

Homelessness Australia Housing First Training Project

Expression of Interest

1. Summary

Homelessness Australia is seeking expressions of interest from experienced Housing First practitioners to undertake a train the trainer program led by a team of internationally trained Housing First practice leaders.

2. The Project

There is strong international evidence that Housing First programs (HF) end homelessness for most people with complex needs. Council to Homeless Persons (CHP) in Victoria is supporting Homelessness Australia to work with the HF Europe Hub on a project to develop and roll out HF training across Australia. This project is funded by the Melbourne based Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation (LMCF).

The project will result in more than 30 specialised trainers in Australia delivering HF capacity building within the Specialist Homelessness Sector and beyond. The trainers will support advocacy for the expansion of HF programs and expand our sector's capability in delivering HF programs. The project will also create a HF Australia Community of Practice (CoP). The CoP will provide an ongoing platform to share ideas, support implementation, develop practice and embed HF as an evidence-based response to people without a home who have complex needs.

3. Housing First Europe Hub

In support of international best practice, Homelessness Australia has been accepted as an Associate Member of the HF Europe Hub (the Hub). The Hub has the strategic aim of promoting and supporting the implementation of HF in Europe and beyond. It acts as a repository for HF research; supports practice through the HF Europe Guide and HF training; and develops resources to assist partners to advocate for HF. The Hub is an activity of the European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless (FEANTSA) and is administered by the Y-Foundation in Finland.

In 2019 four experienced Australian HF practice leaders travelled to Europe to undertake specialised HF training and skills development with the Hub. In addition to the support from LMCF, in-kind support for these practitioners to participate, is being provided by Homelessness NSW, Launch Housing in Victoria, Micah Projects in Queensland and RUAH in Western Australia. These experienced practitioners have now completed this specialised training and are ready to deliver a HF train the trainer program to HF practitioners in Australia.

4. HF train the trainer program

Aim

The HF train the trainer program aims to provide quality training in the skills and methodologies required to deliver HF training on-line and in person as well as supporting trainers to maintain their skills and knowledge

Content

The HF train the trainer course is underpinned by the Australian HF principles and structured around the Homelessness Australia HF train the trainer guide:

- HF introduction
- Australian HF principles
- Barriers to delivering HF effectively
- Delivering HF training to different audiences including managers, housing providers and youth services
- Training theory
- HF practice, including recovery orientation, harm reduction and trauma informed practice
- HF and wider strategy.

Method

The course will be conducted on-line and will be delivered through a series of:

- Workshops including developing training outlines and activities
- Pre and post workshop learning activities
- Showcases including sharing training activities.

Time

The course will be delivered twice to two groups of 15 participants, each course delivered a day a week across six weeks. Round one participants will undertake training in April/May 2021 and round two participants in October/November 2021.

Activity	Timeline
Round One	
15 participants undertake preparatory work and attend six one day sessions of the HF Australia train the trainer program	12 th April 2021 – 21 st May 2021
Continue involvement in the HF Australia project through: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• developing and delivering HF training• participating in a HF Australia Community of Practice	June 2021 onwards
Round Two	
15 participants undertake preparatory work and attend six one day sessions of the HF Australia train the trainer program	11 th October 2021 – 15 th November 2021
Continue involvement in the HF Australia project through: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• developing and delivering HF training• participating in a HF Australia Community of Practice	November 2021 onwards

5. Eligibility and selection criteria

To be eligible for the training participants must:

1. Be a highly experienced Housing First specialist homelessness practitioner
2. Be passionate about Housing First and have a good understanding of HF principles, evidence and implementation challenges
3. Have excellent training and/or presentation skills
4. Have approval and support from their employing organisation to participate in the program
5. With support from the Australian Train the Trainer team, commit to developing and delivering Housing First training to approximately 30 people
6. Participate in, develop and deliver HF Community of Practice over a two-year period.

6. Organisational eligibility and selection criteria:

1. Strong understanding of, and commitment to, HF programs and principles
2. Experience in delivering HF programs
3. CEO level support from organisation to commit to the Program for a minimum of two years and support the staff member to play a leading role in developing and providing HF training for Australian practitioners including releasing the staff member on full pay to:
 - Attend the six-day HF Australia Train the Trainer Program
 - Develop and deliver HF training consistent with Australian HF principles
 - Deliver HF training as an in-kind contributionParticipate in HF Australia Community of Practice.

7. Selection of participants

Homelessness Australia's intention with this expression of interest, is to attract the highest quality participants and to maximise equitable access to HF training across Australia as well as making clear the expectations and commitment required of both individual participants and their employers.

To express your interest in this exciting training opportunity, please forward a cover letter and responses to the selection criteria (including the organisational criteria) by Monday 1st March 2021 by email to sian@chp.org.au.

Before submitting your expression of interest, we encourage you to contact Sian Mulgrew at the Council to Homeless Persons in Victoria, to discuss the project in detail. Her contact details are sian@chp.org.au or 0401 831 136.