on the NSW Housing Register

There may be instances where a person being assessed for the Together Home program has a LIVE housing application on the NSW Housing Register.

If there are concerns that this person may be offered social housing before the Together Home assessment is finalised by the Together Home Client Referral Assessment Group (CRAG), the application can be suspended.

When suspending an application pending a decision by the CRAG use the 'Together Home' suspension code in HOMES.

Once a decision is made by the CRAG, you must:

- unsuspend the application with no action (as the client is not eligible for Together Home), OR
- unsuspend the application and house the client in a Together Home property.

When housing a person in the Together Home program their status in HOMES will be changed to 'housed' using the Housed Other Housing Provider (HOHP) code.

4.2 Managing people who are ineligible or unsatisfactory former tenants

There may be some people that have their Application for Housing Assistance declined or suspended as they have previously been classified as an unsatisfactory former tenant or ineligible to be listed on the NSW Housing Register. This may be as a result of a history of property damage, rental arrears or criminal behaviour.

In many cases these classifications will be a barrier for people who are street sleeping to enter the Together Home program. Districts must consider on a case-by-case basis the contributing factors to the classification, and decide locally any 'out of guidelines' decisions to allow flexibility to support the person into the program.

4.3 Managing registrable persons

There may be instances where a Together Home provider is supporting a person in Temporary Accommodation; and the person has disclosed, or the provider becomes aware that the person may be a registrable person. A registrable person is someone who is on the NSW Child Protection Register convicted of sexual and/or violent offences against young people (under 18 years of age).

Some registrable persons living in the community have specific requirements identified by the NSW Police Force (NSWPF) and/or Corrective Services NSW (CSNSW), particularly in relation to the most appropriate location for them to reside. You can find more information regarding eligibility for housing assistance for a registrable person [here](#).

Where a person has disclosed, or you have received information that a person may be a registrable person, refer to the [Process an application for housing assistance from a registrable person](#).

If you are unsure on the approach to take with a potential program participant, please send any queries to Registercheck@facs.nsw.gov.au.

4.4 Supporting people with higher support needs

As many people who are experiencing homelessness also experience mental illness, the Together Home program will specifically allocate higher needs packages to people with severe mental health conditions.

It is the intention that these people will receive intensive assistance, which may include support with:

- daily living skills like shopping, looking after finances, cooking or catching public transport
- remembering mental and physical health appointments, medications and other treatments
- meeting people in the local community and participating in social, leisure or sporting activities
- learning new skills
- accessing education or help to get a job
- moving from a hospital or a prison back to home
- accessing other supports like drug or alcohol services and the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

The CHP will receive additional support funding to engage a service that can deliver this intensive support to the person. The CHP should also establish relationships with the Local Health District (LHD) should a referral to the local mental health team be required.

All program participants should be supported with a referral to the NDIS.

4.5 Administration of High Needs Support packages

Homelessness NSW will administer the High Needs Support packages for the Together Home program.

This will be done by:

- Informing and promoting awareness of the program
- Developing a fair and transparent criteria and application process in consultation with DCJ
- Overseeing the application process and providing information sessions and support to organisations in completing applications
- Establishing and supporting an independent High Needs Assessment panel to assess and agree the recipients of the packages that include a Clinical Health expert, a Housing expert, an Aboriginal representative with expertise in homelessness, a representative with support expertise in homelessness and a representative from DCJ
- Supporting the liaison with the Community Housing Provider who will receive the funds and the support provider who will be delivering the support service
- Managing reallocation of packages, should this be required.

The following parameters will form part of the allocation of High Needs Support packages:

- A cap on the number of inner-city applications to ensure that there is distribution across NSW
- Where possible, 30% of packages will be allocated to Aboriginal people referred to the High Needs Assessment panel

- Identification of support providers based on experience in supporting high needs people in this work and includes organisations with clearly demonstrated expertise in delivering culturally safe services to people who are Aboriginal
- That allocation of funding is made as flexibly as possible, to reflect current practice in the Housing and Accommodation Support Initiative (HASI) service delivery
- That a relationship is established with the NDIA to understand how these packages align with or support NDIS packages and that consideration is given to how the NDIS could be used for any applicants who may be unsuccessful
- That this process includes an assessment and commitment around appropriate housing for the person, including location and housing type and that the tenancy management and associated costs are included in this process.

When a decision is made to allocate a High Needs Support package to a program participant, Homelessness NSW will authorise funding to be transferred to the CHP, to subcontract the higher support needs support component.

5. Referral process for the Together Home program

5.1. Referrals from DCJ and SHMT CHP

As this program is targeting people in TA, referrals will be coming from Social Housing Management Transfer (SHMT) CHPs in SHMT locations and DCJ in non SHMT locations.

There may be instances where a referral is more appropriate to come from a SHS provider, but this will need to be done in consultation and collaboratively with DCJ or the SHMT CHP.

5.2. Referral Form

There is a Together Home program referral form that will need to be completed by the referrer and will be provided to the Secretariat of the Client Referral Assessment Group (CRAG).

5.3. Assessing suitability for the program

The program aims to provide equitable and rapid access to housing with no readiness conditions (i.e. sobriety and compliance with health treatment will not be required to obtain housing). This reflects Housing First principles.

While readiness is not required, the person's suitability for the program will be assessed in part on the potential for their existing support needs to be addressed during their tenancy.

Due to demand pressures, housing initially provided may not be permanent, but will always be the first step towards obtaining long term housing. This may include TA or crisis accommodation in refuges, before moving into more stable housing options. Property matching and choice are key to improving housing stability. The person must feel comfortable and familiar in their surroundings in an appropriate dwelling.

5.4. Client Referral Assessment Group

A transparent process will be essential for how referrals into the program are made.

The Client Referral Assessment Group (CRAG) or its equivalent will be led by the SHMT CHP in SHMT locations, and by DCJ in non-SHMT locations.

The group will collaboratively decide whether the person is suitable for the program, if a referral needs to be made to the Higher Support Needs Assessment Panel for a High Needs Support package or a referral to another DCJ product is needed.

The CRAG will include:

- DCJ or SHMT CHPs
- CHP delivering the program
- Local support provider/s
- Local Aboriginal representation

The CRAG will assess all referrals that come into the program.

Once all program packages are allocated the frequency of this group meeting is likely to reduce.

In situations where not all packages are allocated or there is additional capacity to house and support more people, there needs to be consideration for people who are street sleeping and have not accessed Temporary Accommodation. For example, there may be a reluctance from some people to access mainstream services such as Temporary Accommodation or people using crisis accommodation rather than Temporary Accommodation during the pandemic.

5.5. Assessment tools

Assessment tools will need to be completed by trained support workers. Assessment of program participants must be trauma informed and support the identification of the person's support needs.

Assessment Tool	Purpose	Administered by
Application for Housing Assistance (AHA) - required for referral process Includes DCJ Independent Living Skills Assessment.	This initial assessment will provide adequate information about the person to help determine their housing and support needs. It is not the intention that the Application for Housing Assistance acts as a barrier to rapidly house a person. Therefore any client nominated to Together Home by a DCJ District, and/or SHMT CHP who is currently in TA because they have been street sleeping, is to be treated as automatically eligible to enter	DCJ are working to ensure that people in TA will have an Application for Housing Assistance undertaken The CHP in non SHMT locations. Support providers, where appropriate.

	<p>long-term social housing. Where a client is nominated to the program by other means, the nominating provider (District or SHMT CHP) should do a basic assessment to establish their status as a rough sleeper (similar to the assessment undertaken for initial TA). This should be enough to facilitate their entry into long term social housing.</p> <p><i>Once the client has been housed, the full assessment for housing assistance can be undertaken in collaboration with the client's support provider.</i></p>	
Together Home Living Skills Assessment	<p>This assessment will provide adequate information about the person to help determine their housing and support needs.</p> <p>The assessment will also help to measure whether individuals have an improved level of daily living skills necessary for long term accommodation and self-management.</p>	<p>Support provider.</p> <p>The assessment is completed at set intervals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • within first 6 months as part to the DCJ Application for Housing Assistance Independent Living Skills Assessment • Within first 9-12 months using the Together Home Living Skills Assessment • Within 12-18 and 18-24 months using the Together Home Living Skills Assessment
Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritisation Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) - required for referral process	<p>Each program participant will need to have the VI-SPDAT undertaken as part of the program, see section 5.5.1.</p> <p>This tool can help the CRAG understand a person's level of vulnerability and can support program participant prioritisation</p>	<p>The VI-SPDAT needs to be completed by a trained worker.</p>

Personal Wellbeing Index (PWI) start survey	<p>The PWI start survey will gather baseline information about a person's wellbeing prior to being successfully housed. This is best completed prior to the person being housed. The PWI will be integrated into CIMS.</p>	<p>As with the VI-SPDAT, the PWI should be administered by someone equipped to do so, and ideally with existing engagement with the person being referred.</p> <p>Start survey scores will need to be provided to the allocated support provider for entry into CIMS.</p>
Personal Wellbeing Index (PWI) - periodic and end surveys	<p>Will be administered at review points during the program and at exit to assist with outcomes data. The PWI will be integrated into CIMS.</p> <p>Note that as part of the Outcomes Framework at Appendix 1, it is not anticipated or required that continual improvement in PWI scores is achieved for your program participant. However, it is anticipated that the program participant will experience improved wellbeing due to their participation in the program. The "improved total wellbeing score" is always measured against the start survey.</p>	Support provider
Together Home program Client Satisfaction Survey	To be completed by program participant at exit from the program – this could be where a client chooses to exit, or the point at which the sub-contracted support is ending.	<p>Support provider.</p> <p>Where the program participant is not accessing a support provider, the CHP would administer this survey when the person exits their tenancy (positive or negative exits) or the THP program ends, whichever comes first.</p>

5.5.1. Role of the VI-SPDAT

The person referred into the program will need to have a VI-SPDAT completed. Ideally, the VI-SPDAT will be available to be used by the CRAG to support discussions on prioritisation and support needs. It is acknowledged that not all referrals may have a completed VI-SPDAT due to resourcing and timing, however it is still an important tool to complete when the person is in the program, if not completed in time for the CRAG. If this is the case, the VI-SPDAT should be completed as soon as practicable for all program participants.

The use of the VI-SPDAT at CRAG meetings can be localised to best suit each District. The following points should be considered:

- For areas that have more referrals than lease allocations available, the VI-SPDAT will be a crucial consideration for the CRAG when prioritising clients with higher vulnerabilities into the program.
- For areas that may not have this issue with lease allocations, the VI-SPDAT will provide useful information on the program participant and complexity of support needs.
- The referral form will indicate whether the VI-SPDAT has been completed. Where it has not been completed, the CRAG Secretariat will need to determine the most suitable agency that can provide the CRAG with a completed VI-SPDAT. This will be based on who has the skill, training and existing rapport with the applicant.
- The content of the VI-SPDAT will provide useful information in determining who should be referred to the Higher Support Needs Assessment Panel for access to higher needs packages.
- As far as possible, where the CHP is the agency completing the VI-SPDAT with a program participant, this CHP should remain the allocated THP housing provider.

5.5.2. VI-SPDAT and the By-Name List

The NSW Government has partnered with the Act to End Street Sleeping Collaboration and Microsoft to develop the By-Name List, which is a database that holds important information on people street sleeping in NSW to help organisations match people with the most appropriate support agencies. It also ensures that people street sleeping are not having to repeat their stories to different agencies and service providers. The By-Name List has been used during Connections Week in Sydney and as part of the COVID-19 response.

The By-Name List (BNL) is extended for use for the Together Home program. There are two applications that are used for the BNL including:

- PowerBI – to see reports
- PowerApps – entering the VI-SPDAT

The VI-SPDAT scores for each person referred to Together Home will be entered into the BNL. Only authorised members of DCJ, the CHP and support providers will have access to the BNL.

CHPs or the support provider must ensure that the client has provided consent before the VI-SPDAT scores are entered into the BNL.

For the paper based VI-SPDAT, the client consent form has space for written and verbal consent. The consent form provides detail about how the information will be used to ensure the client has informed consent. The consent form also lists services that can access the information including state-wide services and local services. If a client does not want their information shared with a particular service on the list, this can be indicated.

DCJ will work to ensure training is provided on the BNL where appropriate. DCJ will provide resourcing to enter the VI-SPDAT results into the BNL where a paper version of the VI-SPDAT was undertaken.

5.6. Referral, assessment and offer process

Stages	Description
1. Identification, referral and immediate access to supports	<p>In SHMT locations, referrals will come from the SHMT CHP.</p> <p>In non-SHMT locations, DCJ will be the primary referrer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCJ District staff or SMHT CHPs to identify and build rapport with persons potentially eligible for the program. • DCJ District staff and SMHT CHPs commence conversation with the individual to agree to be considered for housing and support from the Together Home program, while managing expectations. • There may be instances where a referral is more appropriate to come from a SHS provider, but this will need to be done in consultation with the CHP or DCJ. • People linked into the program are people who were/are street sleeping and who currently are or have recently been in TA. • Discuss with the person that supports form part of the program. • Ensure any pets or dependents are considered and noted in the referral. • Complete the program referral form for the client ensuring that consent is given. • Send the referral form to the CRAG Secretariat. • The referring organisation (DCJ or SHMT CHPs) should facilitate access to immediate supports for the person (i.e. crisis or TA). DCJ will consider allocation of further TA stimulus funds for this purpose, where alternative arrangements are not available. <p>Note: The referral form asks whether the VI-SPDAT and PWI start survey has been completed and a recent Application for Housing Assistance (of any status) has been completed.</p> <p>Note: Where STEP-Link operates in the same District, CHP and DCJ should engage with the provider to ensure no duplication of effort, and to coordinate the most appropriate support provision according to each potential referee's preferences.</p>
2. Preparation for CRAG	CRAG Secretariat will coordinate:

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Where not completed, complete Application for Housing Assistance – including completion of Locational Needs Assessment form. This will support the person's self-determination in terms of where they would like to live, noting this must be weighed against housing availability and affordability in the private rental market. 2. Where not completed, complete the VI-SPDAT and PWI start survey to help determine the degree of vulnerability. The VI-SPDAT will help the CRAG triage and prioritise people into the program. 3. CRAG Secretariat convenes a meeting as required.
3. Program intake determined at CRAG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CRAG will collaboratively decide whether the person is suitable for the program, if referral needs to be made to the Together Home Higher Support Needs Assessment Panel for more intensive support or a referral to another DCJ product is needed. • The CRAG will complete the referral form for client accepted into the program, who may benefit from additional mental health support, and send this to the Together Home Higher Support Needs Assessment Panel. • People accepted into the program will receive follow up from the CHP. • The program participant must be contacted within 48 hours of referral being accepted. • People who are not eligible/suitable for the program must be offered an alternative response. • If an applicant is unsuitable for the program, due to longer term needs, and no other responses are available, they will be offered a package until an alternative option becomes available.
4. Offer and acceptance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHP makes an offer of housing, arranges and conducts interview with the program participant in a location suitable for the program participant. It is recommended that the CHP meet with the client where they are most comfortable. • Program offer meeting includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Explaining available option/s to the program participant and confirming understanding of, and commitment to, rights and responsibilities. ○ Re-visiting any circumstances that may have changed and may need to be returned to the panel. • All referrals and offers are to be de-identified and presented to the governance group. This will include clients not accepted into the program.

5. CHP works with program participant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify housing to meet the person's needs in discussion with the program participant and the support provider. • Ensure Housing Pathways application is approved and entered into HOMES. • Conduct lease sign-up with support provider present (where possible). Undertake sign up in a location where the program participant is comfortable. • CHP engages Support Provider.
6. Support provider works with program participant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support provider commences development of support plan in discussion with the program participant. • Support provider completes PWI periodic and end surveys with the program participant as required. • Support provider commences delivery of support. • Support provider makes a referral to NDIS where required. • Support provider can refer program participant to the CRAG if more complex mental health needs emerge.

5.7. Referrals to other DCJ products

For people not accepted into the program who may require housing assistance, there are alternative options available. For example, a referral can be made for Rent Choice by the CRAG.

Rent Choice is a private rental subsidy provided by DCJ to assist individuals and households to access and sustain a tenancy in the private rental market, where private rental housing is appropriate to their housing needs and circumstances, and ultimately to provide opportunities and pathways to independence in the private market. Rent Choice recipients are expected to be linked into employment programs. There are a range of Rent Choice products:

- Rent Choice Assist - is a time limited Rent Choice Product. Suitable people for this product are generally not for people who have been street sleeping. It is more for people who have 'stabilised' and those who are able to secure and maintain private rental accommodation with or without assistance.
- Rent Choice Start Safely – targeting people leaving domestic and family violence
- Rent Choice Youth – targeting young people aged 18 to 24
- Rent Choice Veterans
- Rent Choice Transition – targeting social housing tenants who want to move to the private rental market. This is currently being piloted in Western Sydney, South West Sydney, Murrumbidgee, Illawarra Shoalhaven and Hunter.

5.8. Referrals to High Needs Panel

The High Needs Assessment panel will work to prioritise and allocate the funding for the packages. Therefore it is essential that any individual who is referred to the panel has provided informed consent and a VI-SPDAT has been completed.

The information for a referral will include:

- A copy of the Client engagement and nomination form used to refer the individual to the Together Home program
- Completed High Needs Panel referral form
- Completed High Needs Panel budget template
- Any other supporting documentation

For relevant documentation and for more information on the process and the timeline, please refer to the Homelessness NSW website - <https://www.homelessnessnsw.org.au/high-needs-package-referrals-now-open>. Questions can be directed to highneedspackage@homelessnessnsw.org.au.

6. Support

6.1. Support Provision

Support providers in the context of the Together Home program will be required to demonstrate capabilities in working effectively with people with a history of severe homelessness, trauma and with multiple, complex needs, and to have experience with the following practice principles:

- person-centred approaches,
- intervening early to prevent return to homelessness, and
- providing intensive responses for program participants with complex needs.

Suitably qualified support workers will have skills in engaging, building rapport with, and supporting people who are experiencing homelessness, and are experiencing mental health concerns and/or problematic substance use.

The service will know how to utilise Assertive Outreach techniques to overcome barriers for engagement with people participating in the Together Home program.

The support provider will work to coordinate and strengthen relationships between the various services involved in a person's support plan, including:

- primary health care providers
- alcohol and other drug services
- disability supports
- family supports
- Centrelink and income support
- mental health supports
- training, education and employment
- cultural and community networks
- structured activities
- parenting support and child protection

Support providers should be prepared to offer support outside of usual business hours, if this will assist in engagement and management of issues.

The following table outlines some key criteria and accompanying signposts that would assist in identifying a support provider with the necessary capabilities to offer support as part of the Together Home program. **Table 1: Support Provider Capability Checklist³**

Person-centred approach A person-centred approach to service design means that each service response is built around the needs of the individual program participant rather than a programmatic or predetermined service offer. A person-centred approach is strengths-based with a focus on building individual and family capacity, skills, resilience, and connections to community.	
Criteria	Signposts
Commitment to a person-centred approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person-centred service design and planning that is strengths-based and linked to individual needs
Appropriate feedback and complaints mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robust mechanisms for collecting feedback, both directly from program participants and indirectly from advocates and other service providers that work with program participants • Easy access to mechanisms to lodge complaints and for the prompt resolution of complaints
Systematic policies and procedures to ensure each service response is built around individual the program participant's needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive policies and procedures for individualised support planning to ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ all supported program participants have an individualised support plan ○ all support plans encourage program participant responsibilities and mutual obligations ○ all support plans outline how services will be integrated and coordinated ○ all support plans consider and have specific actions for program participant safety
Having a range of opportunities for program participant input into support plan goals and service responses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robust mechanisms for setting and documenting program participant choices and goals • Regular reviews of support plans with evidence of program participant input in reviewing progress and updating goals
Practices in place to ensure target groups are effectively supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive policies and procedures for planning and delivering evidence-based service responses that consider, for example, cultural background, disability, sexuality, age, and gender.

³ Source material: Specialist Homelessness Services – Practice Guidelines November 2014

Flexibility in support arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flexible service delivery arrangements that allow support workers to undertake place based support and work cooperatively with specialist support services.
Intervening early to prevent return to homelessness The provider should offer evidence-based practices and in order to facilitate access to post-crisis support and sustain people in their accommodation.	
Criteria	Signposts
Systems in place for working with individuals and families who were previously homeless who require support to sustain the new tenancy	<p>Mechanisms that facilitate proactive and ongoing collaboration with the full range of service providers that contribute to addressing individual program participant needs, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> services to access education and employment opportunities income support services and financial help legal advice health services, particularly mental health and drug and alcohol services specialist DFV support services and systems family support and mediation services community participation and engagement opportunities Aboriginal services services for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds other specialist services <p>Specific policies and procedures for individualised transition plans for program participants, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> integrated transition planning multi-agency support planning negotiating program participant responsibilities and advocating on behalf of the program participant to help them sustain their new tenancy facilitating access to the above mainstream services needed to sustain their new tenancy putting in place follow-up strategies to respond to ongoing requests from the program participant for information, advice and advocacy (after the end of the transition plan).
Intensive responses for program participants with complex needs Practice responses that include intensive multidisciplinary support are recognised as the best approach for program participants with complex needs such as program participants entrenched in homelessness and people with chronic physical and mental health issues, drug and alcohol related issues, or people at continued risk of domestic and family violence.	
Criteria	Signposts
Systems in place for coordinating the service response for individuals and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular contact and robust collaborative arrangements with specialist support services Establish approaches, such as those used in Assertive Outreach, to engage with program participants who are hard to reach

families with complex needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mechanisms for establishing intensive, multidisciplinary teams, including establishing the roles and responsibilities of all agencies contributing to the support plan.
Expertise to deliver specialised models of care such as trauma informed practice and narrative therapies to work with program participants impacted by mental health problems, drug and alcohol, DFV, and other complex issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant staff training and resources to ensure staff are equipped to manage a range of challenging behaviours and complex situations • Specific collaborative arrangements, and policies and procedures to ensure needs are identified and appropriate referrals are made • Having the knowledge base to identify complex needs and building an appropriate referral network.

6.2 Support activities

It is anticipated that the program will deliver a suite of support activities which may include, but is not limited to:

- co-ordinating entry into secure, safe accommodation aligned to the needs of individuals that is appropriately furnished to include sofa, bed/mattress, kitchen equipment
- assisting people to sustain tenancies through person-centred and trauma-informed risk management planning and positive engagement
- developing a support plan in consultation with the program participant to monitor current needs and identify and implement additional needs as required
- as part of each person's support plan, developing a pathway to long-term housing
- facilitating relationships and linkages with relevant mainstream health services to coordinate care planning and service delivery and help tenants manage their health needs
- working with people to develop a safety plan that identifies individual triggers and effective responses, and connect with relevant support networks and resources if required for additional support
- supporting people escaping domestic and family violence, and ensuring 24-hour access to emergency support is available
- encouraging engagement in the local community and identifying and developing new local networks to promote wellbeing, including support networks and diverse community engagement activities, and reducing the likelihood of their return to the street
- inviting family and other personal supports to participate in support planning and development as appropriate
- consult with individuals to identify and address previous tenancy issues if required
- collaborating with community housing partners, DCJ Housing Services and relevant supports to ensure necessary assistance is provided for people to successfully retain their new tenancy and avoid a return to homelessness

- working with people to identify priority skill development areas and local resources to enhance their daily living skills, including budgeting, shopping, food preparation and storage; assisting with income management and advocacy to social security and service providers
- supporting people to develop interpersonal skills for managing day-to-day relationships
- supporting people to identify vocational goals and skills, and seek suitable employment meeting the individual's requirements and interests
- facilitating linkages to structured support groups and services, including employment initiatives and groups promoting education, self-management and wellbeing
- encouraging and promoting engagement with diverse community engagement activities.

Please refer to Table 2 for the Together Home Program Model.

Table 2: Together Home Program Model

Support Phase 1: Introduction & Participation	Support Phase 2: Increased Participation and Independent Management	
0-12 months	12-18 months	18-24 months
Assessment: VI-SPDAT Application for Housing Assistance including the DCJ Independent Living Skills Assessment Together Home Living Skills assessment Personal Wellbeing Index – start and periodic surveys	Assessment: Personal Wellbeing Index - periodic surveys Together Home Living skills assessment	Assessment: Personal Wellbeing Index - periodic surveys and end survey at exit. Together Home Living skills assessment.
Goal setting: Person-led process identifying goals that will assist the program participant to maintain their tenancy and develop independent management. Commence regular support planning reviews.	Goal setting: Review of goals incorporated in regular support planning reviews.	Goal setting: Review of goals incorporated in regular support planning reviews and identifying specific post-exit goals for the program participant to address with ongoing supports and independently.
Planning: Development of a long term support plan, including long-term housing pathway. In line with the program participants goals. Commence delivery of support. Commence regular support planning reviews	Reviewing: Continue delivery of support. Regular, planned case-management reviews with program participant, adjusting support plans as needed.	Evaluating: Continue delivery of support. Continued support planning reviews with the program participant, adjusting support plans as needed. Evaluation of achievement of goals, at exit, using THP Client Satisfaction Survey.
Transition: Include exit-planning and identification of longer term support needs, in support planning.	Transition: Review exit-plans. Commence engagement with ongoing support providers as appropriate.	Transition: Commence handover with ongoing support providers as appropriate.

	Focus on securing long-term, sustainable housing for the program participant post program.		
Supports:			Goals:
Introduction to and participation in understanding a tenancy agreement and their obligations as a tenant and tenancy support available	Increased understanding of responsibilities and maintaining a household.	Independent management of responsibilities as a tenant	Increase in overall wellbeing
Introduction to (i.e. developing strategies) and participation in income management	Increased participation in income management and decrease in support required	Independent management of income without support	Increased independent living skills
Introduction to and participation in mental health treatment	Increased symptom management and confidence in recovery	Independent management of symptoms and recovery	Decrease in contact with emergency services
Introduction to and participation in an NDIS assessment as required.	Access to additional support as identified through the NDIS assessment	Independently managing with or without support NDIS plan.	Decrease in hospital presentation
Introduction to and participation in physical health treatment	Increased participation in health management and self-care	Independent management of health management and self-care	Decrease in arrests and incarceration
Introduction to and participation in problematic substance use treatment	Decreased problematic substance use	Independent management of substance use	Decrease in return to homelessness
Participation and compliance with any community based health treatment orders or other supports to stabilise mental health	Continued engagement with community based health treatment orders or other supports to stabilise mental health.	Independent management of mental health treatment	Improved mental and physical health
Participation and compliance with any community based Justice orders; barriers to compliance addressed	Continued compliance or cessation of any community based Justice orders	Independent management of Justice obligations	Stronger social connections
Introduction to independent living and psychosocial supports/ meaningful activities (i.e. cultural/community engagement; increased social or familial connection or reconnection; training or employment)	Increased participation in independent living and psychosocial supports/ meaningful activities (i.e. cultural/community engagement; increased social or familial connection or reconnection; training or employment)	Independent management of daily living and psychosocial supports/ meaningful activities (i.e. cultural/community engagement; increased social or familial connection or reconnection; training or employment)	Increased independence & empowerment
			Long term housing secured

6.3 Exits from the program

As part of the program participant support plan, the CHP and support provider will need to consider the program participant's support needs at the end of the program and how this is managed. For example, the program participant may remain with an SHS provider as part of their contractual annual intake or be referred to other local support services based on the person's individual needs at the time.

In line with Housing First principles, a person's tenure will not be impacted if they refuse supports during the program. In these circumstances, the CHP will continue to provide housing to the person and when appropriate, make efforts to reconnect the person with supports. The CHP will need to understand the person's reason for refusing support, which may include the need to source an alternative support worker.

Where a person is refusing support provided as part of the program, the support provider must demonstrate to the CHP their efforts to re-engage the person in supports. Frequency of effort to re-engage a person must be assessed on a case-by-case basis. The actions the support provider will take should be discussed with the client as part of the case planning process.

Where a person is withdrawing from the program and leaving the housing, the CHP should complete the THP Client Satisfaction Survey where possible as well as record the person's reasons for leaving the program, and where they are exiting to.

6.4 Use of brokerage funds

Support providers should use Together Home funding to allocate proportional and flexible brokerage funds to assist with home set up and other needs associated with improved wellbeing and sustaining the tenancy.

Importantly, use of brokerage funding must be consistent with and supportive of goals outlined in the person's support plan.

A Together Home program Brokerage policy, in line with other DCJ policies on use of brokerage funds, is provided at Appendix 2.

7. Locations for support

7.1. Priority locations

Housing and support have been allocated proportionately to locations with high numbers of people street sleeping during COVID-19. The distribution of leases is proportionate to the number of people street sleeping in TA in each area since 1 April 2020. This is to ensure that connections to community/ family (if any) or existing supports are not disturbed. However, private rental properties may sit outside of these locations, as the CHP will endeavor to house tenants in locations that meet the person's need.

It is essential that where there is a boundary overlap between providers that there is no competition between providers for rental accommodation. This will ensure that the program has

no adverse effects on market value. It will be necessary to form relationships with other providers where this overlap exists.

The locations listed below relate to where the TA demand was since the 1 April 2020. Any significant variation to the locations listed below needs to be considered in consultation with DCJ or the CHP in SHMT locations (or via the local governance group). There will also be the opportunity for flexibility with geographic boundaries to ensure appropriate service coverage.

DCJ District	Community Housing Provider	Primary Delivery Locations
South Western Sydney	Argyle Community Housing Ltd	Campbelltown, Wingecarribee
	Evolve Housing Limited	Liverpool/Fairfield (Not Cumberland or Canterbury/ Bankstown)
	Hume Community Housing Association Co Ltd	Liverpool/Fairfield
Murrumbidgee, Far West, Western NSW	Argyle Community Housing Ltd	Murrumbidgee, Wagga Wagga
	Housing Plus	Bathurst, Cabonne
	Homes Out West (HOW)	Albury, Greater Hume
Northern NSW, Mid North Coast & New England	North Coast Community Housing Company Ltd (NCCH)	Lismore, Tweed, Byron, Clarence Valley
	Community Housing Limited (CHL)	Port Macquarie, Kempsey, Mid Coast
	Mission Australia Housing (MAH)	Coffs Harbour
	Homes North Community Housing Company Ltd	Tamworth, Armidale, Moree Plains
Hunter Central Coast	Compass Housing Services Co Ltd	Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Port Stephens, Maitland, Cessnock, Muswellbrook, Singleton, Upper Hunter, Dungog
	Pacific Link Housing Limited	Central Coast
Sydney, South Eastern Sydney, Northern Sydney	Bridge Housing Limited	Sydney, Randwick, Woollahra
	Link Housing Ltd	Hornsby, Northern Beaches, Willoughby
	Metro Community Housing Co-operative Ltd	Sydney
	St George Community Housing Limited	Bayside, Georges River, Sutherland
	Women's Housing Company Ltd	Sydney
Illawarra Shoalhaven	The Illawarra Community Housing Trust Ltd	Wollongong, Shellharbour
	Southern Cross Community Housing Ltd	Shoalhaven, Eurobodalla, Bega
Western Sydney Nepean Blue Mountains	Evolve Housing Limited	Parramatta, Penrith, Blacktown
	Wentworth Community Housing Ltd	Penrith, Blacktown, Hawkesbury, Blue Mountains

8. Program Delivery Roles and Responsibilities

The following roles and responsibilities cover program design, implementation and ongoing program management.

Role	Responsibility
DCJ - Community Housing and Pathways (CHAP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support development of program design and implementation • Determine the resource implications for CHPs in managing the program • Lead contract management relationship with CHPs and allocations of funds as part of the CHLP, for the duration of the program • Participate and support program governance • Manage incoming fortnightly and quarterly reports through CHIMES, and input into Treasury reporting as required • Contribute to continuous program improvement • Contribute to program evaluation.
DCJ Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide referrals to program where engaged with people street sleeping accessing TA. • Lead the Client Referral and Assessment Group (CRAG). To be determined locally with DCJ Commissioning and Planning. • Participate in local governance to oversight implementation and delivery of the program • Along with CHPs, provides options for long-term housing pathways for program participants
DCJ - Design and Stewardship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead program establishment including program design and implementation • Lead program communications including CHPs, sector peaks and DCJ • Develop program-level documentation, including Program Guidelines, Reporting templates, Program logic. • Coordination of all relevant program-level approvals • Program level risk assessment and management • Convene Program Steering Committee • Convene and provide secretariat support for the Program Delivery Group • Contribute to continuous program improvement • Participate in program referral assessment group • Contribute to program evaluation • Provision of advice to the Minister, DCJ Executive and other senior stakeholders.
DCJ District – Commissioning and Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in program governance • Lead the Client Referral and Assessment Group (CRAG) – to be determined locally with DCJ Housing. • Escalation of risks to program management, where appropriate • Escalation of issues that cannot be resolved at District-level • Lead variations to service design and planning at a District-level • Participate in local collaborative service planning with key stakeholders • Local stakeholder management • Relevant briefings to District Directors • Resolution of District-level issues within program parameters • District/local-level risk management

Community Housing Provider in Social Housing Management Transfer (SHMT) sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide referrals to program where engaged with people street sleeping accessing TA. • Participate in local governance to oversight implementation and delivery of the program • Along with CHPs, provides options for long-term housing pathways for program participants • Lead Client Referral and Assessment Group (CRAG)
Contracted Community Housing Provider (CHP) as part of Community Housing Leasing Program (CHLP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and let appropriate head-lease • Maintain urgency in the response for the person • Participate in program governance • Participate in the CRAG • Tenancy management • Deliver an individualised package of support for the person • Establish and maintain a relationship with local health district for people with mental health issues, as required • As this is time limited program, identify alternative housing solutions in partnership with the person and support provider before the end of the program • Allocate funding to support provider for support planning and delivery of wraparound support • Manage sub-contract with support provider/s • Program reporting that include details and frequency as specified by DCJ
Support provider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership with CHP in program delivery • Participate in program governance • Undertake assessment of the person's support needs. • Participate in referral and exit assessment group • Deliver individualised wraparound support and tenancy sustainment over approximately two years • Develop a support plan with the program participant to include long-term housing planning from commencement of support • As this is time limited program, identify alternative housing solutions in partnership with the program participant and the CHP before the end of the program • Referral to other supports as required • Maintain reporting requirements to the CHP • Data reporting in CIMS or equivalent data reporting system, which includes reporting to provide direct visibility on the progress for each program participant • Establish and maintain a relationship with Local Health District for people with mental health issues as required

9. Program funding

\$36.1 million is allocated to this program including funds for accommodation and wraparound support. The funding includes:

\$13.6m	New social housing head leases for approximately 2 years for people street sleeping
\$22.5m	For wrap-around support and tenancy sustainment over approximately 2 years

The program will use the existing CHLP payment mechanism, with contracts varied to include funding for wraparound support.

Adequate funding is provided for a full two years of leasing, with staggered exits where some people may require continued support for a short period at the end of the lease.

Please refer to your Letter of Variation for more information on the funding split between the housing and support component.

9.1. Distribution model

DCJ will allocate funds to CHPs. CHPs will engage support providers in a sub-contracting arrangement to deliver wraparound supports.

The \$36.1m will be allocated to providers in FY 2019/2020.

9.2. Payment mechanism

This program will use the a block funding approach using the existing CHLP payment mechanism, with contracts varied to include funding for wrap-around support.

9.3. Accountability

Accountability is in built in the *Community Housing Assistance Agreement - Community Housing Leasing Program*. The agreement has been developed in accordance with legislation, and in addition to all reporting requirements in the Common Terms and the Community Housing Providers (Adoption of National Law) Act 2012 (NSW). The Provider must also provide the DCJ with the following reports in the format and within the time period specified:

- all reports in respect of the Project;
- all information reasonably requested by the DCJ including, but not limited to, information which will enable DCJ to determine whether the Provider is complying with the terms and conditions of this Agreement;
- all information required under the contract compliance and performance management framework/s and related documentation;
- all disclosures and all information required by DCJ to comply with its reporting or other obligations to the Minister, Parliament or Government Agencies; and
- access to, and copies of, all records relevant to the performance of the Provider's obligations under this Agreement.

10. Contracts

10.1 Contract variation

The *Community Housing Assistance Agreement - Community Housing Leasing Program – Homelessness Housing* contract will be amended specifically for this program to include:

- Support-side outputs and outcomes monitoring plus reporting framework
- Requirements for engaging support services (see 10.1)
- THP participant privacy and confidentiality
- High-level principles for local governance
- Overview of intake approach and referrals from DCJ
- Consultation approach with homelessness peaks, DCJ districts, and other potential service providers
- Agreed funding allocation with CHAP, including housing and support
- Agreed approach on supporting people with mental illness, as required

10.2 Requirements for engaging support providers

The *Community Housing Assistance Agreement* incorporating the Together Home program includes clauses about subcontracting. For the purpose of this Agreement, "subcontract" includes entering into a joint venture, partnership or agency relationship. CHPs may engage a support provider to provide wraparound support for those housed through the Program.

It is encouraged that support services are delivered via sub-contract with a support provider. If supports are delivered by the CHP they must be able to demonstrate there is a clear separation between tenancy and the support component, and the support component is delivered to the requirements noted in these guidelines.

Subcontracting clauses are applicable to CHPs engaging with a support provider to provide wrap-around support. Subcontracting is not applicable for the Property and Tenancy Management component, as this is the CHP's responsibility.

Subcontracted support services are expected to:

- Partner with CHP in program delivery
- Participate in program governance
- Undertake assessment, including use of the Personal Wellbeing Index (PWI)
- Participate in Client Referral and Assessment group (CRAG)
- Deliver wraparound person centred support and tenancy sustainment over approximately 2 years
- Refer the person to other supports as required
- Undertake data capture in CIMS or equivalent system as agreed to by DCJ
- Maintain reporting requirements to the CHP
- Maintain a relationship with local health district as required

Support providers engaged through this process must meet the following parameters:

- Have a track record of delivering outcomes for the target group (noting: the target group is people street sleeping).
- Have experience in providing trauma-informed casework support to people experiencing multiple, complex needs. This case work must include assessment of a person's vulnerability and suitability for the program and tenancy sustainment.
- Have an existing footprint in the delivery location
- Have the capacity to quickly implement service provision, with minimal lead in time, and ability to utilise existing staff or the capacity to increase service capacity quickly.
- Experience and systems in place for delivering brokerage to support casework.
- Established partnerships in place

Also refer to the Support Provider Capability checklist (section 6).

For more guidance on subcontracting, please use the DCJ guidance and resources:
www.facs.nsw.gov.au/providers/funded/resources/subcontracting.

These include:

- What is subcontracting?
- You have additional responsibilities and obligations when subcontracting
- What to do if you want to change agree subcontracting arrangements
- Support and assistance

DCJ may at any time require the CHP to immediately cease using any subcontractor on reasonable grounds by notice in writing to the Provider and the Provider agrees to comply with any such notice. This may include, but is not limited to, fraud, other illegal activity, inappropriate use of funds, significant and sustained performance issues, etc. This list should not be considered exhaustive.

10.3 Contract management

Community Housing and Pathways (CHaP), in its role as contract manager (see Section 8), will be engaging with CHPs on a quarterly basis to discuss program implementation and performance against KPIs.

Discussions about the Together Home program will become a subset of the existing Community Housing Leasing Program contract management discussions already in place.

CHaP will be in regular contact with CHPs for reporting and to discuss any local operational issues concerning the contract.

10.4. Managing rental bond requirements

It will be a requirement of the program that the CHP ensures the bond and advance rent for the property is paid to the landlord. The CHP should refer to their internal policy in order to recoup any funds outlaid for the bond and advance rent on behalf the program participant. Any repayment plan should be reasonable and not act as a deterrent for the person to enter the program.

11. Monitoring and reporting framework

The overall aim of the program is to provide stable accommodation and wrap-around support to people street sleeping during the COVID-19 pandemic, and to provide ongoing linkages with support services to reduce a program participant's return to homelessness.

CHPs are only to report on outcomes achieved for people who are supported as part of this program. It is acknowledged that CHPs house people who are street sleeping from the NSW Housing Register in the delivery of their standard business, however these clients should not be included in the Together Home data reporting. This approach will ensure the fidelity of the data for the program.

The program seeks to achieve the following outcomes for people who are experiencing homelessness:

- Increased number of individuals are safely, sustainably and securely housed
- Increased number of individuals successfully referred to health and wellbeing services
- Increased number of individuals are connected to supportive family, cultural or community networks
- Individuals have improved level of daily living skills necessary for long term accommodation and self-management
- Increased number of individuals are positively engaged with structured activities (i.e. support groups, education and employment).
- Individuals have improved subjective wellbeing.

A Monitoring and Reporting Framework for the Together Home program has been developed, and captures the high level objectives, linked outcomes, output and outcome indicators and the correlating key performance indicators (KPIs), as well as the reporting cycle and corresponding report templates for use by CHPs and support providers.

The Monitoring and Reporting Framework is provided at **Appendix 1**, and should be reviewed carefully to ensure a complete understanding of program requirements.

CHPs should note that DCJ will also provide further reporting detail and instructions via the Together Home Program Reporting and Data Collection Process Document for Community Housing Providers, which will be supplied directly to participating CHPs.

11.1 Record Keeping and Privacy and Confidentiality

The records of people who receive a service from a CHP or support provider fall within the parameters of the Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002 (NSW), Chapter 16A of the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 (NSW), Part 13A of the Crimes (Domestic and Family Violence) Act 2007 (NSW), and the Privacy Amendment (Enhancing Privacy Protection) Act 2012 (Cth).

For referrals into the program and for access to different supports, agencies are required to take reasonable steps to ensure people seeking assistance understand why their information will be shared and with whom, and to seek their consent for that. Information about consent should be provided in an appropriate format that can be understood by the person seeking assistance.

Participants should also be provided with information about their rights and responsibilities, and support to exercise those rights.

The support provider must have documented systems and procedures for maintaining program participant records that also ensure personal and service-related information is recorded promptly and confidentially.

In circumstances where it is suspected a person is at risk of significant harm or domestic and family violence, providers must comply with relevant legislation, including:

- Chapter 16A of the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 that allows agencies who work with at risk children to exchange information related to their safety, welfare or well-being to facilitate better coordination of service provision
- Part 13A of the Crimes (Domestic and Family Violence) Act 2007 that allows sharing of victims' and perpetrators' information in specific circumstances. These are outlined in the Domestic Violence Information Sharing Protocol.

All providers need to understand their responsibilities and compliance requirements in line with Chapter 16A of the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 and Part 13A of the Crimes (Domestic and Family Violence) Act 2007. Providers should also ensure that participants have these legal obligations explained to them during entry to the program.

Further information can be found at:

- Privacy and Personal Information Act 1998 (NSW)
- Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (NSW)
- www.domesticviolence.justice.nsw.gov.au
- www.community.nsw.gov.au/kts/guidelines/info_exchange/introduction.htm

12. Governance Structure

Governance is critical for the implementation of the program and to escalate implementation issues.

Please note that there is a distinction between the below Governance groups and the referral groups into the program - the Client Referral Assessment Group (CRAG) and Higher Support Needs Assessment Panel. The Governance groups will work to understand implementation of these referral groups. See Figure 1 below.

Pre-existing governance structures/arrangements can be utilised where appropriate.

12.1. Program Management

The program management function within DCJ will be performed by Strategy, Policy and Commissioning (SPC). The Directorate will report into the DCJ Housing and Homelessness Steering Committee, which is chaired at Deputy Secretary level.

As with other programs initiated in response to COVID-19, funding will be reported to NSW Treasury.

12.2. Program Steering Committee

DCJ will convene a Program Steering Committee to oversee all locations and ensure a continuous improvement approach to the delivery of the program.

This group will include:

- Executive Director, Strategy, Policy and Commissioning
- Deputy Secretary, Southern HDDSEM
- Directors, Commissioning and Planning DCJ / Directors Housing
- CHP representative – Community Housing Industry Association (CHIA)
- ACHP representative – Aboriginal Community Housing Industry Association (ACHIA)
- Peak representative/s

This group will work collaboratively to resolve issues that may escalate from the Program Delivery Group, identify pathways into long term housing for the program participants that require it (e.g. social housing) as well as pathways towards independence (e.g. private rental).

12.3. Program Delivery Group

The structure of this group may look different across NSW, it should be developed for a local context.

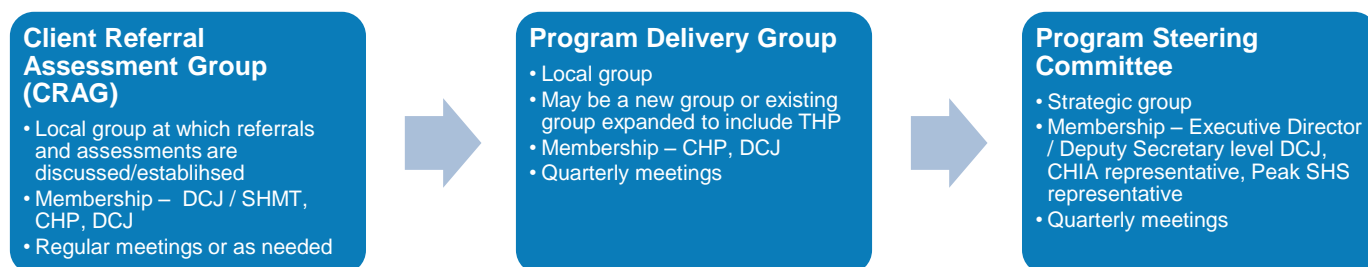
Community Housing Providers are expected to participate in a quarterly Program Delivery Group. DCJ will convene and provide secretariat support for this group. Meetings will be held quarterly, or more frequently as required.

The group will focus on program implementation issues and aim to resolve these issues collaboratively. Issues which require further strategic input and consideration should be escalated to the Program Steering Committee.

Membership of the group should comprise the following:

- A senior level representative from each CHP
- A senior level representative from the SHS sector
- DCJ, Community Housing and Pathways
- DCJ, Design and Stewardship
- DCJ, Implementation and Performance
- DCJ, Housing Statewide Services

Figure 1: Governance Structure

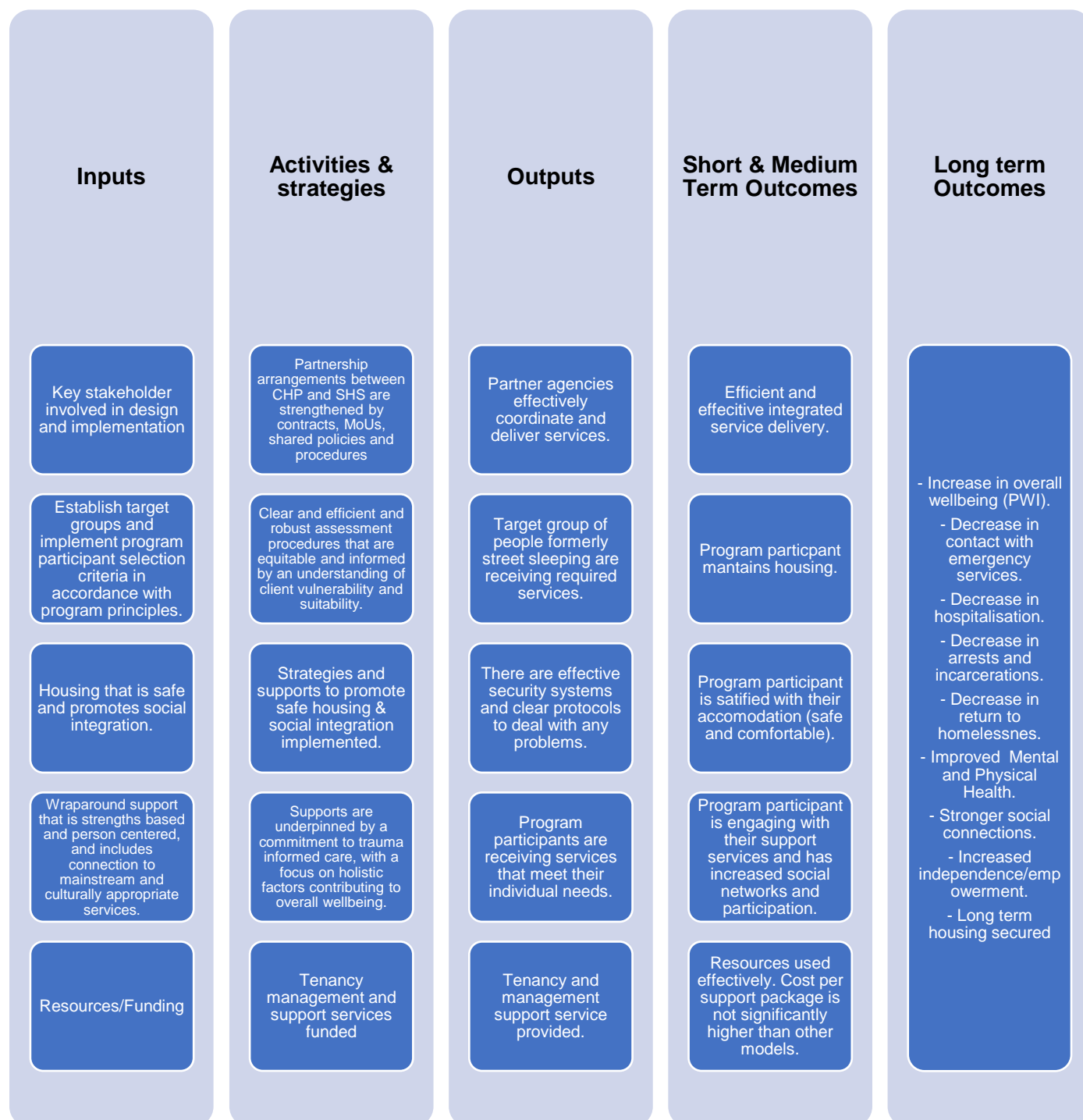


13. Program Evaluation

To understand the effectiveness of this approach to assisting people street sleeping, DCJ will undertake an evaluation led by DCJ Strategy, Housing and Homelessness, as this program links to the Premier's Priority to end street sleeping by 2025.

A proposed program logic includes, but is not limited to what is outlined in Fig 2.

Figure 2. Example Program Logic



Appendix 1. Together Home Program Monitoring and Reporting Framework

1. Overview

A range of providers play an important role in the ongoing and collective effort of governments, NGOs and communities to address the complex problem of homelessness.

Although factors outside of the funded homelessness program may impact on achievement of the program's objectives, data must still be collected from providers awarded program funding to demonstrate the contribution of that service to the difference that the program is making to peoples' lives, and to support continuous improvement of the homelessness service system.

The CHP and support provider will be required to report quarterly on their performance against the THP Outcomes Framework. A reporting template will be provided to track outputs and outcomes relevant to the short, intermediate and long term stages of support, and identify sources of data and responsibility of reporting for each output and outcome (see Outcomes Report template - sample). The finalised Quarterly Outcomes Report template will be made available to providers shortly after program commencement, and is likely to be in an Excel format for ease of use.

1.1. CHP Program Reporting in CHIMES

The CHP will also be required to report against the following data more frequently:

- Number of people referred to the program
- Number of people accepted in the program
- Number of properties leased through the program
- Number of people with support provider in place
- Number of tenants with exits to stable housing
- Number of tenants with exit to unstable housing.
- Any identified roadblocks, issues, obstacles and successes.

This reporting is to fulfil accountability to NSW Treasury. Reporting will be on a weekly basis initially until December 2020 unless otherwise specified. The reporting may reduce in frequency as the program continues. CHPs will be able to enter this data via a newly developed tab in the Community Housing Information Management E-System (CHIMES) database.

1.2. CHP Financial Reporting in CHIMES

As well as the above housing and support related data, CHPs will be required to report on financial expenditure related to these areas. This information will also be able to be uploaded into CHIMES.

1.3. Support provision reporting in CIMS

Support providers will be required to maintain program participant records and report to the CHP using the Client Information Management System (CIMS) or equivalent data system / reporting program that will enable Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) reporting.

Support providers are responsible for ensuring they can electronically collect and collate this required data. For providers that will not be using CIMS, they will need to establish contact with DCJ for further instructions on the minimum data set for reporting. Providers can request information about the software licences that support this data collection, from DCJ.

2. Reporting cycle

Reporting will include but is not limited to:

Report name	Content of report / report requirements	Responsibility	Frequency of report	Form and method of delivery of report	Details of recipient
NSW Treasury reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of properties leased No. of people referred/accepted Support provider in place + and - exits 	CHP	Weekly to end of December unless advised otherwise	CHIMES THP data tab.	DCJ CHaP
CIMS Data Collection or equivalent	BAU program participant data collection – support period information and status updates	Support Provider	Status updates end of each month	No external report. Status updates completed within CIMS or equivalent.	CIMS or equivalent
CHIMES Financial reporting	Complete data collection related to expenditure	CHP	Monthly	CHIMES	DCJ CHaP
CHIMES Data Collection	Complete data collection related to tenant demographic information as required by CHLP.	CHP	Quarterly	Electronic submission	Per BAU
Program outcomes and outputs	Report on the outcomes framework as relevant to the stage of support	CHP and Support Provider	Quarterly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update relevant CHIMES data. Support providers using CIMS - complete Status Updates in CIMS. DCJ to extract information to Outcomes Report Template to upload to CHIMES. Providers using non-CIMS systems - complete Outcomes Report template and provide to CHIMES to upload. 	DCJ – Together Home mailbox/C HIMES

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHP to approve final data as it appears in CHIMES. • Email manual data to DCJ. 	
--	--	--	--	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

CHPs should ensure that the support providers also submit a quarterly report to the CHP on funds expended. The format for this reporting will be determined by agreement between the CHP and support provider.

Note: Quarterly reports on sustaining of tenancy and supports will be point in time, not linked to an individual person's date of entry. This is due to the expected majority of people coming in at roughly the same time. It would also create undue complexity of calculations linked to differing dates of entry. Data reports will contain the following disclaimer - It is important to note that the aggregated retention rate may include data for some people who have only recently been housed and thus does not necessarily represent one's ability to sustain a tenancy. If needed, this data could still be sourced on a person by person basis for evaluation purposes.

3. Together Home Program - Outcomes Framework

Key

R = Reportable KPIs

Objective	Outcome	Output	Outcome Indicator	Outcome KPI
1. Rapidly rehouse people who were street sleeping during the COVID-19 pandemic with a plan for long term housing	Increased number of individuals are safely, sustainably and securely housed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of accepted referrals Number of people housed. Number of people housed within 4 weeks of referral. KPI = 80% of clients to be housed within 4 weeks of client referred and accepted into the program R. Remaining (20%) to be housed within 6 weeks of referral and acceptance into the program. Number of people with a support provider support plan. Number of people that have a long term housing plan R 	Short term (0-12mths)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 % 80 % 80 %
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of people that remain housed at 3, 6, 9, 12mths. % of people that remain engaged with a support provider at 3, 6, 9, 12mths. 	
			Intermediate (12-18mths)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70 % 70 %
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of people that remain housed at 15, 18mths. % of people that remain engaged with a support provider at 15, 18mths. 	
			Long term (18-24mths)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60 % 60 % 60 %
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of people that remain housed at 21, 24mths. % of people that remain engaged with a support provider at 21, 24mths. % of people street sleeping at entry, in stable housing at exit. R 	
2. Provide access to culturally appropriate health, mental health and wellbeing services	Increased number of individuals successfully engage with health and wellbeing services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of people with support plans that address health and wellbeing services for primary physical and/or mental health care and/or substance use support (if required) within 3 months. KPI = 80% of those who require this. Number of people who have been referred for assessment for NDIS eligibility within 2mths (if required). KPI = 80% of those who require this. 	Short term (0-12mths)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70 %
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of people that remain engaged with any health and wellbeing services at 6, 9, 12mths. 	
			Intermediate (12-18mths)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60 %
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of people that remain engaged with any health and wellbeing services at 15, 18mths. 	
			Long term (18-24mths)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50 % 80 %
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of people that remain engaged with any health and wellbeing services at 21, 24mths. % of people requiring support with health and wellbeing services at entry, who have actively engaged with those services during support. R 	
3. Rebuild family, community and cultural connections	Increased number of individuals are connected to supportive family, cultural or community networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of people with support plans that address connection to family, cultural and community networks, established within 3mths. KPI = 90% Number of people who are supported to engage with family/cultural/community networks (if required). 	Short term (0-12mths)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70 %
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of people that engage with family, cultural and community connection supports at 6, 9, 12mths. 	
			Intermediate (12-18mths)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60 %
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of people that remain engaged with family, cultural and community connection supports at 15, 18mths. 	
			Long term (18-24mths)	

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of people that remain engaged with family, cultural and community connection supports at 21, 24mths. % of people requiring support with family, cultural and community networks at entry, who engaged with supports to reconnect during support. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50 % 80 %
4. Support the development of daily living and self-management skills including skills to sustain a tenancy	Individuals have improved level of daily living skills necessary for long term accommodation and self-management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of people with positive tenancy exits. Number of people with negative tenancy exits. Number of people with support plans that address living skills and tenancy management (and/or income management, and/or legal or court support), established within 6mths. KPI = 100% R Number of people with living skills assessment completed within 6mths. KPI = 100% R (as part of DCJ Application for Housing Assistance using the Independent Living Skills Assessment) 	Short term (0-12mths)	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of people that remain engaged in living skills or tenancy management supports at 9, 12mths. % of people with improved living skills assessment at 12mths (using the Together Home Living Skills Assessment compared to initial DCJ Application for Housing Assistance Independent Living Skills assessment) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80 % 60 %
			Intermediate (12-18mths)	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of people that remain engaged in living skills or tenancy management supports at 15, 18mths. % of people that maintain improvement in living skills at 15, 18mths (compared to initial assessment using the Together Home Living Skills Assessment) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70 % 70 %
			Long term (18-24mths)	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of people that remain engaged in living skills or tenancy management supports at 21, 24mths. % of people that maintain improvement in living skills at 21, 24mths (compared to initial assessment using the Together Home Living Skills Assessment) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60 % 80 %
5. Facilitate engagement with positive structured activities such as social groups, education and/or employment	Increased number of individuals are positively engaged with structured activities (i.e. support groups, education and employment).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of people with support plans that address engagement with positive structured activities, established within 6mths. KPI = 80% R Number of people who enter education/training or employment (can include ongoing voluntary work) 	Short term (0-12mths)	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of people that engage with positive structured activities at 9, 12mths. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70 %
			Intermediate (12-18mths)	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of people that remain engaged with positive structured activities at 15, 18mths. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60 %
			Long term (18-24mths)	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of people that remain engaged in structured activities at 21, 24mths. % of people with requiring support with positive structured activities at entry that have actively engaged with those activities during support. R 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50 % 70 %
Whole of Program Impact =	Individuals have improved personal wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of people with completed PWI start survey. KPI = 80% R Number of people with complete PWI data collection (start, periodic surveys, exit survey). KPI = 80% R 	Short term (0-12mths)	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of people with improved total wellbeing score at 3mths (*compared to start survey total score) % of people with an improved wellbeing score at 6, 9, 12mths (*compared to start survey total score) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70 % 70 %
			Intermediate (12-18mths)	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of people that achieve (part or full) their support plan goals (only answered at end of support period) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of people with an improved total wellbeing score at 15, 18mths (compared to start survey total score) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70%
			Long term (18-24mths)	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of people with an improved total wellbeing score at 21, 24mths (*compared to start survey total score) % of people with an improved total wellbeing at exit (*compared to start survey total score) R 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80% 80 %

**The PWI is not expected to generate continual improvement. We do not anticipate or require continual improvement in PWI scores, however we anticipate an experience of improved wellbeing due to participation in the program. Therefore "Improved total wellbeing score" is always measured against the start survey.*

Quarterly Together Home Program Outcomes Reporting Template - Sample					
Service Provider:				Quarter:	
Objective	Rapidly rehouse people who were street sleeping during the COVID-19 pandemic with a plan for long term housing				
Outcome	Increased number of individuals are safely, sustainably and securely housed				
			Result	Provider comment on outputs	
Output	Number of accepted referrals				
	Number of people housed				
	Number of people housed within X weeks of referral. KPI = X%				
	Number of people with a support provider support plan				
	Number of people who exit into long term housing *				
	Number of people who exit into unstable housing *				
Outcome Indicator	Short term (0-12mths)		KPI/Result		Provider comment on outcomes
	% of people s that remain housed at 3, 6, 9, 12mths.		X %		
	% of people that remain engaged with a support provider at 3, 6, 9, 12mths.		X %		
	Intermediate (12-18mths)				
	% of people that remain housed at 15, 18mths.		X %		
	% of people that remain engaged with a support provider at 15, 18mths.		X %		
	Long term (18-24mths)				
	% of people that remain housed at 21, 24mths.		X %		
	% of people that remain engaged with a support provider at 21, 24mths.		X %		
	% of people street sleeping at entry, in stable housing at exit. *		X %		
= CHP data * = use PH codes for Termination & Where next housed			= SHS data		

Appendix 2. Together Home Program (THP) Brokerage Policy

Brokerage can be an important tool for achieving positive housing outcomes for people in the THP program.

Brokerage assistance is managed at an individual provider level, and that Provider is responsible for record keeping and acquittal of any expenditure related to the brokerage assistance.

Brokerage assistance from THP funds can only be provided to a person who:

- Is currently accessing THP
- Has a current and formal written case-plan
- Is also receiving non-brokerage support from the provider.

Brokerage assistance can only be provided where:

- funds are used for goals directly related to sustaining housing and/or preventing homelessness
- Implementing the agreed case-plan actions requires particular goods and services which:
 - The program participant is unable to directly access
 - The service is unable to provide from other program resources
 - The service is unable to access from other services/agencies
 - And where the cost for the program participant of these good and services within the timeframe required is not affordable

Brokerage assistance is not available for:

- A goods or service that is provided free as part of a service or program the program participant is eligible for with another organisation or agency (e.g. Medicare bulk billing, DCJ rental housing assistance products, employment service supports, etc.)
- Rental arrears for social housing, which can be addressed through a payment plan
- Ongoing assistance with debts
- Personal debts repayable through a Work Development Order (WDO)
- Discretionary items not essential to achieving support plan goals.

Money is not to be issued directly as part of a brokerage or emergency assistance response. The provider must organise payment for goods or services directly with the relevant supplier.

All Providers should consider the following issues in determining their agency's brokerage policies, procedures and brokerage budgets:

- The target number of program participants to be supported over the contract period
- Mechanisms to equitably manage brokerage across the program participant portfolio through agency determined:
 - Limitations on the range of goods and services that may be supported

- Assistance 'caps' with respect to each request or number or requests to assist in rationing funds
- The availability of goods and services in the local area which can be procured without the use of brokerage funding
- The availability of goods and services in the local area which have consistently required the use of brokerage funding to achieve sustainable program participant outcomes
- The capacity of individual program participants to repay part or all brokerage funding received.

It is a Together Home program requirement that providers keep records of all brokerage approvals, expenditure, and funds recoveries, including:

- Auditable documentation of the brokerage approval process, which includes:
 - The identity of the worker who requisitioned the brokerage and the approver
 - Identification of the program participant who received the brokerage
 - The case-plan activity and goal being supported
 - The goods or services to be purchased
- Support-plan records of the contribution brokerage expenditure made to achieving the relevant support plan goal
- Auditable records of purchase orders, invoices, receipts, remittance advices, credit card statements, or vouchers linked to each brokerage approval
- An itemised statement of all brokerage assistance received by an individual program participant is available for audit
- Auditable records of any brokerage expenditure recovered through repayments, refunds, re-sale of items purchased, etc.
- An itemised statement of overall brokerage expenditure or receipts in a financial year that can be reported as part of acquittal reporting through the DCJ Funded Contract Management Framework (FCMF).

Appendix 3. DCJ Housing Contact Details [as at June 2020]

Location	Title	Name	Email Address
Hunter, New England and Central Coast	Director Housing	Jeff Mills	Jeff Mills Jeff.Mills@facs.nsw.gov.au
Central Coast	Manager Housing Services	Karen Wilson	Karen Wilson Karen.wilson@facs.nsw.gov.au
Hunter	Manager Housing Services	Kathy Kirkwood	Kathy Kirkwood Kathy.kirkwood@facs.nsw.gov.au
Northern NSW	Manager Housing Services	Rodney Land	Rodney Land Rodney.Land@facs.nsw.gov.au
South Western Sydney	Director Housing Services	Tara Vella	Tara Vella Tara.Vella@facs.nsw.gov.au
Western Sydney, Nepean Blue Mountains	Director Housing	Rocco Esposito	Rocco Esposito Rocco.Esposito@facs.nsw.gov.au
Sydney, South Eastern Sydney and North Sydney	Director Housing	Shane Snibson	Shane Snibson Shane.Snibson@facs.nsw.gov.au
Illawarra Shoalhaven	Manager Housing Operations	Dallas Burnes	Dallas Burnes Dallas.Burnes@facs.nsw.gov.au
Southern NSW	Manager Housing Operations	Shane Meijer	Shane Meijer Shane.Meijer@facs.nsw.gov.au
Murrumbidgee	Manager Housing Services	Michael Whiteside	Michael Whiteside Michael.Whiteside3@facs.nsw.gov.au
Western NSW	Manager Housing Services	Kim Campbell	Kim Campbell kim.campbell@facs.nsw.gov.au