

NATIONAL HOMELESSNESS CONFERENCE 2022

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CONCURRENT SESSION

C10 Supportive housing after prison



COMMUNITY HOUSING LTD
GROUP OF COMPANIES

People Leaving Custody Pilot Project

National Homelessness Conference 2022

Community Housing Limited



- ▶ CHL is a not-for-profit company delivering affordable housing to those on low and moderate incomes
- ▶ Established 29 years ago and is now active in 8 countries
- ▶ Managing around 11,000 properties across six states including Victoria, New South Wales, Western Australia, Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania.



People Leaving Custody Project



PLC PILOT PROJECT BACKGROUND

- CHIA NSW received start-up funding to trial the project (People Leaving Custody) in 2018 under the NSW Community Housing Industry Development Strategy. The project was trialled in two sites, Mid North Coast (MNC) and Shoalhaven
- The pilot was delivered using existing housing and support resources. There was a small target to assist ten people at the Mid North Coast location.

Project Aims



PILOT AIM

- The aim of this pilot is to support people leaving custody to establish a stable home and strengthen their social, emotional and economic wellbeing.

PILOT DESCRIPTION

- The pilot brings three participating agencies on the NSW Mid North Coast, from Laurieton to Nambucca, including Kempsey and Bowraville.

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

- Corrective Services NSW (CS).
- Community Housing Ltd (CHL).
- New Horizons Ltd (New Horizons).



Client Participation



- The project aimed to provide housing and support for people leaving custody using a Housing First approach.
- This pilot is strengths and dignity based.
- Geared to supporting clients to build skills and capacities to strengthen social, emotional and economic wellbeing.
- By joining the pilot, clients agree to take personal responsibility and meet the commitments in their Housing and Support Plan.
- Being actively involved in establishing a safe and stable home for themselves is fundamental to the success of the pilot.



Referral and Assessment



- Referrals are provided by Corrective Services for people leaving custody with increased risk of reoffending.
- CHL work in partnership with New Horizons to review referrals to ensure people receive the support they need.

Eligibility



- Meet the eligibility requirements for social housing.
- Demonstrate a commitment to improve wellbeing by participating in the pilot.
- Has immediate family or previous employment in the location.
- Has a firm offer of employment in the location (even if the person hasn't lived in the community previously).



Housing



- Every effort is made to obtain stable housing for the client. The housing options available depends on the supply of appropriate housing in the region at the time of the client's release.
- CHL used appropriate private rental products and access priority housing when applicable.

Support



- Individual Support Plans were built using input from the client's wishes and needs identified by all parties.
- Referrals were made for additional support is to other external stakeholders as identified.



Pilot Evaluation Outcomes



Key findings

A recent evaluation found the PLC pilot was a success and importantly, that it demonstrated a sound program logic.

- 5 participants maintained social housing
- 1 participant entered private rental
- 1 participant returned to family
- 1 participant returned to custody
- 1 disengaged from the project
- All participants were male
- 33% Aboriginal
- Age range 32-49



Contacts



Thank you

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