

Casey Cardinia Homelessness Network Strategic Plan

January 2018



Strategic Plan - Principles

Principle	Definition
Upholding human rights	Respect for and upholding of human rights requires adopting a non-judgemental approach to people or groups of people. It involves eliminating discrimination based on age, gender identity, sexuality, race, religious/faith beliefs, political beliefs, ethnicity, physical ability and socio-economic status.
Evidence informed	Actions, undertaken to make Casey and Cardinia a more affordable region to live need to be informed by the most, current data and evidence from Australia and Internationally.
Shared responsibility	The City of Casey and Cardinia Shire recognises the important leadership role we play in making housing more available, affordable and diverse. Shared responsibility recognises that we take a collaborative strategic approach, which involves partnerships with individuals, families, community, businesses, organisations and agencies within and outside of the region.
Being inclusive	All people, including people experiencing homelessness have a right to benefit from Council service and participate in public activities and events. People who are homeless have a right to be in public spaces and will be treated as any other member of the public.

Strategic Plan - Goals and Objectives

Goal	Strategic Objectives
Increase the availability of safe, secure, affordable and diverse housing	Support the delivery of social and public housing to meet community needs.
	Increase a diverse range of housing choices available in appropriate locations that meets the accessibility, sustainability and affordability needs of the community.
Increase awareness and understanding	Build an overall awareness and understanding of homelessness and financial disadvantage for council, community organisations, community groups and the wider community.
	An improved understanding of the causes and effects of homelessness will ensure the community, local businesses and Council staff approach homeless people with care, dignity, safety and respect.
Build partnerships to increase a collaborative, coordinated and strategic approach	Develop diverse partnerships to strengthen integrated responses to people at risk of or experiencing homelessness and housing stress.
	Create strong collaborative partnerships and a unified objective between Council, housing providers, local businesses and community agencies to improve outcomes for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
Increase participation and engagement	Ensure all Council services and activities are easily accessible for homeless and vulnerable people.
	Community engagement processes are reflective and respectful of those who are homeless and financially disadvantaged.

Strategic Plan – Proposed Actions

Goal	Strategic Objectives
Increase the availability of safe, secure, affordable and diverse housing	Support the delivery of social and public housing to meet community needs.
	Increase a diverse range of housing choices available in appropriate locations that meets the accessibility, sustainability and affordability needs of the community.

Proposed Action	Votes
Advocate to and partner with Housing Associations and DHHS to enable more social and public housing development.	25
Lobby and advocate other levels of government around an increase in public and social housing stock.	24
Ensure that the need for affordable, social and public housing is considered in planning and plans for community/activity centres.	15
Engage with other levels of government to explore ways to maximise opportunities for an increase in social, public and affordable housing.	13
Advocate to State Government to introduce supporting legislation that will enable local government to include inclusionary zoning as a tool to increase the supply of affordable housing.	13
Develop strong partnerships with local real estate agents to assist with increase housing options and to decrease the rate of evictions.	11
Provide guidance on housing types needed to assist and guide residential development in areas where housing diversity is needed and expected	5
Identify appropriate areas for higher density housing that can provide a greater diversity of housing choices.	4

Strategic Plan – Proposed Actions

Goal	Strategic Objectives
Increase awareness and understanding	Build an overall awareness and understanding of homelessness and financial disadvantage for council, community organisations, community groups and the wider community.
	An improved understanding of the causes and effects of homelessness will ensure the community, local businesses and Council staff approach homeless people with care, dignity, safety and respect.

Proposed Action	Votes
Undertake and facilitate research projects, data collection and evidence based best practice	17
Provide accessible information about the availability of services and programs and facilitate information sharing across all service sectors	15
Promote opportunities, activities and services specific to homelessness through different channels such as social media, the Council website, email, text message and face to face events	14
Support and facilitate awareness raising campaigns, informal activities, discussions, communications and events that promote an increased understanding of homelessness and financial disadvantage	14
Provide opportunity for formal education, training workshops and courses for both community organisations and community members	11
Host an annual sleep out for the community	10
Provide opportunity for Council Staff and community to hear stories of people with lived experience of homelessness	10
Provide networking and communication opportunities about existing programs and services that are accessible to people experiencing homelessness and financial disadvantage	10

Develop a 'wallet sized' flip card listing key contact support numbers for local laws and other community organisations	7
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Strategic Plan – Proposed Actions

Goal	Strategic Objectives
Build partnerships to increase a collaborative, coordinated and strategic approach	Develop diverse partnerships to strengthen integrated responses to people at risk of or experiencing homelessness and housing stress.
	Create strong collaborative partnerships and a unified objective between Council, housing providers, local businesses and community agencies to improve outcomes for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Proposed Action	Votes
Set up homelessness hubs where council and agencies work together to deliver programs	24
Develop strong partnerships with Council, Housing organisations and developers to deliver more social and affordable housing options	18
Create/develop 'Community Resource Pack' to be distributed to community members in need	16
Develop strong partnerships with Council, Community Groups and organisations through the Casey Cardinia Homelessness Network and working groups	13
Actively collaborate with Department of Health and Human Services to raise the housing and homelessness profile of the region	9
Support the work of local housing support agencies where possible	8
Host the Casey Cardinia Homelessness Network and Leadership group in an ongoing capacity	7
Promote collaboration between new and existing community organisations to produce new and relevant initiatives.	6
Host the Casey Cardinia Housing Summit as an annual event	4

Strategic Plan – Proposed Actions

Goal	Strategic Objectives
Increase participation and engagement	Ensure all Council services and activities are easily accessible for homeless and vulnerable people.
	Community engagement processes are reflective and respectful of those who are homeless and financially disadvantaged.

Proposed Action	Votes
Identify and establish a program for homeless persons to reside in a 'safe space' overnight during the winter months.	23
Provide opportunities for homeless and vulnerable people to be involved in decision making and to feel heard	17
Work with our facilities, community hubs and libraries to ensure that people experiencing homelessness are welcomed, included and supported	14
Develop a Resident Rooming House forum to provide the opportunity for homeless and vulnerable people to have a voice	13
Listening to and advocating with people who have a lived experience of homelessness	11
Engage with people at risk of or experiencing homelessness in places they feel and consider to be safe	11
Provide opportunities for social engagement by promoting low and no cost inclusive events and activities	7
Work with our youth service providers to link and support young people into youth specific development and training opportunities to improve their chances of being employed	6
Support more inclusive practice through service delivery e.g. grants	5

Explore supportive work opportunities to build self-confidence, develop networks and supports and develop alternate sources of income	5
Be sensitive and respectful in all communication and messaging	4
Ensure people from remote areas can access information and services and participate in programs and activities	1