

Partnership and Funding Proposal to City of Vincent



PROPOSAL

Homeless Healthcare requests an annual grant from the City of Vincent of \$20,000 per annum for a period of four years.

We seek the opportunity to work in partnership with the City of Vincent to help break the cycle of homelessness through improved access to healthcare for the victims of domestic violence and abuse who are sheltered at Harmony and Kambarang Place. Both refuges are located within the City of Vincent.

Domestic violence includes emotional, psychological, physical, sexual and financial abuse. It has an enormous impact on the physical and mental health of women and children, and the effects can be felt for many years.

It is anticipated that while women are forced out of their homes as a result of domestic violence and abuse, that there will be an ongoing need for healthcare services to meet the special health and wellbeing needs of members of this vulnerable group.

BACKGROUND

Homeless Healthcare was successful in securing a three year capped grant (with opportunity for a two year extension) from the State Government, to support the cost of providing primary healthcare services for homeless and marginalised patients at nine clinic locations across the metropolitan area predominantly in the inner city. The initial funding agreement is effective until June 2017 and assists with the operational cost of nursing staff, clinical administration, medical consumables and the essential medical equipment required to provide mobile GP clinics at nine locations where homeless and marginally housed people visit or have temporary accommodation.

The current government funding does not allow for any growth in service delivery to meet increasing demand for our services by a growing number of homeless and marginally housed members in the community.

To effectively meet the unique healthcare needs of patients at the women's refuges, Homeless Healthcare needs funding to support the costs of nurse practitioner wages, a mobile medical kit, general clinic medical equipment, clinical administration and medical consumables (such as medications and dressings).

Improved health and wellbeing is essential if a person is to have any real chance of transitioning from homelessness to stable housing and successfully retuning to live in the mainstream community.

BUDGET

Whilst Homeless Healthcare is able to meet the cost of salaries for GPs, we seek support from the City of Vincent to meet some of the other operational costs of running these two new clinic services. The grant we receive from the State Health Department is capped, and does not include allowance for additional clinic provision.

Women's Shelter Clinics Item Detail	Annual Cost
GPs x 2 clinic sessions/ week (Funded by Homeless Healthcare)	(\$62,400)
Nurse Practitioner x 2 clinic sessions/week	\$46,800
Medical Consumables	2,000
Medical Equipment Kit (portable clinic)	20,000
Practice Management	10,320
Clinic Vehicle (Funded by JWF donation)	(14,000)
	<u>\$79,120</u>

HOMELESS HEALTHCARE – OUR SERVICES

Established in 2008, Homeless Healthcare provides primary healthcare services for homeless and marginally housed people; helping to break the cycle of homelessness through improved healthcare.

Access to mainstream health services is often difficult for homeless and marginalised people. Homeless Healthcare provides the following clinics to meet the distinct healthcare needs of specific groups of homeless people:

Street Health

Those who live on the streets or who are 'sleeping rough' have even worse health outcomes than the already poor situation experienced by all homeless people. These people are typically disengaged with mainstream society and services, including health services.

Homeless Healthcare received a grant from Impact 100 WA to pilot a 'Street Health' project during 2015 and 2016. This is a daily 'walking clinic' where a nurse and outreach worker visit parks where homeless people are known to congregate. Our nurse can treat immediate health issues, and over time, gradually engage people in management of their health issues at a Homeless Healthcare GP clinic.

Drop In

Drop-In Centres are an important resource for homeless and marginalised people. They provide a place where they can socialise, shower, get social assistance and have something to eat and drink. By providing onsite primary health care clinics at Drop-in Centres, Homeless Healthcare offers homeless people easier access to services in a familiar environment.

Communities

Drug and Alcohol Therapeutic Communities give a person with substance dependence the chance to develop life skills and learn how to become free of their dependence. A large proportion of homeless people have drug and alcohol dependence issues. Homeless Healthcare provides General Practice clinics in a number of Drug and Alcohol Therapeutic Communities using a similar model to that used in our Drop-In clinics.

Shelter

Many homeless people are living in unstable housing or are staying in short-to-medium term hostel care. Some of the hostels providing longer-term accommodation serve a particular section of the population, such as those who are escaping domestic violence, have mental illness or are elderly.

Homeless Healthcare operates a number of clinics in shelter facilities to improve the health of residents and to help facilitate their transition into the wider community, where appropriate.

Youth

Homeless youth under 25 years of age make up 39% of people who are homeless in WA, according to the latest census data. It is vital to have services in place to ensure that the health of homeless youth is adequately addressed to avoid the development of premature chronic disease so commonly seen amongst the homeless community.

Transitions

Although health improves when a homeless person is housed, they continue to have significant health issues. If these are not vigorously addressed the person is at high risk of returning to homelessness. Many of the same barriers to healthcare continue to exist for this population as they did when they were homeless.

The aim of the Transitions Clinic is to provide a more structured medical clinic in a set location with staff who understand the issues faced by newly housed people. By continuing to address their wide range of health issues and by providing support, we aim to assist newly-housed people to settle into stable housing and eventually link them into mainstream health services. The Transitions clinic is co-located with our Head Office, close to public bus and train services,

BENEFICIARIES OF HOMELESS HEALTHCARE'S SERVICES

Homeless Healthcare provided 12,922 medical consultations to a total of 1600 patients in the 2014 / 2015 financial year.

Homeless and marginalised people benefit directly from the mobile primary healthcare services provided by Homeless Healthcare. Women and children who are victims of domestic violence and abuse, are the direct beneficiaries of the new GP clinics we are delivering on site at Kambarang Place and Harmony.

Homeless patients and the broader community benefit greatly from any improvement in health status of homeless and marginalised people, as improved health has been shown to be fundamental to a homeless person being permanently housed and successfully transitioning back into mainstream society.

All Australian tax payers and the Australian health system benefit from Homeless Healthcare engaging homeless and marginalised people in better managing their health and wellbeing. Homeless Healthcare's primary healthcare services are provided at a much lower cost than the alternative – presentation of the patient at a hospital emergency department or hospital based treatment for conditions that could be appropriately treated by a Homeless Healthcare GP, who has extensive experience working with homeless patients.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Homeless Healthcare's new 'Shelter' clinics at Harmony and Kambarang Place give women and children who have experienced domestic violence and/or abuse, easy and regular access to primary healthcare clinics designed to meet the unique healthcare needs of this group. The clinics are delivered by experienced and supportive GP's and nurses, who treat immediate healthcare needs, but also work with the patient to support them to better understand and manage their overall health and wellbeing needs.

One of the unique elements of our model of healthcare is that we take healthcare services to the doorstep of the disadvantaged group we serve. In this case, we travel to the women's refuges where we set up our 'mobile' clinic in suitable rooms within the shelter facility. This ensures that those people who are residing at the shelter can easily access the GP and primary healthcare services they need on a regular basis in an environment that provides them with understanding, support, safety and privacy.

Research has shown that improved health status is intrinsically linked to a person's ability to successfully transition out of homelessness into stable housing; and to function effectively in mainstream society. Homeless Healthcare's mission is to help break the cycle of homelessness through improved healthcare.

DETAILS OF ORGANISATION:

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