



## Minister Meeting Briefing

Minister for Child Protection

Ministerial Ref: 74-09182

### **Subject: Meeting with Anglicare WA and National Home Stretch Campaign Chair**

On Tuesday, 10 September 2019 you are meeting with Mr Mark Glasson, Chief Executive Officer of Anglicare WA and Mr Paul McDonald, Chair of the National Home Stretch Campaign to discuss Home Stretch.

#### **Current situation**

##### Trial update

- In July 2019, the Home Stretch WA trial commenced. It is funded by the Department of Communities (Communities) until 31 July 2020.
- Fifteen young people who fit into the target cohort of the model<sup>1</sup> and are between the ages of 17 and a half and 20 years, have been identified. A breakdown of young people identified as eligible for the Home Stretch WA Trial is provided at **Attachment 1**.
- From 9 September 2019, the Anglicare WA transition coach will begin to engage with the young people identified in the cohort.
- Communities is committed to supporting the 15 young people until they turn 21 years of age.
- It is anticipated that Anglicare WA will receive the trial funding in early September 2019, as per the grant agreement.
- There is increasing media interest in the Home Stretch WA trial, particularly given the recent national Home Stretch Symposium and the advocacy work of the National Home Stretch Campaign, led by Mr McDonald.

##### National Implementation

- On 27 and 28 August 2019, Communities' staff involved in the Home Stretch WA trial attended the Home Stretch Symposium in Sydney.
- The key messages and reflections from the Symposium are outlined in **Attachment 2**.
- Nationally, four States are at various stages of implementing Home Stretch, including Western Australia, Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia.
- The models of support vary and not all models include stable accommodation options for young people leaving residential care.
- Home Stretch models in other Australian jurisdictions each build on their existing programs of support (refer **Attachment 3**).
- The New South Wales, Queensland and the Northern Territory Governments are yet to commit to implementing a Home Stretch response.

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<sup>1</sup> Target cohorts are young people in out-of-home care who: identify as Aboriginal; wish to remain in foster or family care placements; will leave residential care; are young parents.

### Meeting with Mr McDonald and Mr Glasson

- Mr McDonald has clearly indicated that he wants all Australian jurisdictions to commit to providing extended care to young people.
- At your meeting, Mr McDonald is likely to seek your commitment to offer the Home Stretch option to all young people leaving out-of-home care, rather than trialling the model with a small cohort.
- The Home Stretch WA trial aims to ensure that the co-designed prototype model meets the needs and expectations of the young people who require supports past the age of 18 years. The trial provides the opportunity to adapt the model based on testing, including feedback from the young people involved in the trial.
- It is not the intention of the trial to test whether the Home Stretch response to leaving care is necessary. The evidence is clear that young people leaving care benefit from receiving intensive supports up to age 21.

### **Background**

- Anglicare WA is leading the Home Stretch trial in Western Australia.
- Anglicare WA is working with Communities' Fremantle district to identify eligible young people.
- Anglicare WA has submitted a grant application to Lotterywest that includes a proposal to extend the trial to 25 young people and a proposal to have the Home Stretch trial independently evaluated.
- The independent evaluation will consider the process of developing the prototype model and the short-term outcomes of the trial.
- The outcome of the Lotterywest grant application is pending.
- You were previously briefed on the progress of the Home Stretch trial in August 2019 (Dept Ref: 2019/12268) and May 2019 (Min Ref: 74-08686).

### **Recommendation**

That you note the contents of this briefing note for your meeting with Mr Glasson and Mr McDonald.

**Noted**



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Helen Nys  
**Assistant Director General  
Policy and Service Design**

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HON SIMONE McGURK MLA  
**MINISTER FOR CHILD PROTECTION; WOMEN'S  
INTERESTS; PREVENTION OF FAMILY AND  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE; COMMUNITY SERVICES**

04 / 09 / 2019

/ / 2019

Min/Dept Ref:74-09182

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**Breakdown of young people identified as eligible for the Home Stretch WA Trial**

<b>Number of young people who are:</b>	
Male	9
Female	6
<b>Of these 15 young people, number who are:</b>	
Aboriginal	5
Parent or about to become a parent	1
Living with carers and wish to remain	2
Living with carers and wish to seek independent accommodation	1
Stable accommodation	4
Requiring stable accommodation or are in the process of securing accommodation	4
Current living arrangements unknown	4

### Home Stretch Symposium key messages

- It is the fundamental right of young people leaving care to have access to housing, education/training and employment, and essential health and wellbeing services and supports.
- Young people leaving care must have the right to choose to receive help in these areas, just as most young people who live with their biological families are able to. This will also help to normalise their transition to adulthood.
- Relationships and emotional supports are fundamental to the wellbeing of young people leaving care. They are the key to facilitating the right support at the right time for the young person.
- There is a strong need to shift from incident-based and episodic service provision to a culture of long term and continuous support, that is strengths based and not focused on 'additional needs' or 'deficits'.
- Home Stretch can act as a lever to facilitate system-wide change for young people leaving care.
- The 2016 Deloitte Access Economics cost benefit analysis commissioned by Anglicare Victoria, suggested the expected benefits over the care leaver population of 190 (in 2015) reveals that the expected benefits of program roll-out would be \$11 million.

## Status of National Home Stretch Implementation

Jurisdiction	Existing program	Current status
<b>Western Australia</b>	No existing program.	<p>Western Australia is trialling a co-designed prototype model of enhanced services and supports, including support to remain with foster or family carers or obtain accommodation, one-to-one transition coaching support, safety net funding and support circles.</p> <p><u>Young people leaving residential care</u> Support, including a subsidy, to obtain and maintain stable accommodation.</p>
<b>Tasmania</b>	Support all young people in family/kinship care until the end of year 12 or until 21 when there was an identified need.	<p>From June 2019, Tasmania is routinely extending carer payments using a step-down approach that decreases the payment amount to carers each year.</p> <p><u>Young people leaving residential care</u> Tasmania is piloting the placement of 'pods' next to residential care facilities as an introduction to independent living where young people can stay connected to their residential care supports for 6 to 12 months.</p>
<b>South Australia</b>	Over 18 Education Initiative – young people participating in secondary or tertiary study, family-based carers may be eligible for continued carer payments.	<p>Since January 2019, as part of an election commitment, South Australia has implemented the Stability in Family Based Care program that provides carers with continued carer payments until the young person is 21 years of age.</p> <p><u>Young people leaving residential care:</u> No current supports.</p>
<b>Victoria</b>	Better Futures – provides young people with a key worker to provide case work support, information and advice and access to flexible funding.	<p>Home Stretch is provided as an offer under the Better Futures model.</p> <p><u>Young people leaving residential care:</u> May be eligible to receive a Home Stretch allowance to support alternative accommodation.</p>
<b>New South Wales</b>		No commitment to Home Stretch.
<b>Queensland</b>		No commitment to Home Stretch.
<b>Northern Territory</b>		No commitment to Home Stretch.



## Briefing Note

Minister for Child Protection; Community Services

Department Ref: 2019/27433

### **Subject: Home Stretch Western Australia Trial Implementation Status Update**

This briefing provides an update regarding the Home Stretch Western Australia (WA) trial.

#### **Background**

- The Home Stretch WA trial aligns strongly with the Premier's Our Priorities targets: A Bright Future, Aboriginal Wellbeing and A Safer Community.
- The Department of Communities (Communities) has previously provided advice to you regarding this matter (Min Refs: 74-09182 and 74-08686).

#### **Current situation**

- Communities continues to work closely with Anglicare WA to support the implementation of the Home Stretch model in Fremantle.
- Recognising that strong relationships are integral to the success of the Home Stretch model, Anglicare WA is phasing young people into the trial. This includes initial conversations about the trial between eligible young people, their child protection worker and an Anglicare WA transition coach.
- Four young people are active in the program and are supported by a transition coach.
- On 14 October 2019, a second transition coach commenced with Anglicare WA.
- Anglicare WA intends to actively engage with two to three additional young people per week until the trial capacity is reached in mid-late November 2019.
- Anglicare WA is confident that its pending Lotterywest grant application will be approved in October 2019, allowing it to progress the evaluation and expansion components of the trial.
- The Lotterywest board-recommended grant applications will be presented to the Hon Mark McGowan MLA, Premier, for his consideration.

#### **Recommendation**

That you note this information.

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Helen Nys  
**Assistant Director General  
Policy and Service Design**

30 / 10 / 2019

**Noted**

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HON SIMONE MCGURK MLA  
**MINISTER FOR CHILD PROTECTION; WOMEN'S  
INTERESTS; PREVENTION OF FAMILY AND  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE; COMMUNITY SERVICES**

4 / 11 / 2019