

A regional lens: Understanding and addressing homelessness in the regions

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Government of South Australia

SA Housing Trust



Country South Homelessness Alliance



Country South Homelessness Alliance

Office locations:

- Berri
- Murray Bridge
- Goolwa
- Kingscote
- Mount Gambier





Studio Purpose

Working together to transform young lives in Murray Bridge

Thanuja Hiripitiyage, Regional Manager Homelessness, Reconnect Services and Studio Purpose

Studio Purpose shared mission

To provide quality services to assist vulnerable youth aged 15-23yrs at risk of or experiencing homelessness in the Murray Mallee region to acquire the skills needed to reach their full potential.

Intensive support provided focuses on:

- Health and wellbeing
- Education, training and development
- Early identification and vulnerability
- Better connections
- Engagement and participation

Early intervention

Getting in early with intensive support for young people can help **prevent a lifetime of reliance on social services.**

Our approach is backed by research

The Studio Purpose model is based on Australian Institute of Family Studies guidelines for **early intervention** strategies, including:

- Helping young people reconnect with family
- Helping young people connect to community and education
- Providing young people with youth-specific appropriate housing

Studio Purpose: A bold cross-agency project to provide accommodation and support for young people at risk of homelessness



In partnership with:



Supported by:





Two duplexes provided by SAHT were converted by community into eight units for youth at risk of homelessness



A safe haven provided by the community

Achieving positive outcomes

Priority outcomes for young people living in Studio Purpose units:

- Independence
- Private rental
- Rebuilding relationships
- School attendance
- Employment



The intensive support provided are individualized, available when the young person needs the support, and the lease term is based on the need of the young person.



“To the entire Studio Purpose team, thank you for being there when I needed someone the most. The unit you gave me wasn’t just a place to stay, it was a place to rebuild, to grow, to be again. Through every tough day, every setback, and every small victory, you never stopped showing up for me. Because of your love, patience and support, I’ve grown into someone I can finally be proud of”

– Young person accommodated through Studio Purpose, 2025

Outcomes to date

→ Housing outcomes

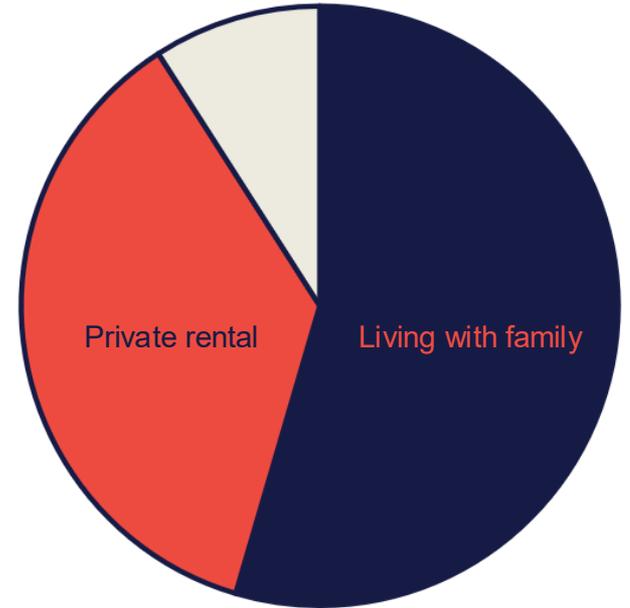
6 young people moved in with family

4 young people secured private rental

Only 1 young person re-entered homelessness

→ Educational outcomes

75% of young people engaging in higher education





Fleurieu Supported Accommodation Project

A community-led, place-based response to a complex social issue

Lia Aldridge, Team Leader Homelessness

Fleurieu Supported Accommodation Project: A community led response to homelessness in the Fleurieu region

Project partners:



Community Bank
Fleurieu



Head lease model

Housing Service:

- Head-lease
- Sub-lease
- Tenancy management

Homelessness Support Service:

- Case management
- Trauma-informed support
- Tenancy skill development
- Connections to broader services



The journey so far

- August 2024 first property
Shared accommodation for women 55+
- January 2025 second property
Emergency crisis accommodation
- August 2025 third property
Youth shared accommodation





The emergency crisis accommodation has provided immediate relief and stability for families and individuals in high-stress situations



“Fear of homelessness kept me in an unhealthy situation longer than I should have, but the impact on my son pushed me to seek help.

Junction provided emergency accommodation that far exceeded my expectations—a spacious house with a yard where my son could feel safe and happy.

This support has given us stability, eased my anxiety, and allowed us to begin healing. My son is thriving, and I now have hope for a brighter future, surrounded by a caring community”

– Mother accommodated through Fleureu Supported Accommodation Project, 2025

Outcomes to date

→ People supported

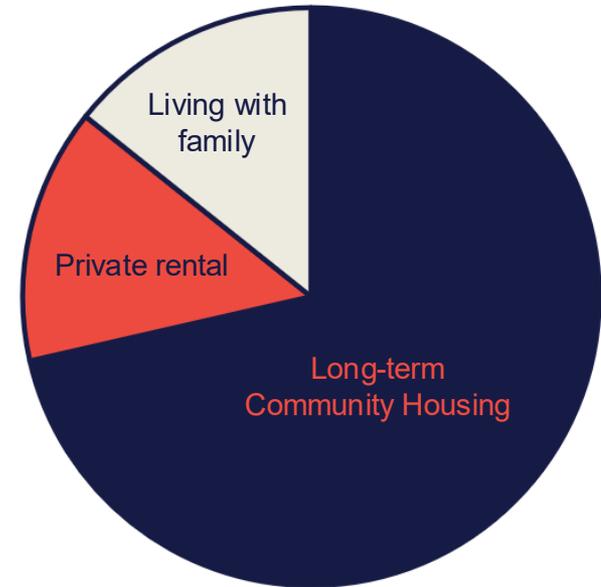
12 households, including 13 adults and 8 children

→ Housing outcomes

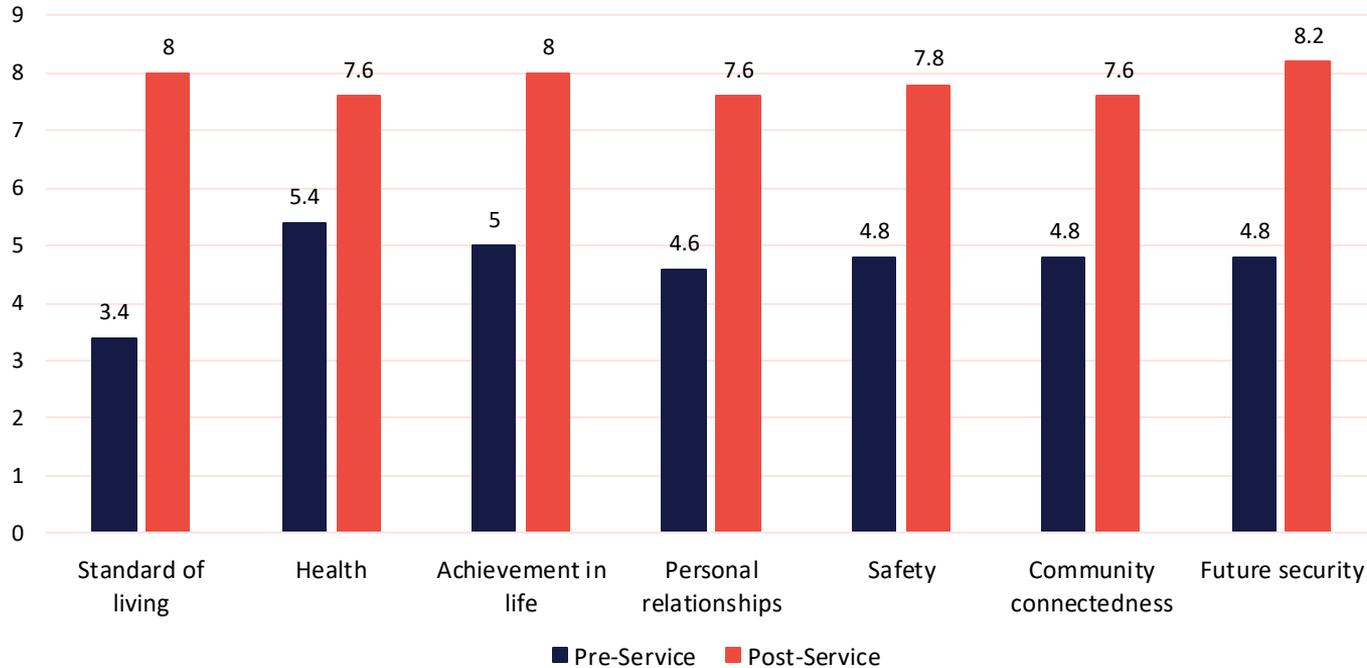
5 households transitioned to community housing

1 household secured private rental

1 household moved in with family



→ Wellbeing outcomes - PWI





Ceduna Services Collaboration

A regional collaboration to improve outcomes for vulnerable people in Ceduna and the Far West

Catherine Maczowiack, Manager – Regional and Remote Partnerships (DHS)

Rebecca Tuohy, Regional Manager Ceduna and Far West Coast (CCCSA)

Tiana Mullan, Assistant Manager and Program Lead – Ceduna and Far West Coast (CCCSA)

Country North Homelessness Alliance

South Australia is the first state to embrace a new way of contracting services and is leading the way in delivering a system where government and non-government service providers work side by side to achieve the best possible outcomes for those in need.

The organisations that form the Country North Homelessness Alliances have a proud history of supporting country people who face barriers to obtaining suitable housing. Homelessness services play an important role in assisting people to navigate the housing system, access safe and stable accommodation, and to address disadvantage and barriers to housing.



**COUNTRY NORTH
HOMELESSNESS ALLIANCE**

Background

- Formed in 2014 in response to a coronial inquest into six deaths in the Ceduna region (2004–2011).
- The inquest found a systemic failure of services to adequately support vulnerable Aboriginal people.
- Originally launched as the Ceduna Service Reform, with a mandate to improve how services work together.
- Since then, it has grown into a sustained collaboration committed to improving service systems and outcomes.

Ceduna Services Collaboration

- A cross-sector partnership working to improve outcomes for vulnerable people in Ceduna and the Far West.
- Brings together services to collaborate, share information, and respond more effectively to complex social issues.
- Focuses on supporting Aboriginal people who are homeless, away from home, and impacted by alcohol use.
- Evolved from improving inter-agency coordination to using shared data and supporting community-led responses

Key achievements

Weekly check-in meetings:

- Summer response
- Extreme Weather Response
- Staff induction bus tour
- Vulnerable Persons Framework
- Street Beat

Far West Community Partnerships and the Department of Human Services are excited to announce the next ***Ceduna Induction and Orientation Bus Tour***

We are currently taking an expression of interest for employees in the Ceduna region to attend an induction and orientation bus tour which aims to develop participants understanding of community and support services in our region and how to work collaboratively.

We ask that you please send through the full name and email address of nominated employees to *Michelle Duregon*: servicedevelopment@fwcp.com.au by **Wednesday 12 February**.



Spaces are limited so we ask that you send nominations at your earliest convenience.

We will send out addition bus tour dates for the remainder of the year soon, there will be more opportunities for new employees to participate.

For any questions, please contact *Michelle Duregon*: servicedevelopment@fwcp.com.au

Thank you





Ceduna Service Collaboration: A Unified Approach to Supporting Vulnerable Communities

The Ceduna region exemplifies the power of collaboration, where local service providers, community organisations, government departments, and Aboriginal corporations work hand-in-hand to uplift and support those most in need. This unique partnership model is deeply rooted in a place-based, community-led approach that prioritises cultural respect, local knowledge, and shared responsibility.

At the heart of Ceduna's service ecosystem is the Ceduna Local Services Plan, which was developed through extensive consultation with stakeholders and community members. It identifies key social issues, service gaps, and priority needs, and outlines actionable strategies to address them. This plan reflects a commitment to Closing the Gap by ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices are central to decision-making and service design.

The Community-led Support Fund, facilitated by Far West Community Partnerships, empowers local organisations to propose and implement initiatives that directly respond to community needs. From emergency relief and financial literacy programs to culturally appropriate alcohol and other drug services, the fund supports a wide range of activities that promote wellbeing and resilience. Anchoring this collaborative effort is the Ceduna Community Hub, a welcoming space co-managed by the Red Cross and Ceduna Aboriginal Corporation. It serves as a vital connection point for residents seeking support, information, or simply a sense of belonging.

Keeping camps clean and healthy: A community collaboration in Ceduna

A recent campaign brought together community members, and partner organisations of Centacare - Red Cross, and Ceduna Aboriginal Corporations Street Beat program, for a coordinated clean-up of camps in our community.

The goal: to improve hygiene, reduce waste hazards, and build community pride. Teams worked side by side to remove rubbish and support better living conditions — all in the spirit of cooperation and respect for our shared spaces.

This successful clean-up is now being explored as an activity to occur more often. This alone has many benefits in terms of providing opportunities to connect on a deeper cultural level with those who camp, strengthening relationships of trust, opening pathways for shared decision-making, and supporting community wellbeing.





Street Beat

An innovative model that highlights true integration of services by staff from partner agencies contributing their time. Staff still work for their organisation during their shift on Street Beat and as such the manner and conditions in which staff work will be governed by their own organisations policy and procedures.

Providing better support and better access to services for vulnerable people in and around Ceduna. The main goal of the Street Beat strategy is to improve the safety and wellbeing of those at greatest risk with high and complex needs.

Partners of Street Beat in Ceduna consist of the majority of services such as Centacare Catholic Country SA, DHS, Ceduna Aboriginal Corporation, Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Services, Red Cross, YADU Aboriginal Health Services

Questions?

Stay in touch/learn more:

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- Rebecca Tuohy
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Afternoon tea

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