



National Housing
Conference 2022

Housing & Health: A case for social prescribing

Developing a health and housing referral tool and pathway

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On behalf of the Healthy Housing team

Guunu-maana (Heal)
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Program
The George Institute for Global Health, UNSW





Acknowledgement of Country

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Our team

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- Amy Mackenzie (SCHN, SESLHD)
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Positioning housing & health

Living healthy and strong

Housing & social prescribing

Essential for human survival with dignity

- ✓ the right to **family life** and **privacy**,
 - ✓ the right to **freedom of movement**,
 - ✓ the right to **assembly** and **association**,
 - ✓ the right to **health**, and
 - ✓ the right to **development**.
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Positioning housing & health

Living healthy and strong

Housing & social prescribing



Living healthy and strong

Aboriginal health

“not just the physical well-being of an individual but refers to the **social, emotional and cultural well-being** of the **whole Community**”

in which each individual is able to achieve their full potential as a human being thereby bringing about the total well-being of their Community. It is a whole of life view and includes the cyclical concept of life-death-life.”

<https://www.naccho.org.au/acchos>

Impact of colonisation

Introduction
of disease

Child
removal

Movement
restrictions

Cultural
restrictions

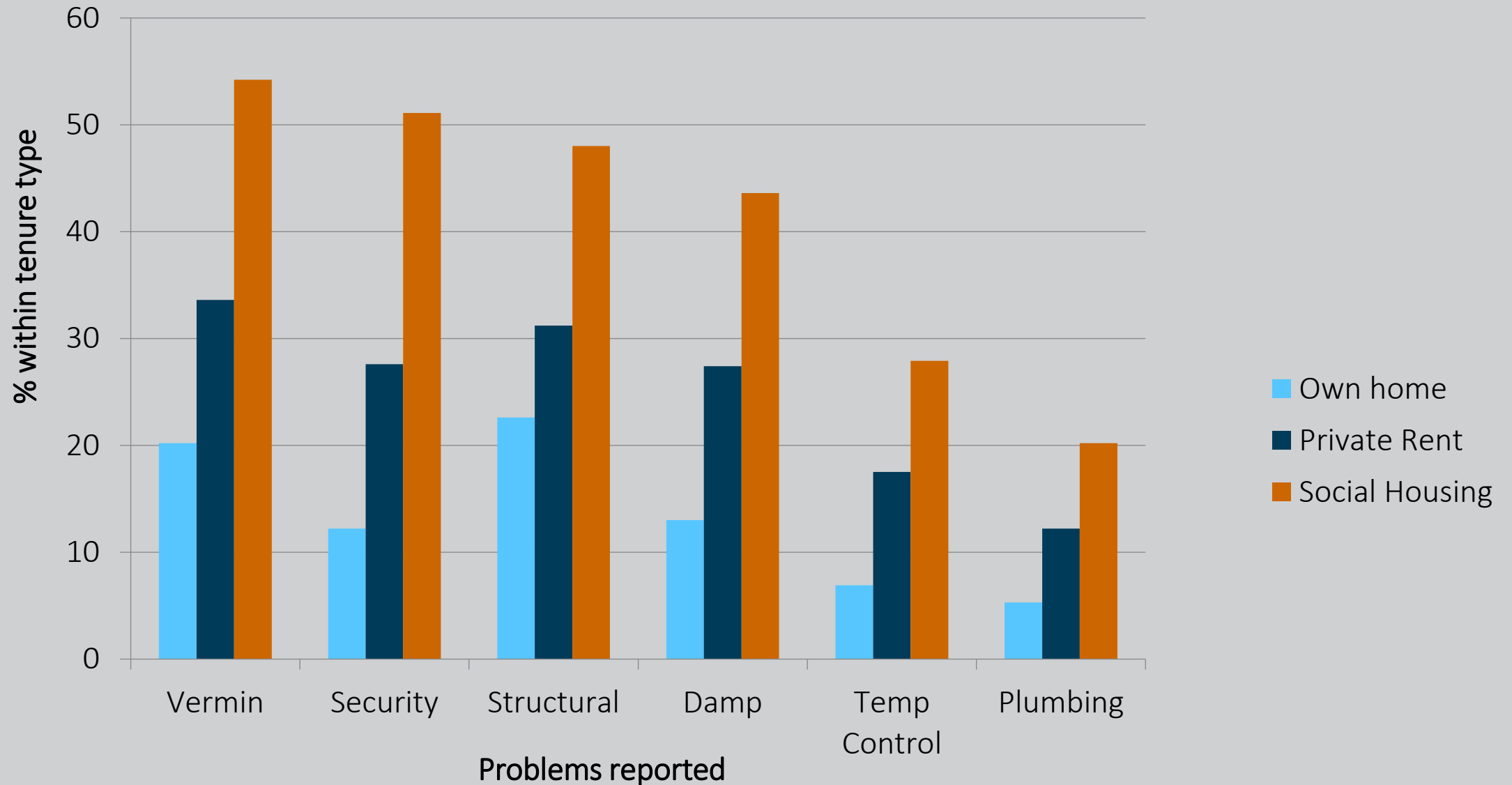
Stolen land

Voices of Aboriginal people

- Housing an issue of major concern to community
 - Poor dwelling conditions
 - Insufficient space for family size
 - Issues with affordability, instability and homelessness
 - Key determinant of health and wellbeing
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- Discrimination in the private rental system
 - Difficulty navigating the social housing system



SEARCH findings – urban households with Aboriginal children (NSW) (Andersen et al., 2018)



Positioning housing & health

Living healthy and strong

Housing & social prescribing

Beyond the medical: Child Health Forum

Integrating services to better help people and communities “Keeping our kids safe”

Healthcare workers:

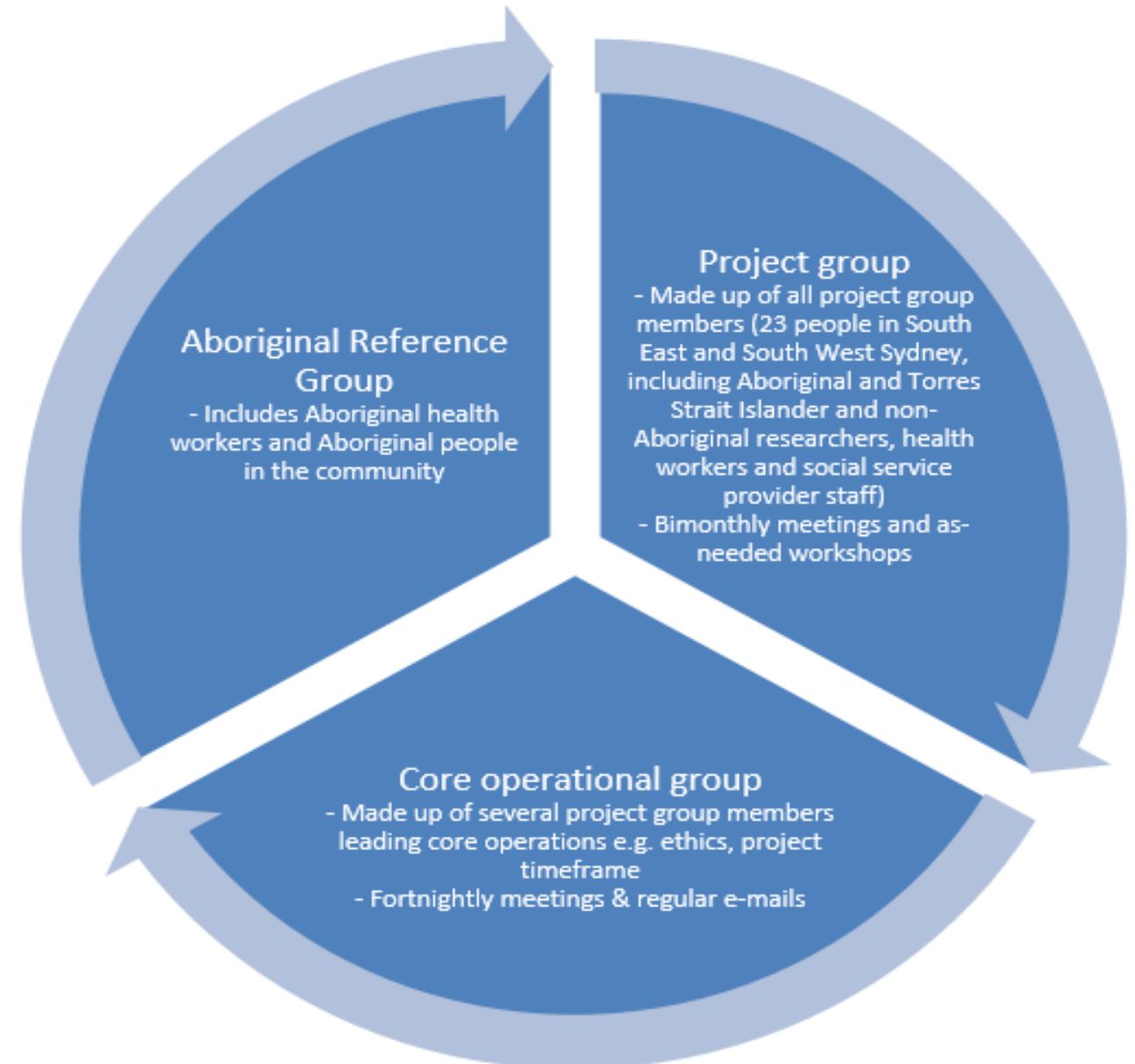
- No established and effective care pathway to connect housing, health and social service agencies with Aboriginal families in South East Sydney;
- No clear communication pathway between services.



Housing and health



Governance structure

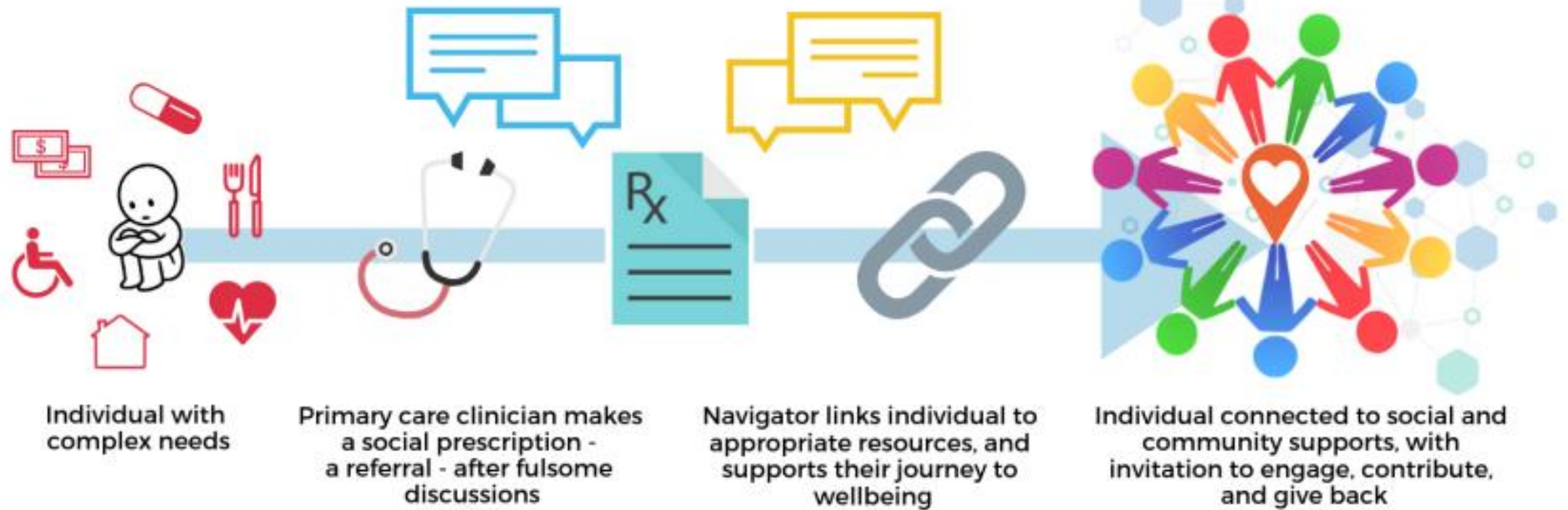


Stakeholder interviews

- Time taken supporting housing tenants
- Housing issues - mould, pests, unsuitable housing, security, structural, unsafe neighbourhoods, violence
- Transparency - process to support clients/patients
- Housing provider accountability
- Escalation
- Partnerships and relationships between agencies
- Under resourcing of social services and housing agencies

Social prescribing

Canadian approach



Screening Tool

Questions



Further information



Action

1. Physical / structural
2. Social
3. Access & mobility
4. Affordability

“How is the [housing issue] impacting on your child’s health?”

1. Complete Medical Assessment form (DCJ)
 2. Letter
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Letter template

Patient/client information


Housing and health impact

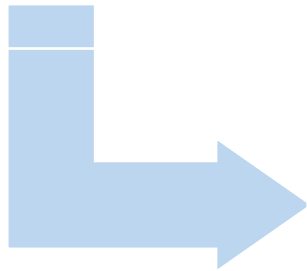
Guidelines

Action

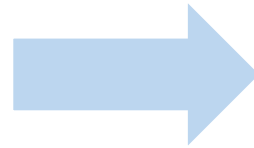
Escalation plan

Pathway

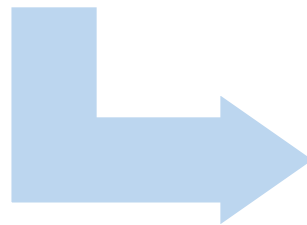
 Use Screening Tool to guide discussion and capture information on housing and health problem/s



Write support letter based on information captured from



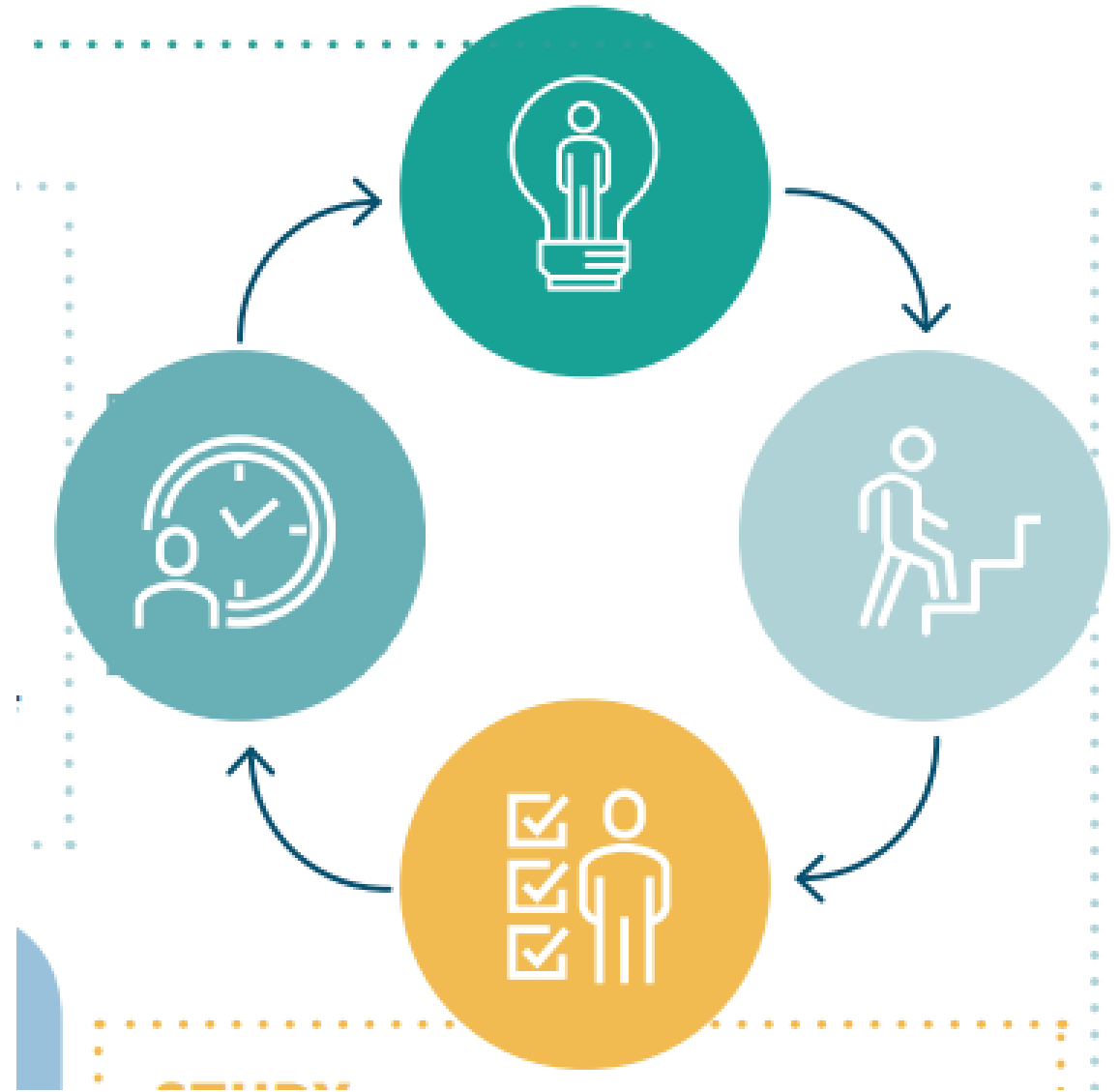
If case is severe, escalate to case conference



If no response received from letter and issue is ongoing, escalate to case conference



**PDSA – Plan Do
Study Act**



Next steps

**Guided by
Aboriginal
Reference
Group priorities**

Partners

The George Institute for Global Health, UNSW

Ngala Nanga Mai

Barnardos, Sydney Metro

Sydney Children's Hospital Network, UNSW

South East Sydney LHD

Members of SPHERE

Kidsafe NSW

The Sax Institute

Australian Health Services Research Institute, University of Wollongong

Acknowledgements

› Artist

- › Charlotte Allingham - Wiradjuri

› References

- › Andersen, M.J., Williamson, A.B., Fernando, P. *et al.* Housing conditions of urban households with Aboriginal children in NSW Australia: tenure type matters. *BMC Public Health* **18**, 70 (2018).
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-017-4607-y>
 - › AIHW, 2020; Australia's Health
 - › United Nations Declaration of Human Rights
 - › WHO CSDH (2008). Closing the gap in a generation: health equity through action on the social determinants of health. Final Report of the Commission on Social Determinants of Health. Geneva, World Health Organization.
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