Gathering Momentum
Draft Program – Tuesday 13 and Wednesday 14 August 2024

Day 1 – Tuesday 13 August 2024

Time	Session
7.30 – 8.45	**Registration open**
9:00 – 9.40	**Welcome to Conference** • Opening by Dr Michael Fotheringham, AHURI • Welcome to County
9.45 – 10.30	**Plenary 1: Keynote presentation** *Speaker to be confirmed*.
10.30 – 11.00	*Morning tea*
11.00 – 12.30	Major Concurrent sessions
	MC1: System level housing first This session will discuss what is next as Housing First becomes established within Australian policy and practice. **MC2: Providing meaningful responses when there is no housing** In the face of a persistent and dire housing crisis, how do services meaningfully support people experiencing homelessness when access to accommodation is severely limited. This session will explore learnings that can be replicated, and failings to avoid. **MC3: Evaluation for impact** The importance of robust assessments of homelessness support programs is key. This session will hear how program evaluations have helped organisations to understand what works and for whom and illustrates where further action is needed.
12.30 – 1.30	*Lunch*
1.30 – 3.00	**Plenary 2: Closing the gap – priorities and reforms for housing and homelessness** With surging numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experiencing homelessness, this session explores specific homelessness service options that give voice to their experience of homeslessness and reveals a self-determined approach towards ending homelessness in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.
3.00 – 3.30	*Afternoon tea*
3.30 – 5.00	Concurrent Sessions
	C1: Place based collaborations and solutions The aftermaths of the pandemic, cost of living pressures, climate change and natural disasters have seen homelessness rates climb in our cities and in outer urban, regional and rural communities. This session looks at how organisations and government can work together for best impact.

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3.30-5.00	**C2: Shaping services and research with Lived Experience involvement and peer work** This session will share the lessons learned of involving people who have experienced homelessness in shaping policy and service delivery. It will also discuss the important role of peer workers in shaping policy.
	C3: Aboriginal led practice This session highlights the importance of Aboriginal-led homelessness responses. Aboriginal led responses recognise the transformative power of community building and are grounded in cultural learnings to deliver compassionate and culturally safe practices that ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's unique needs are met in a respectful space and manner.
	C4: How private rental is being accessed and sustained Programs to transition people from emergency accommodation and refuges often rely on the private rental market. This session considers private rental subsidy and support schemes for people facing insecure housing outcomes but who do have some capacity to support themselves in private rental housing.
	C5: Better homelessness responses for under-served groups Every day, Australia's homelessness services face the harsh reality of trying to support people for whom few supports exist that are appropriate to their situations . This session explores solutions that support unaccompanied children and young people escaping family-violence; assist women to move from incarceration to community living; and help people without residency status in Australia.
	C6: Think Local .An increasing number of local governments have been finding their place in homelessness response efforts and advocacy to other levels of government. This panel discussion will consider what exactly can and should local government contribute towards our country's efforts to end homelessness?
5.00 – 7.00	**Welcome Reception** Exhibition Precinct, Adelaide Convention Centre

Day two – Wednesday 14 August 2024

Time	Session
6.30 -8.45	Networking Breakfast, Adelaide Convention Centre
7.30 – 8.45	**Registration**
9:00 – 9.30	**Welcome to Day 2**

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Time	Session
9.30 – 11.00	**Plenary 3: Working together to end homelessness – away and at home** The phrase 'Ending homelessness' is increasingly used in Australia, and has been widely adopted internationally. However, we need clear definitions and a real understanding on how to deliver it. Featuring international perspectives, this session explores how we can create systemic change to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring.
11.00 -11.30	*Morning Tea*
11.30 – 1.00	**Major Concurrent sessions**
	MC4: Commissioning and funding services to deliver the best outcomes This session explores commissioning strategies that build on the strengths and resources of service providers, specialists, lived experts, communities, governments, and the many collaborative partners who contribute to the health and wellbeing of people facing homelessness.
	MC5: Cultural right to mobility This session explores the concept of mobility and approaches to support mobility in a contemporary context. It will offer firsthand insights and tangible solutions, derived from on-the-ground experiences, to cultivate a community-driven approach to homelessness that respects cultural values and effectively addresses housing challenges.
	MC6: Embedding Lived Experience in policy – challenges and opportunities The session explores what has been learnt from including people with lived experience in policy and program design. The session will discuss how organisations can embrace people with lived experience to work with them and to drive improved outcomes for people experiencing homelessness.
1.00 – 2.00	**Lunch**
2.00 – 3.30	**Concurrent sessions**
	C7 Overcoming barriers to accessing health services People experiencing homelessness have higher rates of emergency department presentation and hospital admission. This session explores evidence that improving access to healthcare through outreach programs, delivering vaccines in trusted community places, and protecting this vulnerable population from weather-related illness reduces ED presentations and improves health outcomes.
	C8 Building the best models of supportive housing This session explores how to build the best models of housing for people escaping domestic and family violence. Rather than the traditional shared house environment, this session will discuss use of the core and cluster model and a new innovative model providing flexibility to services and users.
	C9 Reducing homelessness following institutional exits People leaving institutions and institutional care have disproportionately high rates of homelessness. This session focusses on learnings from programs aimed at preventing people from cycling back into homelessness, including the importance of cross agency and collaborative governance.

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Time	Session
2.00 – 3.30	**C10 Practical examples of Lived Experience at work** People with lived experience of homelessness working as peer-support can bring strengths-based, recovery oriented care for clients of homelessness services. This session shares ways of ensuring people with lived experience have a contributing voice in the sector.
	C11 Rowing in the same direction – optimising partnerships Support programs working in partnership with governments are important to alleviating homelessness, particularly when they are targeted in specific locations. This session shares the lessons learned from four initiatives to suggest what worked and did not work, and how these lessons can inform the development of similar models in other regions.
	C12 Using system thinking to end homelessness Providing support at the right time can prevent and reduce homelessness by lowering barriers to maintaining housing, increasing the speed of obtaining accommodation, and alleviating pressure on the homelessness service system. This session looks at system level strategies to reduce the number of people falling into homelessness.
3.30 – 4.00	**Afternoon tea**
4.00 – 5.00	**Plenary 4: Where to from here for the Australian homelessness system** A panel of leaders in homelessness across Australia will reflect on 'what's next' for the Australian homelessness system, and discuss key priorities moving forward.
5.00 -5.10	**Conference Close**

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