

Media release

30 June 2024

Eleri Morgan-Thomas
CEO Homes Tasmania

Continued housing support with improved Housing Connect

Tasmanians will have better access to housing assistance with improvements to Housing Connect starting tomorrow.

Homes Tasmania and our Housing Connect partners, are committed to providing support and assistance for people who need crisis accommodation through to a long-term home.

Homes Tasmania CEO, Eleri Morgan-Thomas said that from Monday, 1 July 2024, wherever you are in Tasmania, Tasmanians in need will receive a consistent and personalised approach to the housing assistance; from their assessment at the front door to the support services tailored to their life stage.

“Improvements to Housing Connect include new ways of working with new practitioner roles using the contemporary ‘Advantaged Thinking’ model to support people experiencing homelessness develop strong connections to family and community and build their capabilities for independent living,” Ms Morgan-Thomas said.

“Advantaged Thinking recognises that each person has opportunities and resources and should be supported so they can have a good life.”

Ms Morgan-Thomas said that Housing Connect partners would now offer personalised support, tailored to people’s specific circumstances and life stage.

“Support services will specialise to better meet people’s needs and will be provided specifically for young people, single adults, families (with or without children) and older people and connect them to appropriate housing services and resources,” Ms Morgan-Thomas said.

Ms Morgan-Thomas said that improvements to Housing Connect would do more than help people find and keep housing, it would also connect or reconnect them to the community.

“Having healthy social networks are critical for good health and wellbeing, are an essential safety in times of need and can open up opportunities for friendships, training and jobs,” Ms Morgan-Thomas said.

Ms Morgan-Thomas said that Anglicare Tasmania would deliver the Housing Connect front door services statewide including from a new Hobart location at 159 Collins St, Hobart.

“Personalised support will be delivered by CatholicCare – for young people and families statewide and for single adults in the North/North-West – and Hobart City Mission, for single adults in the South.

“Wintringham will deliver support to older people statewide and Wyndarra will continue to service the Circular Head area,” Ms Morgan-Thomas said.

“With our Housing Connect partners, we will continue to improve services for people experiencing homelessness and will keep the community up to date as we implement these improvements.”

Ms Morgan-Thomas said that the improvements had been co-designed and implemented with the sector and took the opportunity to thank all the Housing Connect partners for their continued support and commitment to helping Tasmanians.

Ms Morgan-Thomas also acknowledged and thanked Colony 47 and Salvation Army Housing for their previous work in delivering Housing Connect services.

Anyone experiencing or at risk of homelessness is encouraged to contact Housing Connect on 1800 800 588.

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Quote to be attributed to Harvey Lennon, CEO Hobart City Mission

"Hobart City Mission is thrilled about the evolution of Housing Connect, which enhances our ability to link single adults seeking housing support with a comprehensive range of community services simultaneously. For over 170 years, Hobart City Mission has championed this holistic approach. Our extensive research and experience prove that individuals achieve significantly better outcomes when they have a safe and secure place to call home, coupled with a variety of complimentary support services. Programs like our free counselling service and Integrated Family Support program for example, are vital in helping people not just survive when they secure housing, but thrive."

Contact: Brett Galbraith, Marketing and Communications Manager, Hobart City Mission
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Quote to be attributed to Kirsten Free, A/CEO CatholicCare Tasmania

“We are eager to collaborate with our partner agencies under the new service reform 2.0. Our commitment is to be an active part of this change, recognising that there is no one-size-fits-all solution for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Our Key Development Coaches are focused on empowering individuals and families affected by the housing crisis by exploring all available networks and resources to either reconnect or tap into support systems. By adopting the Advantaged Thinking framework, we are shifting from problem-based to solution-focused approaches, offering a hand up rather than a handout.

Our partnership with Homes Tasmania is key to influencing systemic change and demonstrating that progress is not only possible but is happening.”

Contact: Michelle Mizzen, Manager Communications and Corporate Partnerships,
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