



# NSW PREMIER'S COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

Updated August 2017

### Introduction

Homelessness is a complex issue and its causes and effects are diverse. To be effective in preventing and responding to homelessness, we need to deliver whole-of-government and whole-of-community solutions.

### Functions of the NSW Premier's Council on Homelessness

The NSW Premier's Council on Homelessness is a non-statutory advisory body to the NSW Government on homelessness. It provides a forum for independent experts and key sector peaks to provide advice to the Government on homelessness issues and innovative, evidence-based responses.

### Membership

The Council includes Government representatives, relevant department officials, ex-officio members from key sector peaks and independent members.

The Council membership comprises:

#### Government Members

- Premier (or the Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier on Homelessness),
- Minister for Family and Community Services

On occasion, relevant Ministers may be invited to attend the Council meetings to discuss matters related to their portfolios.

#### Independent Members

Independent members provide a range of expertise with the following backgrounds:

- Experience of homelessness (two consumer members)
- Homelessness service delivery (three members)
- Issue specific expertise (five members)
  - Aboriginal homelessness
  - Academic and research
  - Business
  - Women and homelessness
  - Mental health and homelessness

#### Independent Ex-officio Members

The following representatives are independent ex-officio members of the Council:

- Mental Health Commissioner of NSW
- Chief Executive Officer, Council of Social Services of NSW
- Chief Executive Officer, Domestic Violence NSW
- Chief Executive Officer, Homelessness NSW
- Chief Executive Officer, Yfoundations

### **Department of Family and Community Services Ex-officio Members**

The following Department representative is a member of the Council:

- Deputy Secretary, Commissioning, Department of Family and Community Services

### **Additional Government Department Members**

Department members bring specialised knowledge and expertise to the Council around:

- Mental health and homelessness (one member from the Ministry of Health)
- Justice issues and homelessness (one member from the Department of Justice)

The Council is chaired by the Premier. This role may be delegated to the Minister or the Parliamentary Secretary, as required. The Minister and a nominated independent member act as Deputy Co-Chairs.

Further to this formal membership, subject matter experts from government agencies, the non-government sector or other independent experts including other consumers, may be invited to attend meetings on an ad hoc basis, to support the Council in its role of providing high quality advice to the NSW Government.

Membership should reflect the diversity of the NSW community. The identification of candidates and the appointment of new members will comply with the Public Service Commission's Appointment Standards.

Ex-officio appointments are ongoing. Appointments of ex-officio members are dependent upon those members continuing in the roles upon which their appointment is based.

Independent members will be appointed for a term of three years.

### **Role of Independent Members**

Independent ex-officio members and other independent members will be expected to:

- Attend meetings and forums and provide input and advice
- Provide advice on strategic issues and government directions
- Act as champions for homelessness issues in their sector or field.

### **Forward Work program**

The NSW Premier's Council on Homelessness is an advisory body to the NSW Government and its forward agenda will reflect the Government's strategic homelessness priorities.

Forward work programs will be developed, in consultation with the Council, to set out key issues for the Council to consider and advise on in the year ahead.

### **Meetings**

As the Premier and Minister sees fit and at least once a year.

The Department of Family and Community Services will provide secretariat support to the Council.