

TOGETHER HOME

Short Courses for Housing Professionals working in Together Home

Together Home series of courses

Overview

Department of Communities and Justice has funded a series of courses which will assist you in working with vulnerable people who are homeless or have experienced homelessness. It will focus on understanding the principles of Housing First and the many issues which may present during your work including trauma, mental illness and managing difficult behaviour. The series will inform how to work in a culturally safe practice with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Learning Outcomes

- Understand the principles of Housing First
- Develop a strengths-based approach and language when working with vulnerable clients
- Develop an understanding of the history and its impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experiencing or have experienced homelessness
- Work effectively with clients who have experienced trauma and or mental illness.
- Implement trauma informed practice in your work
- Network and collaborate across community services industry to benefit and support your client as required

Key Facts

| Dates

Session 1	2 March 2023
Session 2	23 March 2023
Session 3	13 April 2023
Session 4	4 May 2023
Session 5	25 May 2023
Session 6	8 June 2023
Session 7	29 June 2023

| Duration

1 day per session
9:30am - 3:30pm

| Cost

Free

Series Outline

- Session 1 Complex needs in homelessness
- Session 2 Housing First principles/strengths-based communication
- Session 3 Trauma Informed Practice.
- Session 4 Mental Health Awareness
- Session 5 Understanding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander safety
- Session 6 Managing difficult behaviour
- Session 7 Networking and collaboration

Who Should Attend

- Frontline workers in Together Home Program
- Managers of Together Home Program

Delivery Method

The course is delivered via online Zoom workshops. Each session will be delivered in one day

Sessions Outline

Session 1 Complex needs in homelessness

Understanding that homelessness can cause new complexities and deepen existing ones will assist you to work in a complex capable manner. Homelessness removes stability and connection in people's lives. People who leave their home and local community often leave behind important relationships and networks. This makes it harder to participate in employment, education, and family and the community, and can effectively exclude people from mainstream life.

Session 2 Housing First Principles

***Housing First** is an international model for housing and supporting people who have experienced long term and reoccurring homelessness and who face a range of complex challenges. This session explores strategies utilising strategies to end homelessness and is a methodology for effectively assisting some of the most vulnerable people in our community.*

Strengths based communication

It is important to convey a positive language of hope and possibility so that the language we use does not affect a person's self-worth and lead to more disadvantage and social exclusion. (MHCC Recovery Oriented Language Guide) This session will look at how to celebrate and work with people's capacity and abilities that are quite separate from any diagnosis of mental illness or trauma. Support and the language we use is focussed on a person's strengths rather than limitations and interventions are based on client self-determination.

Session 3 Trauma Informed Practice

In Together Home program, you are working everyday with people who have experienced trauma. This session gives you the opportunity to understand trauma and complexities, examine what impact trauma has on your work, and offers you some tools and strategies to improve and validate your current practice.

Session 4 Mental Health Awareness

The Together Home Program plays an important role in the housing of people experiencing mental ill health and/or mental distress. CHIA NSW and the Mental Health Coordinating Council have together developed this program to look at how we recognise, respond and refer people to the most appropriate services for support.

Session 5 Understanding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander safety

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people comprise one in ten households living in community housing in Australia. Community Housing Providers work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as tenants and applicants and as professional colleagues, and further engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders and service providers. This session explores colonisation, government policies and shared history as the knowledge base to inform culturally safe practice. We will define cultural safety and examine ways to ensure cultural safety in our own work practice.

Session 6 Managing difficult behaviour

Unacceptable behaviour of frequency and duration is likely to limit the use of or result in the person being denied access to ordinary community facilities, services and experiences. This session explores how you as a worker respond to situations where a client may exhibit challenging or difficult behaviour. This will vary from person to person, and you will be given the opportunity to explore what you find challenging and how you can put yourself in a better position to respond effectively.

Session 7 Networking and Collaboration

All workers in Together Home Program need to ensure that they have up to date knowledge of services and agencies available for their clients or potential clients. While housing is provided through a Housing First model, many people need other supports to increase the likelihood that their housing is maintained. This session looks at how we can improve our networks and collaborate that are positive, sustainable and most importantly, work to meet the needs of individuals seeking support.