

“Ngulla Mia – Our Place”: A transitional service for homeless people with a mental illness

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Addressing the issue of homelessness is a fundamental requirement of the civil society. Homelessness is high on both the state and national agendas and has been the subject of several national and state inquiries. Homelessness issues are addressed in WA by a mixture of state and federal funding. Social housing has become a major priority of the Housing department, the Mental Health Commission in WA and the state Department of Child Protection. Homeless persons with a mental illness comprise the bulk of people who are homeless. The Ngulla Mia program of RFWA is a state Mental Health Commission funded program for persons with a mental illness who are homeless and it is a key part of the WA mental health strategy. It will provide a psychosocial support program to enable residents to transition from homelessness to independent living in secure and stable accommodation by the end of their twelve month stay at Ngulla Mia. This paper will outline our proposed approach to this new service which commenced operation on 20 September 2010.

Key Words

Empowerment

Choice

Hope