

Preventing homelessness – what is local government’s role?

Prepared for: Shelter WA

By: Leanne Mitchell | 29 September 2025



Contents

Preventing homelessness – what is local government’s role?	1
Introduction	3
About this report: Building capacity to prevent homelessness.....	4
Areas of enquiry:	5
1) Homelessness prevention in a local government context.....	5
Understanding the roles and responsibilities of local government	5
Defining homelessness prevention in a local government context.....	7
2) Homelessness prevention opportunities in WA	8
Discussion insights:	8
Gaps	8
Opportunities	9
3) What local government can do	12
Understand your homelessness situation	12
Lead the narrative	13
Organise and support your workforce	13
Build collaborations to improve your prevention impact.....	13
Appendix 1	15
Appendix 2	16

Introduction

Homelessness is a growing crisis in Western Australia. More than one-quarter of the 9,729 people who were experiencing homelessness on census night in 2021 were living in improvised dwellings, tents or sleeping out – a proportion higher than anywhere else in Australia.¹

While our understanding of homelessness in Australia is limited by a lack of consistent and real time data, there is growing evidence that the incidences and demographics of homelessness is changing.

In a national survey undertaken for the [Australian Homelessness Monitor 2024](#) (AHM 2024), more than three quarters of services (77%) and nearly two thirds of local governments (62%) reported homelessness having ‘significantly increased’ since 2019-20.²

These frontline workers also reported a wider cohort of people, including families, people with disability, persons in work and older women, seeking assistance – many for the first time. In their [2023-24 Annual Report](#) the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) reported that slightly over half of all clients seeking assistance through specialist homelessness services, did so before they became homeless.³

The Census, AHM and AIHW all report that homelessness, once a problem mostly contained to inner cities, is being experienced all around the country.

The causes of homelessness are complex and broad “with no single ‘trigger’ that is either ‘necessary’ or ‘sufficient’ for it to occur”⁴. Causes are regularly linked to rising costs of living, housing unaffordability, domestic violence, health and mental health, the impacts of alcohol and other drugs, increasing social isolation and the solutions are not immediately forthcoming.

While Commonwealth, State and Territory governments commit to build more affordable and social housing, these are long term actions that will not ease the immediate situations that communities face.

As more communities turn to government – and especially their local councils as their closest arm of government – to act on homelessness we need to better understand what in fact the local government sector can do. We need plans to respond to the current crisis at hand as well as meeting long term needs.

In addition to increasing access to housing, which is vital, no amount of housing will be enough if we, as a society can’t address the factors leading into homelessness. That is why it is so important to think about what can be done to prevent homelessness in the first place.

In 2022, the Australian Productivity Commission highlighted that prevention and early intervention should be a much higher priority in government strategies. This included a specific

¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics (2021). Estimating Homelessness: Census. 22 March 2023.

<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/housing/estimating-homelessness-census/latest-release>

² Pawson, H., Parsell, C., Clarke, A., Moore, J., Hartley, C., Aminpour, F. and Eagles, K. (2024) Australian Homelessness Monitor 2024; Sydney: UNSW City Futures Research Centre <https://cityfutures.be.unsw.edu.au/>

³ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Specialist homelessness services annual report 2023-24. 11 March 2025. <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/homelessness-services/specialist-homelessness-services-annual-report/contents/clients-services-and-outcomes>

⁴ Pawson, H., et.al (2024) Australian Homelessness Monitor 2024; Sydney: UNSW City Futures Research Centre <https://cityfutures.be.unsw.edu.au/>

recommendation that a separate pool of funding be dedicated to these programs to address the causes of homelessness before a crisis occurs.⁵

While recognising a role for local government in national homelessness response efforts, the report failed to articulate what councils could do to prevent and end homelessness.

So, what can local government do? What role can this sector play, and what do they need to get there?

About this report: Building capacity to prevent homelessness

This report explores the role that local government can play in preventing homelessness. It captures research, case studies and participant reflections raised and discussed at Shelter WA's *Local Government Homelessness Prevention Workshop*, held in Perth on 13 August 2025, as part of a series of Homelessness Week events.

The event was curated and facilitated by local government homelessness expert and Churchill Fellow, [Leanne Mitchell](#), with contribution by Western Australian practitioners, experts and people with lived experience of homelessness. More than 80 people attended the event in person and online. The workshop agenda is provided at Appendix 1.



The workshop was a practical, interactive session designed to define what homelessness prevention might mean in a local government context and build knowledge and capability within the WA local government sector to engage in homelessness prevention. The session was guided by three enquiry areas:

1. What does prevention mean in a local government context, and what can we learn from existing local government prevention activity in Australia and overseas?
2. What are the key homelessness prevention opportunities in WA – what are the current gaps, and where might opportunities lie for local government involvement?
3. How can WA local government contribute meaningfully towards community-centred homelessness prevention efforts, and what might be some practical steps and activities to guide this?

This report considers the role that local government can place in Western Australia's future efforts in homelessness prevention and early intervention.

Australian local governments' statutory responsibilities and community-facing functions position them in the centre of communities, overseeing the public spaces where the most visible form of homelessness – rough sleeping – occurs. However, unlike international

⁵ Australian Government Productivity Commission. *In need of repair: The National housing and Homelessness Agreement Study Report*. Canberra. Commonwealth of Australia. August 2022, 169.

jurisdictions such as England, Wales and Scotland, WA local governments have no mandate to deliver homelessness services or direct housing provision.

While more local governments enter the homelessness space responding to crisis, local and international experience shows us that the sector is also positioned to be a critical community partner positioned to identify risk early, coordinate local responses, and supporting the broader goal of preventing and ending homelessness.

Areas of enquiry:

1) Homelessness prevention in a local government context

Question: What does prevention mean in a local government context, and what can we learn from existing prevention activity in Australia and overseas?

Understanding the roles and responsibilities of local government

“While not holding housing or specialist service delivery responsibility, local governments do in practice respond to homelessness. They are custodians of public spaces - the places where primary homelessness can occur; they hold health, wellbeing and community development responsibilities - where opportunities for early intervention and prevention can arise; and they manage local planning - making decisions on a community’s long term land use and planning impact.” Leanne Mitchell, Shelter WA Prevention Workshop.

Homelessness response in Australia is shaped by decisions and responsibilities across three levels of government. Each tier has defined roles relating to housing and homelessness.

- **Commonwealth** sets policy directions at the national level, provides funding to states and territories, and manages levers such as social security, taxation, and immigration.
- **States and territories** deliver housing and homelessness services, match federal funding, and carry responsibilities across health, education and justice – all of which directly affect people’s pathways into and out of homelessness.
- **Local governments** oversee land planning, public space management and community wellbeing. No specific role is defined in relation to homelessness.

Beyond these specified roles, many everyday functions of government could be seen to provide opportunities in homelessness prevention. Policies on health, policing, education, planning, transport, community services and infrastructure can all impact whether people remain stably housed or move into housing stress. When aligned, these broader responsibilities can become powerful tools in homelessness prevention and early intervention.

Similarly, in responding to homelessness, the role of local government on paper versus reality can be somewhat different. The role of local governments in homelessness response (including prevention) is not defined in a national or jurisdictional context. But local government’s role supporting communities and in the public realm can see various, less formal connections into homelessness.

In Western Australia, the *Local Government Act 1995* (WA) gives councils a broad mandate “to provide for the good government of persons in its district.” In practice, this means councils have a role to support safe, healthy, inclusive communities.

While direct homelessness response roles for local government are not explicitly specified in legislation in WA, in practice, several local government functions—legislative, executive and service delivery – can be central in homelessness prevention and early intervention. Many of these functions are outlined in operational policies guiding the exercise of local government functions.

Some mandated local government roles and responsibilities can interact with homelessness indirectly (for example through maintenance of public spaces). There are also discretionary functions that local government can choose to perform based on decisions of Council and local need.

Through Strategic Community Plans,⁶ for example, many local governments plan activities that intersect with homelessness, some of these points of contact include:

- **Community safety and wellbeing.** Local governments deliver health services, promote active lifestyles, and plan for emergencies. Safe public spaces and commitments to reducing antisocial behaviour create opportunities to connect with people sleeping rough and to intervene early.
- **Social cohesion and inclusion.** Local governments deliver and fund services for all ages, cultures and abilities, plus targeted support for young people, older residents, Aboriginal communities and culturally diverse groups, foster belonging and reduce isolation, key protective factors against homelessness.
- **Infrastructure and housing.** Local governments plan and advocate for diverse, affordable housing while providing community facilities such as libraries and recreation spaces. Even without building homes, they are vital partners in addressing housing stress and preventing homelessness.
- **Economic development.** By supporting local business, jobs and training, local governments can help strengthen financial security and reduce the risks that lead to homelessness.
- **Governance and engagement.** As the closest level of government, councils consult regularly and refresh plans. Transparent, participatory governance builds trust and ensures responses to homelessness stay relevant to local needs.

These roles, responsibilities and touchpoints are important considerations throughout this report as we consider what local government can do to intervene early and prevent homelessness.

⁶ Strategic Community Plans have been mandatory under the *WA Local Government Act* (1995). Recent legislative reforms will see Strategic Community Plans Replaced with Council Plans. At the time of writing, regulations relevant to the new plans are still in draft but are expected to be introduced in 2026. Some WA local governments are already aligning to the reforms in the interim.

Defining homelessness prevention in a local government context

“Homelessness prevention refers to policies, practices and interventions that reduce the likelihood that someone will experience homelessness. It also means providing those who have been homeless with the necessary resources and supports to stabilise their housing, enhance integration and social inclusion and ultimately reduce the risk of recurrence of homelessness.” Stephen Gaetz and Erin Dej, 2017.⁷

Homelessness prevention is often explored using a primary-secondary-tertiary lens⁸:

- Primary prevention - reducing the likelihood of homelessness across the population
- Secondary prevention - supporting people at imminent risk
- Tertiary prevention - preventing recurrence of homelessness

In comparison to work undertaken internationally, especially the UK where a Homelessness Reduction Act⁹ mandates action when homelessness is imminent, Australia’s overall approach to homelessness prevention is mostly scarce and generally crisis driven. And concurrently, little exists to define homelessness prevention and early intervention in an Australian local government context.¹⁰

However, framing homelessness prevention in a broader way can open many new opportunities in considering and defining a role for local government.

UK academics, Suzanne Fitzgerald and Peter Mackie developed a framework that breaks prevention into five stages¹¹:

- **Universal prevention** – reducing risks across the whole population.
- **Targeted prevention (or “upstream” prevention)** – focusing on high-risk groups like young people, or people leaving care, prison, or mental health treatment.
- **Crisis prevention** – stopping homelessness that’s imminent and foreseeable.
- **Emergency response** – supporting someone in the moment.



Fig 1. Fitzgerald et.al Five Stage Typology to prevent homelessness

⁷ Gaetz, S and Dej, E (2017) [A new direction: A framework for homelessness prevention](#), Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Press, Toronto

⁸ Tually, S (2024). Fact sheet: Helping to prevent homelessness. Ideas for local government. Centre for Social Impact, Flinders University.

⁹ Government of UK. Homelessness Reduction Act 2017. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/13/contents>

¹⁰ Mitchell, L (2023). Everybody’s Business: What local government can do to end homelessness. Winston Churchill Trust of Australia

¹¹ Fitzgerald, S. et.al. Advancing a Five-Stage Typology of Homelessness Prevention. International Journal on Homelessness, 2021

- **Rrepeat prevention** – making sure once someone is housed, they don't end up homeless again.

This expanded definition – a spectrum of responses – can be extremely helpful in considering local government's potential contribution in community-based efforts to prevent homelessness and defining a role, particularly in intervention at the earlier stages.

As the closest level of government to community, local government delivers programs and activities and has trusted connections with high-risk groups or people who are at risk of homelessness. By making the most of these connection points, building staff knowledge to recognise need and know how to connect into specialist support services, local governments can play a meaningful role in early intervention and preventing homelessness.

The rest of this report explores how this might happen.

2) Homelessness prevention opportunities in WA

Question: What are the current gaps seen in WA, and where might opportunities lie for local government involvement?

Discussion insights:

With a focus on real experiences and Western Australian perspectives, workshop attendees were invited to complete a short survey prior to the day, which was used to inform workshop topics (see Appendix 2).

The workshop included discussion with local government and homelessness practitioners who shared their experiences, insights and ideas regarding local government's role in preventing homelessness. Expert contributors at the workshop were:

- **Emily Elliot**, Shelter WA Lived Experience Advocate
- **Professor Paul Flatau**, Centre for Social Impact, University of Western Australia
- **Kellie Nagle**, Municipal Association of Victoria
- **Mayor Hannah Fitzhardinge**, City of Fremantle
- **Michael Piu**, St Pats Community Support Centre
- **MJ Rigby**, City of Rockingham
- **Nick Matheson**, Anglicare WA

Workshop participants were invited to share ideas and insights in facilitated table discussion sessions.

The following selects and summarises insights by the facilitator, Leanne Mitchell and expert contributors, as well as participant feedback. It briefly highlights the gaps faced by local government in establishing capacity in homelessness prevention and provides in more detail the opportunities that were identified, which are categorised into themes.

Gaps

1. **Local government's roles, responsibilities and opportunities in homelessness crisis and prevention response are not defined:** An overall lack of understanding regarding the role that local government can play and the ongoing touchpoints that councils have in homelessness response can mean that opportunities in early intervention and prevention can be overlooked.

2. **Low levels of data and knowledge:** in general, local government's elected members, executive, officers and most frontline workers do not understand the causes, experiences or impacts of homelessness, nor do they have access to current local data. This makes it difficult to respond and to make a case for greater support.
3. **An over-focus on visible street homelessness:** many at-risk people are hidden (sleeping in cars, overcrowded housing, at risk tenancies) and not recognised by current local responses. Local government tends to concentrate on visible street issues and may miss hidden prevention opportunities.
4. **A lack of funding:** With limited funds and very few additional funding channels available, local governments often do not have the fiscal capacity to undertake additional work associated with homelessness response, as well as prevention.
5. **Services' accessibility and cultural safety:** lived experience indicates frontline interactions are sometimes not culturally safe or easily navigable; prevention needs to address accessibility (language, hours, stigma, trust) and frontline staff can be better educated and trained.

Opportunities

1. **Engage people with lived experience to understand community needs:** Local Government is skilled and positioned to engage deeply to understand local needs. Taking a co-design approach, with lived experience at its centre, improves accessibility as well as the appropriateness of prevention efforts.

Shelter WA lived experience advocate, Em Elliot emphasised that the **perspectives of people who have experienced or are experiencing homelessness** should inform not only the story of homelessness but inform *where systems failed* and how referral pathways and service design must change. She said local government is well-positioned to gather and use this information.

“When we engage lived experience, I feel like we’re just asking people to explain how they ended up homeless, why they were homeless, what it was like to be homeless. But I feel like there’s so much more that could come out of these conversations Things like what barriers did you face when accessing services? Were services culturally safe? Were they appropriate? Were they accessible?” Em Elliot, Shelter WA.

2. **Define local government’s role through place knowledge and convening power:** Local government is a “fundamental cog” in collaborative, community-based efforts to prevent homelessness.

Through mandated roles and program delivery responsibilities in communities, local governments can hold deep knowledge about community situation and need, including local homelessness. Councils are well placed to gather data and create information sources that can enable the design of targeted, locally focused prevention programs and interventions.

Reflecting on the *Five Stage Typology to Prevent Homelessness*, Prof. Paul Flatau noted at the workshop that successful homelessness prevention activities rely on shared commitment by many partners and that local government, through place-based knowledge and good connections, is well placed to bring in multiple partners to work together.

Professor Flatau noted that councils are well-placed to build a community's "collaborative efficacy" in preventing homelessness – i.e. making local collaboration even better.

He said that this would mean not just bringing homelessness services together through the efforts of one project officer in local government but learning what is needed from the point of view of people who have experienced homelessness and then reaching out to include the wider community, including businesses, real estate agents, landlords, employers, schools. This approach to homelessness prevention would be based on working together, rather than in silos.

"Local government has a huge role to play because you know the schools, you know the social services, you know the local businesses, you're in a position to be a fundamental cog in that effective collaborative system"

Prof. Paul Flatau, Centre for Social Impact, University of Western Australia

3. Enable whole-of-council approaches to increase reach and funding opportunities:

From youth services to libraries, planning to community safety, a number of local government workers, many of whom will not have homelessness as a defined role or responsibility in their daily jobs, can find themselves in regular contact with people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Frontline local government workers, based in council-owned and run facilities, on streets, parks, in customer service, often know the communities where they work intimately, and many will have established contacts and partnerships. These staff are often in trusted positions that can influence and shape narratives and actions in their communities and, with training they could enhance their ability to identify and refer customers to specialist service assistance when needed.

Newcastle City Council in the UK has built a reputation for making homelessness 'everyone's business' through their *Active Inclusion* program. The program promotes collective responsibility and provides a framework to improve coordination and consistency of information, advice and support. As part of this, the [Trigger Point Conversation Guide](#) aims to identify connection points and staff training needs across the organisation, helping frontline workers to identify factors and situations that might lead to homelessness and make appropriate referrals. The guide is supplemented by the City's online housing advice and homelessness [webpage](#).

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV's) [*Local Government Guide for Preventing Family Violence and All Forms of Violence Against Women*](#) makes the most of local government's many services and touchpoints in community – from home care to libraries to youth services – utilising these connection points and training staff to recognise need and respond early. While not a homelessness program, the community-focused approach and framework, built for local government, could be adapted to address homelessness prevention and early intervention.

“There are so many different touch points across a community. Whether it's in home and community care, libraries, or through youth services, there are no parts of a council's 120-odd services that don't actually have a role to play in prevention... Well designed, connected communities are the ultimate primary prevention.” Kellie Nagle, Municipal Association of Victoria

4. Establishing early interventions and adapting programs to meet community needs:

Local governments already deliver a range of services and activities in communities. Review and adaptation of these existing programs may enable new homelessness prevention and early intervention opportunities that do not require additional funding.

An approach focused on identifying opportunities to integrate a homelessness focus into existing initiatives can improve service delivery to key communities (including people at different life stages and situations) and avoid finding extra, often unfunded costs.

Through the pre-workshop survey and in group discussions, a selection of WA councils shared information regarding how they integrate homelessness prevention and response categories into pre-existing activities such as community grants programs, incorporate a homelessness focus into children's and youth programs and utilise existing frontline services to identify and intervene early to prevent homelessness.

The City of Rockingham has worked with a number of partners to integrate homelessness education and key messages into programs that involved children and young people and has worked with Anglicare WA and neighbouring councils in Mandurah and Kwinana to build the knowledge and capacity of the local real estate sector, helping to avoid evictions.

Rockingham's Manager of Community Safety, Mary-Jane Rigby reflected on the enhanced outcomes, as well as the financial savings that can be realised when working cross-corporately and with other councils.

“While I've got members in my team who do have the portfolio of homelessness, I don't actually think that it's something that's required in local government. If we are doing all of our other portfolios really well - building community capacity and leveraging an asset-based community development approach by knowing who is in our community - we can use the strengths that are already there, rather than having to create new positions and new roles and responsibilities.” Mary-Jane Rigby, City of Rockingham

The Library Connect program in Fremantle is a walk-in service, run by St Patrick's Community Support Centre with the City of Fremantle. Fremantle Public Library has an in-house Community Support Worker providing direct engagement with people experiencing disadvantage or vulnerability and to support library staff when working with library customers. The worker provides free advice, referrals and support.

The Library Connect program aims to provide greater access to initial support for people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness, or who present with other complex needs. Importantly, it also assists council staff who find themselves at the frontline, providing support and building referral skills.

"This is a model that works. It's practical, scalable, and deeply aligned with the preventative focus of the WA State Homelessness Strategy. We'd love to work with more local governments to bring it to life in their communities."

Michael Piu, CEO St Patricks Homelessness Service

3) What local government can do

Question: How can WA local government contribute meaningfully towards community-centred homelessness prevention efforts, and what are some practical steps and activities to guide this?

The following recommendations for local government action are drawn from presentations, discussions and group activities during the workshop. Examples of individual council actions were also shared through "Positive Practice" cards completed by attendees.

Understand your homelessness situation

- **Engage people with lived or living experience of homelessness.** Listen to and learn from the real-life experiences of people in your community. Use this knowledge to shape actions and initiatives. Don't just collect the stories – consider how these experiences can improve interactions and remove barriers, biases and unsafe practices.
- **Understand your connection points.** Work across council to identify where staff and services regularly meet people at risk of homelessness, and where early intervention is possible. Consider your multiple roles as a workplace, community connector, service provider and civic leader.
- **Improve your data collection, measurement and evaluation capabilities.** Explore ways to collaborate on community-driven data collection, so that you have a real-time shared understanding of local homelessness, including causes of homelessness so that you can identify possible points of intervention. Prevention impacts are often hard to measure, so set your agreements and systems up early, and with purpose, so that you are able to demonstrate the outcomes, impact and cost-effectiveness of your efforts.
- **Bring your council along.** Keep councillors, executives and staff informed about your prevention efforts, what you are doing and what you are learning. This will probably be

new to many, so focus on helping all your colleagues understand the value of homelessness prevention, both to your community and to council.

Lead the narrative

- **Educate and equip councillors and executive to be leaders and spokespeople.** Recognise the influence and impact that your elected councillors and senior officials can have in your community and equip them with the knowledge and backing they need to shape a positive narrative about homelessness.
- **Advocate with purpose.** Use your data, programs and partnerships to tell your council's story and highlight your role in prevention. Build on this narrative to advocate for additional support and funding.

Organise and support your workforce

- **Provide training and workplace education to build knowledge, understanding and empathy across your council.** Build staff knowledge, empathy and confidence to respond effectively. Ground training in lived experience and best practice, backed by consistent messaging, clear referral pathways and debrief protocols. Working groups and ongoing support are more effective than one-off sessions.
 - *Positive practice example: The City of Wanneroo has introduced scenario-based case studies to help frontline staff identify and refer people experiencing hardship or homelessness.*
- **Create simple, visible referral tools at everyday touchpoints.** Develop targeted service lists, clear referral steps and contact directories and share these with council staff and other frontline workers in the community. These can be focused on various cohorts and needs e.g. housing maintenance and tenancy support services, family and domestic violence supports, information for young people, families, older people, etc.
- **Identify and adapt existing council programs as homelessness prevention access points.** Rather than reinventing the wheel, find how you can link homelessness prevention and intervention opportunities into your council's existing community-focused programs. Working with colleagues this way can help create internal allies – it can also help share the work and improve the impacts and outcomes across the board.
- **Review enforcement and administrative penalties through a prevention lens.** Consider and review council practices such as fines and parking enforcement that may have significant impacts on people who are vulnerable or already in financial hardship and explore alternatives or mitigation supports. As a trusted partner, your council could also help raise awareness and influence how other agencies view and issue fines.

Build collaborations to improve your prevention impact

- **Map and actively engage your community partners – and support their efforts where you can.** Community services and State Government departments are key partners for local government in preventing homelessness, but don't stop there. Look for other collaborators who may be less visible at first – businesses, services and private operators in your community who connect with people at risk of or experiencing

homelessness through their everyday work. Local government is well placed to bring these partners together, building wider networks to increase knowledge, action and impact. Potential partners could include schools, healthcare workers, GPs, security staff, building managers, shopping centres, transport providers, beauty and hairdressing salons, childcare services – and more.

- *Positive practice example: a number of local governments across Australia partner with local community services organisations – including tenant advocacy services – to provide free waste removal for at-risk tenancies in their local areas; helping to prevent evictions leading to homelessness.*
- **Sponsor education and training opportunities for your community.** Building knowledge and understanding about homelessness and homelessness prevention can help eliminate misconceptions and reduce fears and uncertainty in your community. It might also reduce complaints. Look at how you can work with allied networks as well. Partner with allied networks to deliver forums and training.
 - *Positive practice example: The City of Swan has brought its work with local homelessness and family and domestic violence networks to run homelessness forums, covering how to respond and providing education about referral pathways.*
- **Establish place-based, low-barrier service points.** Partner with specialist homelessness services and other community services to establish interaction points and co-locate service responses. Social work in libraries is one example of a council connection point that can assist community and help maintain the work health and safety of staff. This can extend to other locations where councils interact with and assist community, including community and recreational centres.
- **Make council spaces available to enable more interactions.** Invite specialist providers to deliver services in council spaces and if you can, provide modest council funding – like community grants, offer spaces at lower costs, or in-kind support.
 - *Positive practice example: The City of Fremantle provided space to St Pats to run the Library Connect program and the City of Rockingham made community grants available to run informational workshops for property managers.*
- **Share your prevention journey with partner councils.** A cross-council approach to homelessness prevention – as well as crisis response – that ignores municipal boundaries will help build more connection point opportunities with people who are at risk of homelessness and could potentially reduce costs to all councils by slotting into existing initiatives and budgets.
 - *Positive practice example: The Inner-City Council Homelessness Working Group brings the councils of Subiaco, Vincent, Victoria Park, South Perth and the City of Perth together to address homelessness prevention, education and awareness.*

Appendix 1

Workshop agenda

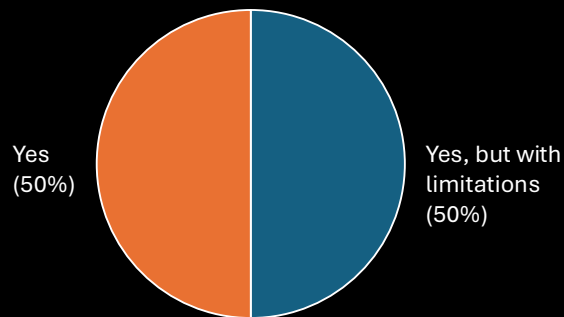
Time	Activity	Presenters
9:30 – 9:50	Welcome to event	Shelter WA
9:55 – 10:10	Workshop Overview:	Leanne Mitchell Shelter WA
10:10 – 10:30	Session 1 – Initial exploration: What is Homelessness Prevention?	Em Elliot, Shelter WA Prof. Paul Flatau, Centre for Social Impact, UWA
10:30-10:50	Session 2 – Presentation: Homelessness Prevention: What’s local government’s role	Leanne Mitchell
10:50-11:05	Morning Tea	
11:05 – 11:30	Session 3 – Spotlight Sessions: Preventing Family and Domestic Violence – an all of government approach (MAV) – 10 mins Social Work in Libraries – and other council connection points (City of Fremantle and St Pats) – 10 mins	Kellie Nagle (Municipal Association of Victoria) – BY VIDEO LINK Mayor Hannah Fitzhardinge, City of Fremantle Michael Piu, St Pats
11:30-12:10	Session 4 – Panel discussion: Homelessness prevention opportunities in local government <i>In what ways can councils leverage existing programs, partnerships, and capabilities to support homelessness prevention efforts?</i>	Mayor Hannah Fitzhardinge, City of Fremantle Michael Piu, St Pats Kellie Nagle, MAV MJ Rigby, City of Rockingham Nick Matheson, Anglicare WA Em Elliot, Shelter WA lived experience
12:10-12:40	Session 5 – Group Activity: Making prevention everybody’s business	All
12:40-1:15	Lunch	
1:15 – 1:45	Session 6 – Group activity: Local government leads in preventing homelessness.	All participants
1:45 – 2:00	Group Report Back + Discussion	Leanne, All
2:00 – 2:10 (10 mins)	Closing Remarks – Shelter WA	Shelter WA

Appendix 2

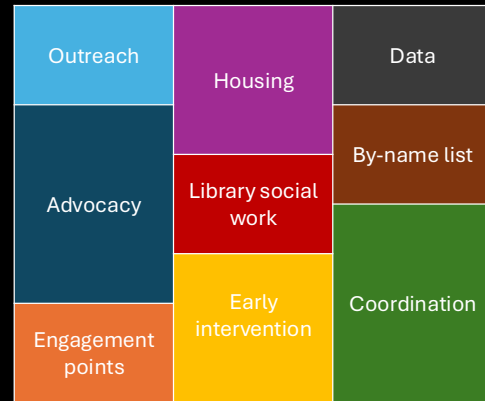
Pre workshop survey

We asked you.....

Do you think local government has a role to play in preventing homelessness?

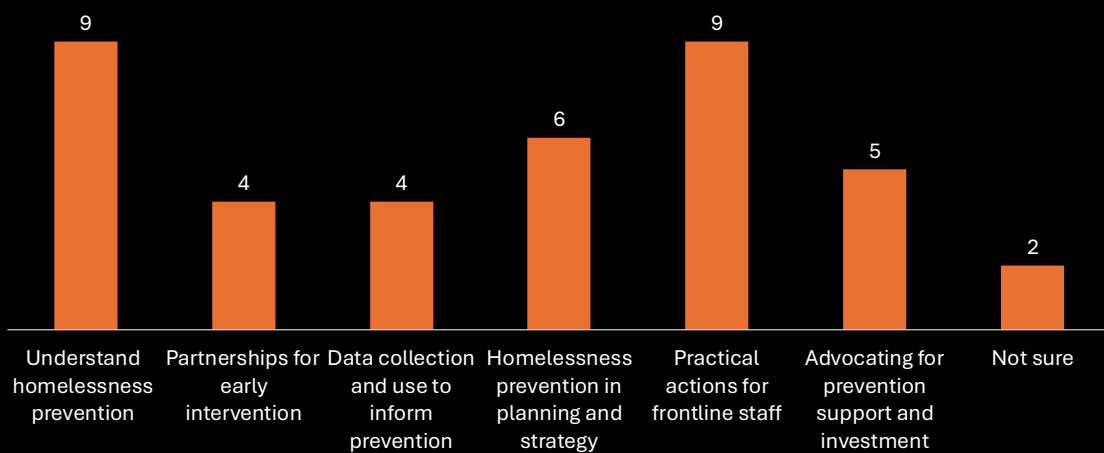


What do you think local government can do to prevent homelessness?



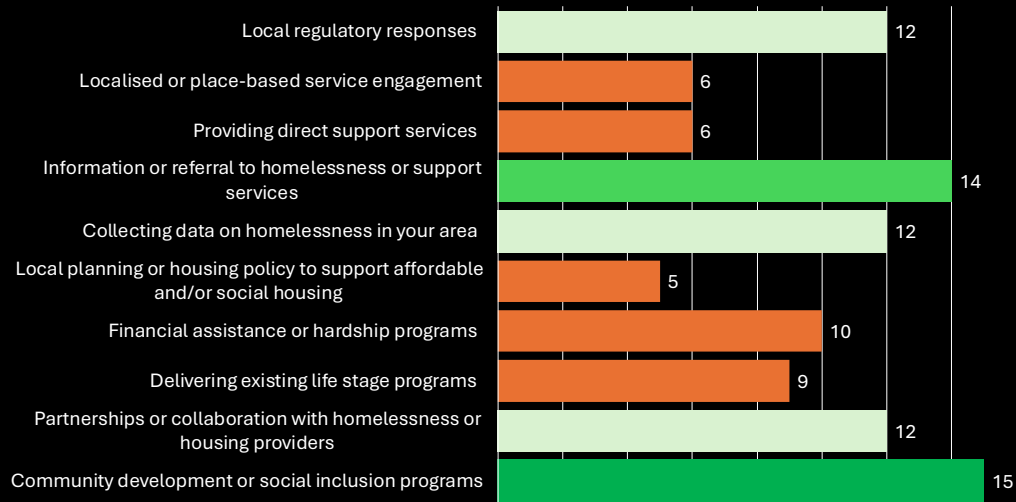
We asked you....

What areas would most interest you in building local government capacity in homelessness prevention?



If your council does respond to homelessness, what activities do you undertake? (select all that apply)

20 answers



If your council does respond to homelessness, what activities do you undertake? (select all that apply)

20 answers

