

Homelessness Policy Review – Public Submission Summary

1. Background

This report summarises the feedback received on draft Policy 113 Homelessness during the public comment period of the Homelessness Policy Review conducted from 14 April 2020 – 4 May 2020.

1. Engagement

The following engagement methods took place:

Method	Community participation
Online Your Thoughts survey	6
Hard copy survey	0
Email feedback	1
Total submissions	7

The following demographic information was collected from the public submission respondents:

Demographic information	Number of respondents
Relationship to the Town (more than one can be chosen)	
Live in the Town	6
Work in the Town	1
Represent a business in the Town	0
Represent a community service located in or outside of the Town	1
Property owner-occupier	2
Visit the Town	0

Participated in the engagement process	3
Have lived experience of homelessness	1
Residential suburb (if live in the Town)	
East Victoria Park	1
Victoria Park	3
St James	0
Carlisle	1
Lathlain	0
Burswood	0
Other	1
Bentley/Curtin/Tech Park	1
Welshpool	0

2. Summary of position

Position	Number of respondents
Policy	
Support the draft	1
Support the draft but have some concerns	3
Oppose the draft	2
Not stated	1

3. Summary of feedback

Policy/Implementation Plan area	# submissions raising this theme	Officer's response	Amended Y/N
Policy			
Objective and Scope			
The Town should not provide homes for homeless people.	1	The Town does not provide homes for homeless people, as this service is provided by other levels of government and the not-for-profit sector. Providing housing is not included in the policy.	N
The Town should not support homeless shelters or services.	1	Community engagement supported the Town partnering with and supporting community organisations. Supporting community organisations is included in the policy principles and policy commitments.	N
Support for the 'social responsibility' described in the policy objective.	1	Noted.	N
Concern that the 'appropriate action' the Town can take where there is 'health and safety risks' is not outlined in the policy scope.	1	A degree of flexibility is required in the policy, as the different types of health and safety risks cannot be completely known.	N
Definitions			
<i>Homelessness</i>			
The definition of homelessness should include those who do not have safe and secure housing and income.	1	Access to safe and secure housing is included in the ABS definition of homelessness. Lack of	N

<p><i>At risk of homelessness</i></p> <p>Support for the inclusion of 'at risk of homelessness' to expand on the different types of homelessness in the community.</p> <p>Consider 'those who have previously experienced homelessness' to the at risk category.</p> <p><i>Other</i></p> <p>Consider 'transience' to the list of definitions.</p>	<p></p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p>	<p>income is implied in the definition of 'at risk of homelessness'.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Having previously experienced homelessness is a significant risk factor, and will be included in the definition of 'at risk of homelessness'.</p> <p>Transient community members will experience living arrangements which come under the umbrella of the ABS definition of homelessness.</p>	<p></p> <p>N</p> <p>Y</p> <p>N</p>
<p>Policy Principles</p> <p>Support the robust nature of the policy principles.</p> <p>Concern that linking people to services is not included in the policy. Consider a principle which directs the Town to link people in need in the community to services.</p> <p>'Right to housing' to include mandatory affordable housing provisions.</p> <p>'Access to public spaces' to involve and address the needs of</p>	<p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The policy commits to providing people in need with information on services, resources and facilities within the policy commitments. The management practice will direct staff on how to action this commitment.</p> <p>Internal engagement highlighted that affordable housing is outside of the scope of a policy on homelessness. Rather, a regional approach is required.</p> <p>The management practice will direct staff on a</p>	<p>N</p> <p>N</p> <p>N</p> <p>N</p>

rough sleepers.		compassionate approach to balancing the needs of all members of the community to use public space, including rough sleepers.	
Policy Commitments			
Support the commitments but would like to see a financial commitment from the Town.	1	Noted. Budget is subject to Council adoption.	N