



Inquiry into Homelessness in Victoria

Legislative Council Committee on Legal and Social Issues

Cathy Humphrey, CEO Sacred Heart Mission (SHM)

22nd November 2019

The Current Structure of Support isn't working

- SHM supported just under **900 people** in 2017-18 across our short-term support programs.
- For these programs, we are funded to support clients with standardised six-week or thirteen-week support periods.

Outcomes in 2017-18

- Of those presenting with **housing (54%)** at risk, SHM successfully supported **96%** of clients to sustain their tenancies.
- Of those presenting **without housing (46%)**, SHM housed **11%** of clients.
- This is due to a lack of available housing and support periods not being long enough to deliver results.

Findings

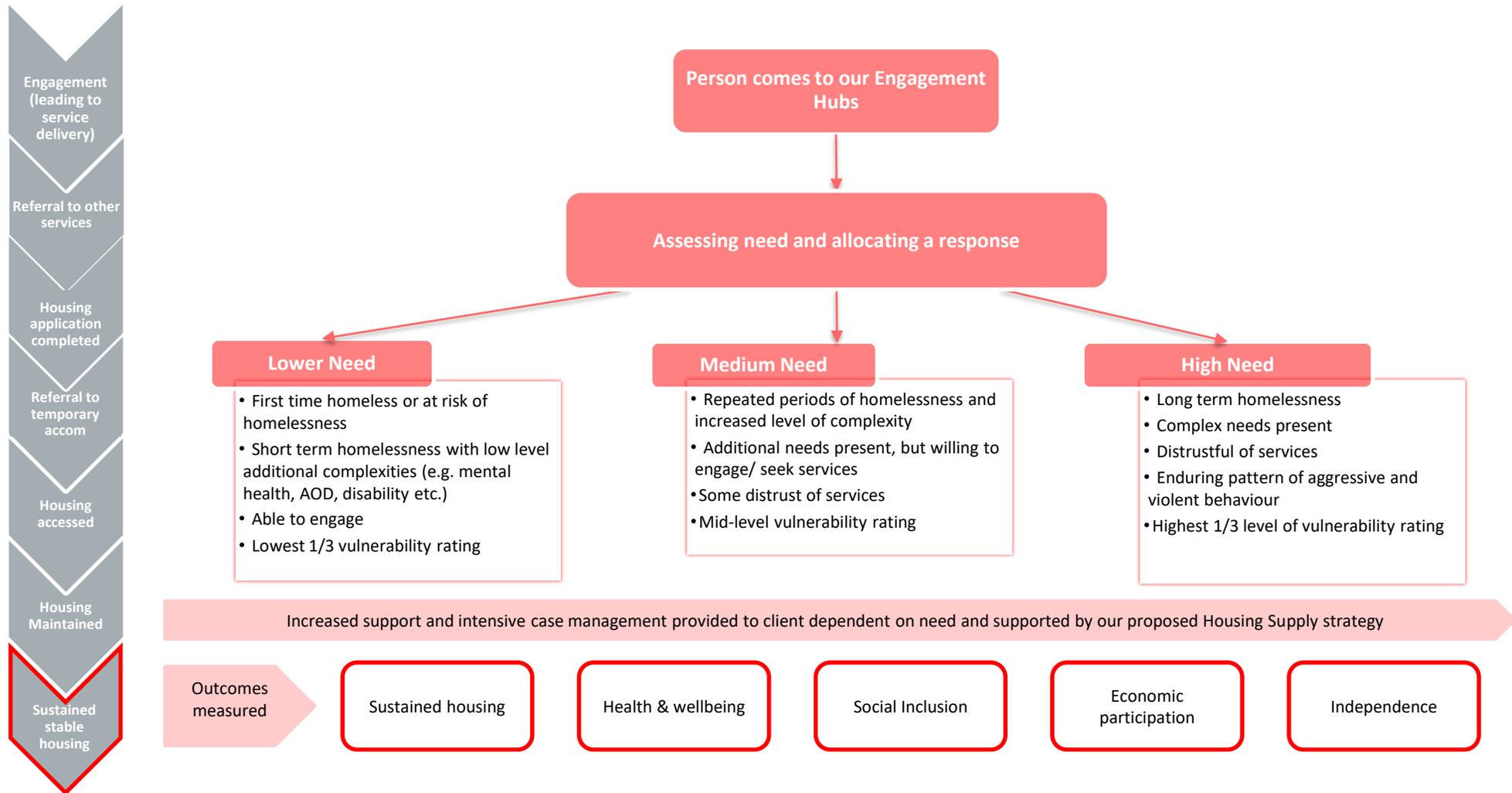
- When people are at housing risk the current support is appropriate and we are able to keep them sustained in housing.
- For people without housing, outcomes are impacted by both housing supply and the length and intensity of support available.
- Where a client is experiencing increased complexity and/or lacking housing, there is need for longer-term and multi-layered support.
- This is seen by the number of people presenting with repeat support periods within 12 months, whose needs are not met in the prescribed period.
- The average number of support periods for all clients is 1.77, rising to 2.55 for those without housing.

Based on these findings, we propose moving to a support model along a Continuum of Care, which would be supported by our proposed Housing Supply strategy.

How SHM data compares to AIHW Specialist Homelessness Services data in 2017-18

	SHM	AIHW
Clients presenting as housed	54%	57%
Clients presenting without housing	46%	43%
Clients supported to sustain their housing	96%	84-85%
First time clients arriving at our services	58%	46%
Average number of support periods	1.77	1.8
Number of clients with > 2 support periods	37%	33%
Number of clients with > 3 support periods	18%	15%
Clients without housing at start of support		
Situation at end of support: homeless	89%	61.8%
Situation at end of support: housed	11%	38.2%
Clients housed at start of support		
Situation at end of support: homeless	4%	9.7%
Situation at end of support: housed	96%	90.3%

Our vision for a Continuum of Care



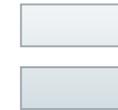
Our vision for a Housing Supply to support the Continuum of Care

Housing via

- Community Housing Provider
- Property Fund Manager
- Low cost Debt
- Equity
- Philanthropy
- Tax Concessions



Benefit contribution	SHM & our Clients
Commonwealth Rental Assistance	Federal Government
10 year subsidies	Victorian Government
Service delivery – Continuum of Care	Use of existing housing supply



Outputs

Savings to Government

**Sustained Housing
for clients**

&

**An end to
Homelessness**