

ENDING HOMELESSNESS IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS



*Our vision is an end to homelessness in Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander communities*

WELCOME!

This forum is brought to you by the
Lodjbra Network in partnership
with the Victorian Indigenous
Statewide Homelessness Network
and the North West Homelessness
Network

PURPOSE OF TODAY'S FORUM

This forum is aimed at mainstream homelessness and family violence staff who would like to find out more about Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Homelessness and Family Violence Services in the NW and staff in Aboriginal controlled services who would like to network with colleagues from mainstream services.

WHAT IS VISHN?

The Victorian Indigenous Statewide Homelessness Network has been meeting now for about the last 9 years. The Co-ordinator position for the Network was created in February 2007.

At present the network is made up of Aboriginal Housing and Homelessness staff across the state. We started with a membership of around 15 and to date has grown to a membership of nearly 63 workers.

Throughout the Network's History we have been able to meet due to the assistance of funding from the Department of Human Services. Each time the Network has met we have convened meetings at different parts of the state and where possible involved mainstream agencies from that area to attend. The Network has agreed that without the assistance of many mainstream organisations, the work we are trying to achieve would be that much harder to achieve.

It goes without saying that without the vast support of all past and current members this Network would not be where it is today.

WHAT IS THE NWHN?

The North & West Homelessness Network (NWHN), is a network of Homelessness Assistance funded services operating in Melbourne's North & West metropolitan region.

Similar to VISHN their role is to bring services together to work towards making sure we get the best possible outcomes for clients that we can with the resources that we have.

THE LODJBRA NETWORK

Lodjbra is a Yorta - Yorta word meaning
“learning”

Aunty Walda Blow, a Yorta - Yorta elder
and the CEO at Margaret Tucker
Hostel came up with the name

BACKGROUND

Established in 2004, the Lodbra Network is a network that relies on the commitment and good will of its members. It aims to achieve its aim & vision through consultation, advocacy, training, event holding, and provision of information and resources. Lodbra provides a regular place for ongoing communication, collaboration and an opportunity to work together to advocate for an end to homelessness in ATSI communities.

AIM

To find collaborative and respectful ways to build and maintain partnerships between Aboriginal and non Aboriginal homelessness support services that will result in more effective and culturally appropriate responses and better outcomes for Aboriginal people at risk of or experiencing homelessness in Metropolitan Melbourne.

PURPOSE

1. Raise awareness of the specialist expertise that Aboriginal services have when working with Aboriginal people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
2. Identify and discuss policy issues that have a direct impact on the day to day operation of Aboriginal homelessness support agencies.
3. Raise, discuss and seek solutions to the structural barriers that contribute to Aboriginal disadvantage and homelessness in Metropolitan Melbourne
4. Advocate for greater equality / equity of access for Aboriginal peoples to resources to alleviate disadvantage.
5. Provide ongoing communication and peer support opportunities for Aboriginal homelessness support staff across Metropolitan Melbourne by regularly coming together at Network meetings to listen to each others perspectives on homelessness issues, develop partnerships, share information and strategies and support each others work.

VALUES & PRINCIPLES

Maintain a client focus - The Lodbra Network operates from a client centred perspective. We strive to ensure that consideration of client's needs and outcomes are at the centre of discussion and decision making.

Trust and respect - The Lodbra Network will work to create an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect in recognition of the fact that discussions held, and decisions made, within a respectful and trusting environment will more honestly reflect the perspectives of members.

Valuing difference - The diversity of members and their perspectives is valued. We respect the opinions of others, appreciate differing perspectives on issues and will approach discussion in the spirit of cooperation and collaboration. We will attend meetings with an expectation of being heard and will actively listen to, and attempt to understand, each other.

Being responsible and accountable - We will participate in problem solving and will positively address issues by offering ideas and being a part of the solution when problems arise.

Sharing skills and knowledge - Network members are committed to sharing skills and knowledge and to information sharing and consultation amongst members and with the broader community service

MEMBERSHIP

- Staff from any Aboriginal Homelessness & Family Violence funded service in Metropolitan Melbourne
- Staff from the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service
- Staff from any non Aboriginal homelessness & Family Violence funded service in Metropolitan Melbourne
- North and West Homelessness Network Coordinator
- Statewide Indigenous Homelessness Network Coordinator
- North and West Children's Resource Program Coordinators
- NW DHS Community Programs Unit
- Others as identified and agreed upon by members

INTERESTED IN JOINING LODJBRA?

Email Us!

Dan:

dlaws@ngwala.org.au

Or Zoe & Jodi:

zoe@wombat.org.au or jodi@wombat.org.au

HOMELESSNESS IN THE ATSI COMMUNITY

In the latest Homelessness Data Report from AIHW:
102,356 people sought support from Homelessness
services across Australia between 1 January 2012 and
31 March 2012.

21% of those people identified as Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islander.

About 1 in 4 children aged 0-10 identified as
Indigenous. This means Indigenous people are
overrepresented in the homelessness service system by
a factor of six to one.

HOMELESSNESS IN THE ATSI COMMUNITY

Indigenous clients represent 15% of all clients in major cities compared to 76% in Remote areas and 93% in very Remote areas.

While this likely reflects the proportion of Indigenous people in those areas, on the whole Indigenous people are over-represented among those receiving services from homelessness agencies

WHAT'S NEEDED

- More affordable housing
- More culturally appropriate homelessness and housing support services
- More research and better understandings of what causes homelessness and housing breakdown in ATSI communities
- A focus on better collaboration and better relationships
- More days like this where Aboriginal and non Aboriginal staff can get together to learn from each other and find solutions

WELCOME AND
ENJOY!