Workshops

Workshop 1: Housing first and permanent supportive housing

Facilitator: Dr. Felicity Reynolds

Workshop synopsis

This workshop will explore various models of Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), with a specific focus on solving homelessness for people who experience chronic homelessness. The workshop will also discuss the concept of ‘Housing First’ in relation to PSH. In keeping with the conference theme of ‘Homefullness’, we will also talk about those aspects of housing support that can promote individual recovery as well community inclusion.

There are various models of PSH, and different models suit different individuals and different geographical locations. What works well in a busy urban environment may not work in a rural or regional area. However, there are some common and essential factors that should be incorporated in all models. These factors will be explored and discussed.

Crucial to any discussion of PSH is how we may be able to find, or, in some cases, create new affordable housing options given the current significant shortage of suitable affordable housing in Australia.

Using the available evidence-base to identify those models that have been shown to have positive outcomes is also essential to any discussion of models. Discussion of the background literature and evidence will be incorporated into this workshop.

One of the final issues for discussion will be looking at how Housing First and PSH projects and programs can be taken to scale, creating systemic change and ending chronic homelessness. Finland will be used as a case study. Participants are invited to read about the work currently being undertaken by the Finnish government to end chronic homelessness across their nation. Visit this link for some background on the work being undertaken.

It is intended that this workshop will be a shared discussion amongst participants of Housing First, different PSH models and the current evidence base.
Workshop 2: ‘Family aware’ youth work

Facilitator: Debbie Noble-Carr

Workshop synopsis

This workshop will extend on the themes presented by Dr Justin Barker in his key note presentation, examining the role of the family as a form of social capital and examining more broadly what it means for relationships to be a resource. It will explore what this means in practice when you are working with young people and their families.

The workshop will expand on why it is important to incorporate family into your work. It will also discuss the risks, challenges and opportunities that exist for workers in trying to work with young people from a perspective that both includes and values the place that ‘family’ has in their lives. The need to connect and strengthen young people’s relationships outside of our traditional notions of family will also be explored. Workers will be asked to think about what implications there might be for their practice on every level, from their own personal practice to an organisational and systems level.

Workshop 3: AlcoCups

Facilitator: Ashley Gurney

Workshop synopsis

The workshop will aim to provide attendants with an insight into the importance Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) has within the youth homelessness sector. The workshop will outline strategies and methods for increasing sustainable learning for AOD within the concepts of the 1st, 2nd & 3rd Home, therefore reducing harms and risks for the individual, and strengthening their abilities to achieve goals regarding homelessness.
Workshop 4: Homeward bound – homelessness and mental health: is there anything we can do?

Facilitator: Dr. Helen Mildred

Workshop synopsis

Mental health difficulties and homelessness are often interwoven experiences. This workshop will give participants an opportunity to learn about and discuss some of the challenges which face people who are homeless and who have significant mental health issues. The workshop will be solution focused in exploring ways of increasing homefullness across the three levels for homeless people affected by mental health problems.

Workshop 5: A ‘home’ by any other name: the Melbourne Citymission Foyer Plus experience

Facilitators: Lisa O’Brien and Kathryn Booth

Lisa O’Brien

Lisa O’Brien is the Manager of Supported Accommodation Services at Melbourne Citymission. Lisa holds a Bachelor Degree in Social Work and has spent the last ten years in the homelessness and allied services sector. Lisa has always been involved with disadvantaged young people and is passionate about changing the way in which homelessness is viewed.

As an innovative leader, she has successfully implemented Melbourne Citymission’s three Foyer Plus programs over the last six years and currently manages these, alongside Adult and Family Homelessness programs within Melbourne Citymission.

Lisa has co-authored “Setting the Wheels in Motion: Pre-employment and Life Skills Training for Young People Experiencing Homelessness’ in industry journal, Parity. She also developed the innovative Step Ahead Case Practice Model.

Lisa most recently presented at the End Youth Homelessness Conference in Sydney in 2011.
Kathryn Booth

Kathryn Booth is the Team Leader of the Foyer Plus program at Melbourne Citymission. Kathryn holds a Bachelor Degree in Social Work and Psychology and a Diploma in Family Therapy. Kathryn has had a diverse career over the last 12 years in the allied services sector in both Government and Community organisations in Australia and England. Kathryn has predominately worked with young people who are disadvantaged and at risk and is passionate about creating opportunities for improving the quality of lives for young people.

During her career, Kathryn has been involved in writing several behaviour-change programs for young people, which have been implemented in schools and community groups. Kathryn has also been responsible for developing and implementing several innovative programs in relation to young people and families throughout her career. Currently, she is responsible for the day-to-day management of Melbourne Citymission’s three Foyer Plus programs.

Workshop synopsis

Melbourne Citymission initiated Victoria’s first ‘Foyer’ model program in 2004. Melbourne Citymission now currently manages three Foyer-like programs including the newly opened Precinct. The facilitators of this session will explain how Melbourne Citymission’s Foyer Plus Program supports sustainable outcomes for homeless young people and incorporates the concept of ‘3 homes’.

This interactive workshop will include thinking about the ‘3 homes’ concept of Homefullness in your current day to day practice, what is working well and what can be modified to include the concept in the future. There will be an overview of the Melbourne Citymission Foyer Plus Model with key themes outlined including the current model delivered by Melbourne Citymission (three distinct models are delivered through the Precinct model, the High Density model and the Neighbourhood model) and recent research that has been conducted by Victoria University.

The session also includes a young person’s story and unpacking this in relation to the ‘3 homes’ concept.