

Homeless Hub Homelessness Interest Group





Housing Affordability since 2000

House prices increased 200%

Minimum wage increased 92%

Rental charges increased 135%

Newstart Allowance increased 69%



° Social Housing as a % of total

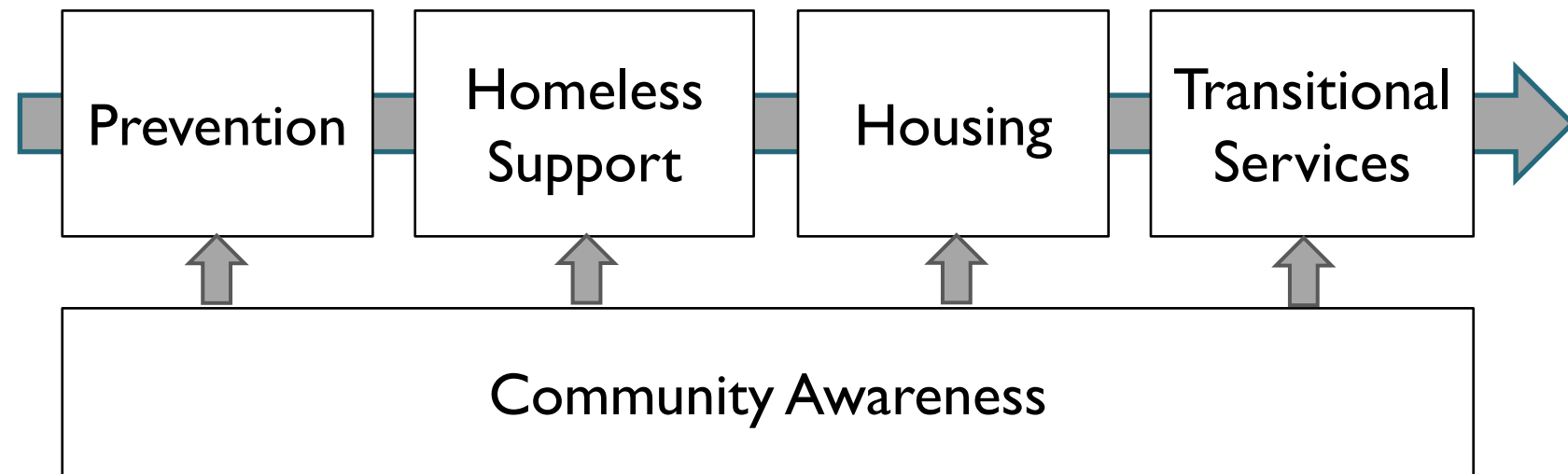
Australia	3.8%
OECD average	7%
England	16.8%
France	17%
Scotland	23%



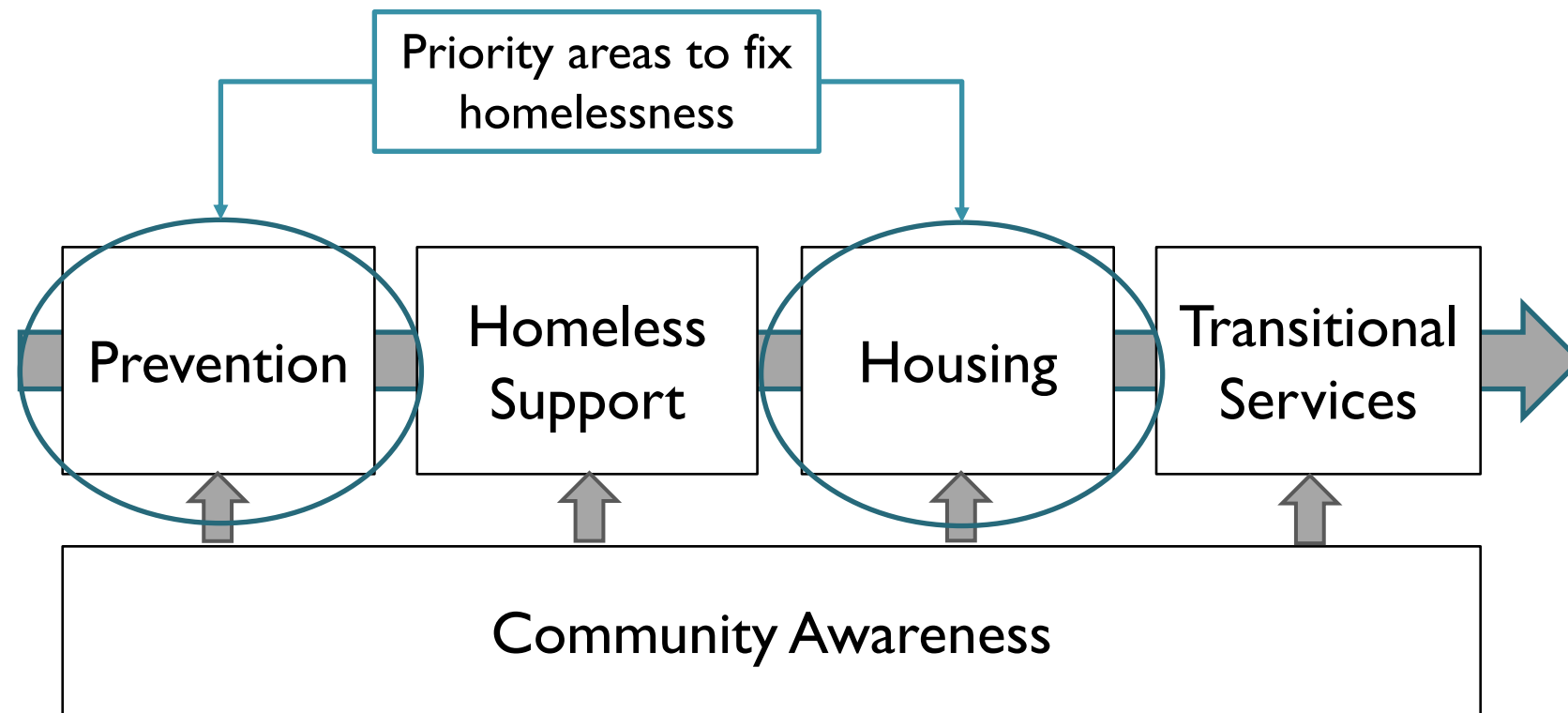
Our Theme

How can Rotary Clubs best address homelessness?

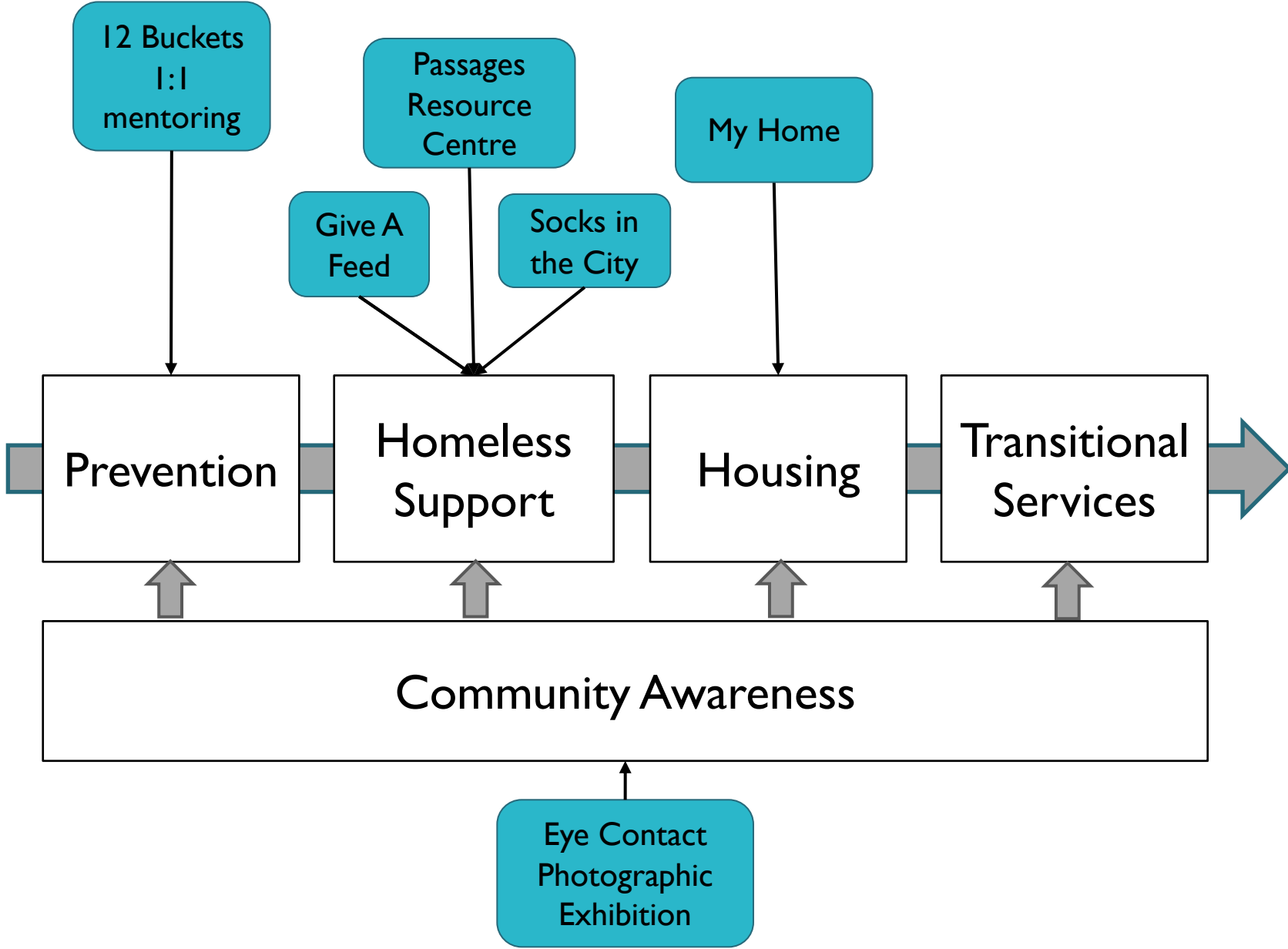
Homeless Hub



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PAST SUCCESSES

Medical Respite Centre

- Facility whereby homeless people can recover from a medical procedure sufficiently to go back to living on the street
- Rotary helped develop the business case for a Perth facility and lobbied state government
- The State government has funded a facility in Northbridge



Common Ground Facility

- Apartment-style permanent supported accommodation for the long-term homeless
- Rotary developed the business case for WA and lobbied government for the funds
- The State government will build 2 facilities – in Perth and Mandurah





CURRENT PROJECTS

Prevention: 12 Buckets



- Prevention is a tough gig
- Easiest for Rotary is to focus on preventing children from becoming homeless
- 12 Buckets is a Perth-based charity that identifies primary school “children at risk” and works to equip them with the skills, support and connections to build a strong future
- Tailored 1:1 mentoring is their core element for helping children to build resilience and work towards a brighter future.
- Rotarians donate to 12 Buckets and volunteer to become mentors



Support: Drop-In Centre – “Passages”



- Joint venture between the Rotary Club of Perth and the St Vincent de Paul Society
- Mission is to provide a safe, friendly and positive inner city service offering information, referrals and support to marginalised young people aged 12 to 25
 - Acts as a referral centre and ensures provision of services such as “Street Doctor”, Centrelink, Youthlink, legal assistance and combating drug abuse
 - Clients can use computers, have a shower, wash clothes and use a kitchen
 - In-house programs on healthy cooking, recreation opportunities and information on health and sexuality
 - Manages 5 accommodation units for young people ready to move into independent living

Support:



- Homeless people struggle to find clean dry socks to wear
- As a result they develop both trench foot and warm water immersion foot
 - Particularly bad during Winter
- The best treatment is prevention and the best prevention is to wear clean dry socks
- Every Winter we launch our Socks in the City campaign to get Clubs and Schools to donate socks



Support: Give A Feed

- A campaign to provide a nutritious festive meal at Christmas for the most vulnerable families in our community
- Meal elements are packed into a Hamper by Rotary and other volunteers
- Through the website, donors donate a hamper for \$30
- Thanks to Foodbank's buying power, hampers are packed with food worth over twice that value



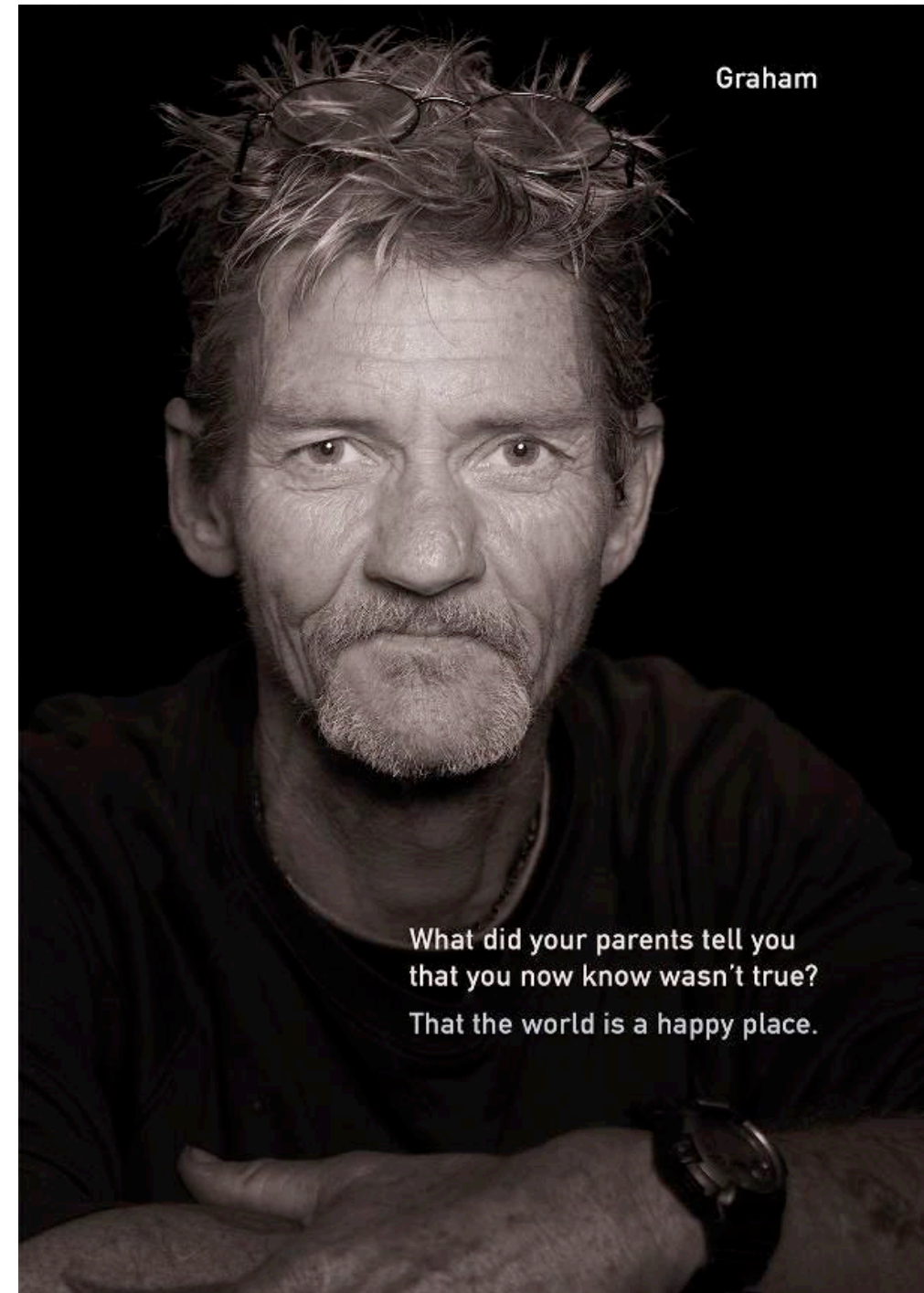
Housing: “My Home”



- “My Home” is a project run primarily by Rotarian Michelle Blakeley to build villages of small houses for homeless people
- The houses are designed for mature age people capable of looking after the house and themselves
- Rotary helped lobby for land and funds
- The first site (N Fremantle) was opened in July 2023
 - A “village” of 18 one-person homes
 - Funding committed by corporates & philanthropists
 - The land is leased from government at a token fee
 - Rotary has furnished and equipped the houses to make them homes
 - St Patrick’s Fremantle has selected the tenants and will manage the facility
- All homes are now occupied
- Contact Kay Durrant on durrant@wn.com.au for more information

Community Awareness: Eye Contact

- A series of 20 larger than life portraits of homeless Western Australians, each locking viewers with an arresting gaze
 - With short written snapshots of their experiences, enabling confrontation of the issues they face in life on the street
- Produced by professional photographer Phil England
- The purpose of the portraits is to help viewers recognise the humanity in homeless people and help bring about changes in attitude in our community
- We have exhibited the Eye Contact portraits in over 20 schools and 30 public places, typically with a Q&A forum on homelessness
- Portraits were recently exhibited to Federal politicians in Canberra





POTENTIAL NEW PROJECTS

Support: Mobile Homes

- Scarborough Club
- Bicycle with a trailer containing a tent
- Enables a young homeless person to be mobile during the day and settle somewhere at night
- Discussing night spaces with City of Stirling



Housing: FISH MicroFinancing

- FISH: Foundation for Indigenous Sustainable Health
- Creating a central pot of funds for loans to individuals to improve their lives through Home ownership and wealth creation
 - Rather than continuing to be a burden on the welfare state
- Utilising grants, discounts, tax benefits available to Aboriginal organisations
- Clubs/ individuals can get involved by:
 - Making a cash donation to FISH Home Ownership Initiative
 - Providing hands on services like painting or gardening
 - Attending a site visit to one of the homes in Pinjarra
- Contact Dee Buckland (Kalamunda) on deebuckland@gmail.com for more information

Housing: FISH MicroFinancing

- Housing Futures Fund of \$5m
 - \$2.5m rotational capital fund to finance low risk residential housing projects which are unable to secure mainstream lending support. Once projects are complete, mainstream finance is secured and funds are redeployed to new projects
 - \$2.5m used to generate FISH Housing operational budget funds, through holding these funds in high interest-bearing accounts
- Transitional Housing Project
 - FISH will purchase 30 existing 3 bedroom properties for transitional housing, with low interest finance
 - These are rented to Aboriginal people for \$400 pw while supporting them with rental support and educational programs for 2 years
 - FISH will utilise rental payments to service low interest rate finance facilities
 - Properties will then be on-sold to clients at a discount to their recommended retail price

Housing: Community Housing Project Margaret River



- A partnership involving Margaret River Rotary, Just Home Margaret River, and Accordwest on land leased from the State Government
- Similar to My Home
- 7 architected single bed and 2 two bed self-contained homes
- Each having bathroom, laundry, kitchen, living area as well as a wide room-size veranda
- \$150K each
- Currently responding to a State Govt EOI

Possible New Projects

- Houses to Homes Initiative
 - Lots of council homes un-tenanted because they need repairing and that is too expensive at the present time
 - H2H would organize the tradies and supervisor to repair the home
- Submissions for Rental Accommodation
 - On a practical level, Rotary could give assistance to people filling out forms for rental accommodation
 - A good submission makes a big difference
- Companionship for housed people
 - When a homeless person gets housed, they may be in a part of WA with which they are unfamiliar
 - A local Rotarian could offer to “companion” them, showing them round the neighbourhood and the local facilities
- Transition: Financial Resilience
 - Mentoring for formerly homeless people to take control of their finances

Possible New Projects

- **Tiny Homes by Rotary WA**
 - Modelled on Kids Under Cover
 - For foster child when they turn 18
 - Tiny accommodation unit (bedroom & bathroom) in someone's back yard
 - Provide transitional accommodation until young person is established
 - Youngster still reliant on carer for meals and laundry
 - Seeking team to set up project in WA

Homeless Hub

- We can achieve more by working together
- We can circulate information so we know what others are doing
- We have access to experts in the field to obtain guidance (John Berger)

Contact Dr Ken Mullin ken.mullin@iinet.net.au
or David Motta david@motta.id.au