

The Housing Continuum

The Housing Continuum is a concept to define the various types of housing and housing support required for people relative to their income. It outlines the types of housing options needed for people in need of crisis accommodation, through to social housing, affordable and private rental housing and affordable home ownership options.¹¹

Historically, the housing continuum has been regarded as a linear concept where home ownership is seen as a goal to which all should aspire. However, home ownership is not a realistic outcome or aspiration for all people in our community. Renting is becoming a longer-term housing option and housing choice.

Focus areas for reforms

When circumstances change in a person or family's life their access to housing and therefore their experience within the housing continuum can change drastically. Our housing system needs to be responsive, and not linear in its design, so that people have a home regardless of their personal circumstances.

Shelter WA has recommended reforms based on the housing continuum to make the system more responsive to people's changing circumstances and to ensure effective use of 'housing assets' in our community. In particular, the program and policy responses must be more person centred, providing the housing options needed as people's circumstances change. These reforms and programs are outlined throughout this submission and are supported by the evidence for why this course of action is needed.

