

Item No: Item 8
Subject: Prevention of Homelessness
Prepared by: Strategic Reference Group Member, Gary Moore

SUMMARY

The SRG requested that this item be included on the agenda for the August meeting.

A report has been prepared by SRG member Gary Moore on homelessness and possible actions that may be taken to address the prevention of homelessness. It will be distributed on Thursday 16 August as a late report.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Housing and Affordability Strategic Reference Group contributes to discussion of possible actions that may be taken by Inner West Council to address the prevention of homelessness.

Homelessness initiatives that could be considered by Inner West Council

Prevention of homelessness

- Supply side measures such as inclusionary zoning that will target new affordable housing stock in population growth areas (in collaboration with the NSW Government and community housing providers);
- Support for social enterprise, social procurement and other targeted employment and training initiatives that assist unemployed or underemployed people at risk of becoming homeless or in supported accommodation;
- Piloting a Home Share scheme where older people and those with disabilities who are owner/occupiers with spare bedrooms are appropriately matched with students and other lower income earners seeking accommodation
- Facilitation to establish an affordable housing listings service possibly operated as a social enterprise and placed online so that mobile applications can be used.
- Expanded technical and financial assistance to better assist local tenancy advice, rental brokerage services and boarding house residents support schemes that enable people at risk of homelessness to better maintain their housing arrangements.

- Awareness raising and education projects with sporting, business, arts and recreational organisations to help reduce the incidence of domestic and family violence that can lead to homelessness;
- Facilitating through libraries and/or on line sites, simpler information about energy, telecommunications, rental housing, public transport etc plans and concessions to assist with cost of living pressures.

Support of homeless people

- Helping street based outreach, food, laundry, clothing and other services to maximize their effectiveness;
- Assisting homelessness agencies best network through collaborative initiatives (Homeless Connect etc)
- Ensuring that the principals and practices of the Homeless Protocol are complied with in the public domain
- Delivering digital literacy training and other community learning programs through Libraries and community centres
- Advocating for more housing first, foyer and hub housing opportunities