

SA Housing Authority

Update

A message to the housing and homelessness sector

Wednesday, 8 July 2020

Report from the second meeting of the Sector Reference Group

The second meeting of the Specialist Homelessness Sector Reference Group (SRG) was convened by independent chair Ms Loretta Reynolds on Tuesday 30 June 2020.

SRG member, Paul Edginton, CEO SYC Ltd, led a discussion about the development of Outcomes Measurement Frameworks within social services, using the experience of SYC Ltd. The focus of the presentation was on the Why and the What and not the How.

A number of aspects were discussed starting with the role of outcomes frameworks not being about “fixing the system” but rather about what system should exist in the future. Further discussion included:

- In developing an Outcomes Measurement Framework there are four questions to ask:
 - What are we trying to achieve?
 - Does it offer public value?
 - Do we have support for it?
 - Do we have capacity to deliver?
- We need to agree on what the outcomes are: targeted/individual life/organisational program and service/population
- What is holding us back in SA in moving towards Outcomes based procurement? Currently there are disparate levels of knowledge and readiness across organisations and departments. What opportunities exist for shared professional development across the sector, including government?
- Outcomes based procurement is a longer-term reform agenda which requires genuine collaboration between the sector and government, and there are opportunities for a collective approach.
- What are the immediate actions we can implement as part of a staged roll out? What does a ‘good’ life look like for SA citizens? We should not fear setting targets that may be challenging to achieve.

The SRG discussed further topics including:

- Identification of cohorts within the sector is important to understand different pathways and opportunities for intervention

- Importance of keeping specialisation within the homelessness sector, including the acknowledgement of regional and remote areas, but ensuring integration and not creating further silos
- Intersection and relationships across Government portfolios are important for any outcomes framework to succeed
- Localised advocacy and networking across sectors must be complemented with a strategic role undertaken by the SA Housing Authority
- Important to understand the longer-term agenda required to build a stronger system, but ensuring a focus on the immediate actions the SRG can inform for delivery in the short term

Further discussions and communication across the homelessness sector will continue.

Loretta Reynolds

Chair, Sector Reference Group

Ian Cox

Head, Office for Homelessness Sector Integration



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