



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

Clinical Senate

July 2017

Dr DJ Russell-Weisz
Director General
Department of Health WA



Recommendations from two debates



Homelessness – Recommendations

System Manager: 5 Recs

- 3 Endorsed
- 2 Endorsed in Principle

Health Service Boards: 3 Recs

- All put forward for consideration



Photo courtesy of Tony McDonough

Homelessness – Recommendations

For System Manager:

Endorsed

- 1 Ask Minister for Health to consider establishing cross-jurisdictional Cabinet Committee to coordinate initiatives to reduce homelessness
- 2 Introduce a standard definition of homelessness across the WA health system
- 4 Add an alert to referrals identifying people who are – or are at risk of – being homeless

Endorsed in principle

- 3 Gather and analyse data on homeless patients to inform the development of a WA Standard of Care
- 5 Initiate a research project to determine the benefits of addressing the high cost of hospitalisation in homeless people through proactively sending specialist care into the community.



Photo courtesy of Tony McDonough

Homelessness – Recommendations

For Health Service Boards:

Put forward for consideration

- 1 Invest in staff education that evaluates the social determinates of health and the linkages to homelessness
- 2 Introduce a 'hub and spoke' management process for homeless patients, with peripheral facilities having access to central expertise
- 3 Ensure Aboriginal Elders within catchment have input into service delivery and hospital culture.



Photo courtesy of Tony McDonough