

SUBJECT: LMM 27/02/18 - THE NEWCASTLE AND HUNTER ENDING HOMELESSNESS PLEDGE

MOTION

That Newcastle City Council:

1. Ratifies the Newcastle and Hunter Ending Homelessness Pledge and commits to working toward actions that reduce homelessness in Newcastle and the Hunter Region;
2. Publishes a copy of The Pledge on appropriate communications channels, advising our partners, and the community, that we support the Newcastle and Hunter Ending Homelessness Pledge.

Background:

Professor David Adamson, OBE, Knowledge Manager, Compass Housing Services has requested that Newcastle City Council supports the Newcastle and Hunter Ending Homelessness Pledge, created by Compass Housing Services and partner organisations to raise awareness about homelessness in Newcastle and the Hunter.

According to the Newcastle City Council Safe City Plan 2017-2020, homeless people are identified as a particular group of the community at heightened risk of victimisation, including; violence, abuse and other types of crime.

The Safe City Plan also outlines the City of Newcastle's strategy to ensure a strategic and coordinated collaboration between Council and key local service providers to address homelessness in Newcastle.

Proposal to Implement a Pledge to End Homelessness in Newcastle and the Hunter Region

The human right to adequate housing was enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. More recently, the UN Sustainable Development Goals (2015) and the New Urban Agenda (2016) have placed the right to housing at the centre of their objectives to ensure that 'no-one is left behind' and that we create 'cities for all'.

Homelessness has become the clearest expression of inequality and poverty in Australia and the UN Sustainable Development Goal One - No Poverty - cannot be achieved without ending homelessness.

This pledge recognises that homelessness will always occur but asks us to collectively work towards sufficient protection to ensure that no one is forced to spend a night without adequate shelter while longer term solutions are found.

Everyone has a role to play in ending homelessness. Individuals, local businesses, real estate agents, volunteer groups, state and local governments can all contribute, to achieving an overall goal of providing permanent, affordable housing and the support that people need to create and keep a home.

The Newcastle and Hunter Ending Homelessness Pledge is an opportunity for individuals and organisations to join with a collective objective to end homelessness in the region. Many cities where most progress has been achieved towards this objective have begun with a pledge to focus interest, advocate for change and coordinate the many efforts required to achieve this ambition.

In making this pledge Newcastle City Council commits to working towards actions that reduce homelessness.

This commitment will be registered and visible on a dedicated website and Council will be asked to renew our commitment annually and be provided with an opportunity to report what we have achieved during the year.

In ratifying the Pledge, Council commits to the following values:

- The right to a safe and secure home is a human right.
- Homelessness in Newcastle and the Hunter region is not an intractable problem – it can be solved.
- When members of our community experience homelessness, we all suffer. Our entire community can be a part of the solution.
- Every business, agency, neighbourhood, and resident, can have a role in preventing homelessness and supporting people who experience homelessness.

The Pledge

Newcastle City Council supports and pledges to do our part to end homelessness. We commit to working towards ending homelessness. Newcastle City Council will advocate for change and enlist the support of our partners to join this important effort, and let local leaders know that we support The Newcastle and Hunter Ending Homelessness Pledge.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil