

THE CONSTELLATION PROJECT
TOWARDS ENDING HOMELESSNESS IN A GENERATION

2021

Year in Review



**And in the fighting for the unseen,
We unbind ourselves from the mess left in the wake
of the tide that bought the prison guards to ensnare
destitute and homeless:**

Hue-mans.

**Inebriated wildlife is a problem ©
Courtney Hebberman**

Courtney Hebberman is a Ngarrindjeri woman, performance poet, grandmother, law student, and team member for the Constellation Project. Courtney has composed powerful works for Constellation events, including the piece excerpted left, which she performed at our October symposium. Courtney is passionate about the visibility of First Nations peoples and interests, and enabling all young people to have secure, safe homes and families. She believes in the power of truth-telling and continually inspires us to do better.



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Homelessness is solvable

Our vision is to end homelessness in a generation. We do this by identifying and accelerating solutions to homelessness through cross-sector collaboration.



Our solutions will...

- **Increase the supply** of safe, affordable, appropriate and secure homes for people in Australia on low to moderate incomes
- **Provide pathways** so people can avoid experiencing homelessness or be supported to exit rapidly



How we work...

- **Social labs** to develop new solutions to homelessness
- **Project management** to accelerate solutions through working groups
- **Forums** to advocate solutions to wide audiences
- **A network** of supporters



Our principles...

- We **change systems** through **cross-sector collaboration**
- We **champion inclusive system design and delivery** with people directly impacted by homelessness
- Our **First Nations projects** are **led by First Nations people**
- We are an **open-source** project

Chair and CEO Reports



Keith Bryant
Chair

I am delighted to be writing the inaugural Chair's note for the Constellation Project.

We remain committed to engaging people with lived experience of homelessness in all aspects of the project and to pursuing the housing interests of First Nations peoples.

- Keith Bryant

The new entity established in February this year is the combination of the Business Alliance to End Homelessness and the Constellation Project. Both of these projects had been working for a number of years on addressing homelessness without a legal entity. Both projects shared a core commitment to ending homelessness in Australia, to engaging all sectors, particularly the private sector, in solutions and to working collaboratively to best achieve those solutions. It made sense for us to combine and the work we have done in the last year to build a common vision has confirmed the value of joining forces.

The two groups have resolved to take the Constellation Project name and brand identity. As an organisation we note that we now are entering a phase where we will graciously acknowledge our founding partners, where we will continue to rely on those founders to support us, but where we now take increasing pride in our independent status.

We remain committed to identifying and accelerating solutions to homelessness. We remain committed to working collaboratively. We remain committed to engaging people with lived experience of homelessness in all aspects of the project and to pursuing the housing interests of First Nations peoples.

And most importantly we remain committed to ending homelessness in Australia within a generation.

Finally, I would also like to acknowledge the contributions made by the Governance Group of the Constellation Project, the Committee Members of the Business Alliance, and my fellow Board members. In particular I'd like to thank Shamal Dass for his role in chairing the Governance Group of the Constellation Project for its first three years. I am also delighted that Jacqui Jones has been seconded from PwC as our new CEO. I look forward to reporting more progress to you next year.

Chair and CEO Reports



Jacqui Jones
CEO

In late 2018, a group of 50 people set the Constellation Project's audacious vision of changing the system that produces homelessness.

We knew then that our strategy would need to be emergent and adaptive to achieve the scale and secure the support we needed. This non-traditional way of working can be challenging in the startup phase. Crucially, could we demonstrate impact in the early years of work, sustain support from the founding members and build a network of individual and organisational supporters? I'm very pleased to be writing that yes we can. Writing to you as the CEO of a new entity, I look forward to developing our new 3-year strategy for the Constellation Project.

Key achievements in 2022 included targeted promotion of Mandatory Inclusionary Zoning (MIZ) and Housing Boost Aggregator (HBA) policies which resulted in MIZ being endorsed by Shelter SA and National Shelter, and HBA by the National Affordable Housing Alliance. Both were featured at conferences throughout 2021. We were pleased to hear the impact of our work with Housing Tasmania, who used our co-funding tool to secure funding to build 2-4 times the amount of new homes in 2021 compared to without use of the tool. We welcomed new

members of the First Nations Leadership Team and they endorsed the First Nations strategic principles for the new entity, while First Nations participants in Better Journeys developed a set of principles to inform how we create a culturally safe environment for the Better Journeys social lab.

Thanks to Equity Trustees, we implemented a new paid participation policy for people with lived experience of homelessness, and the Board and Executive completed lived experience training. With our partner the Centre for Social Impact, we also produced important research which unpacks the challenges of engaging young people who have experienced homelessness after detention. Our symposium in October attracted 150 attendees, even as those of us in lockdown wilted from Zoom overexposure. It was a great year, I hope you enjoy reading and seeing our work from the year that was.



Our research unpacked the challenges of engaging young people who have experienced homelessness after detention.

- Jacqui Jones

Our Impact

Constellation Project's work is made possible because individuals and organisations give their time and resources to working collaboratively.

We want to thank our contributors for their ongoing support, the project teams and sponsors, social lab teams, coaches and network champions, and all the individuals who gave their time in 2021 to progress our work.



I think you're doing an amazing job! The different perspectives and sharing of knowledge has been great also and will last a lifetime!

- Better Journeys Participant with Lived Experience of Homelessness

2021 Overview



Network

1,400



Event Participation

250 people



Solution Teams

7 teams, 81 people

Volunteer Hours



Board, Operations and Working Groups

906 hours



Project Teams

6,944 hours

Our Teams

Priority Project

Name	Organisation
Angela Ballard	Homes Victoria
Antonia Mercorella	The Real Estate Institute of Queensland
Bran Peres	PwC
Claire Ryan	The Real Estate Institute of Queensland
Darren Greasley	Solutions Property Management
Hannah Clifford	Q Shelter
Ian Sampson	Independent Consultant
Iesha Taraboulsi	PwC
Janet Maher	Mission Australia
Jeremy Mansfield	Lendlease
Julianne Donnelly	Red Cross
Julie Saunders	Urbis
Karyn Walsh	Micah Projects
Laura Valenti	Solutions Property Management
Nicole Peterman	PwC
Rebecca Shearman	Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women
Robert Reed and team	Minter Ellison
Ruhae Illava	PwC
Sarah Grealy	Shadforth Financial Group
Shaan Ross-Smith	DV Connect
Sharleena Bramley	Salvation Army
Sherena Oxley	Griffith University

Narungga Nations Elder Village

Name	Organisation
Ann NewChurch (Joody)	Narungga Nation
Brooke Lovegrove	PwC Indigenous Consulting
Carlo Sansbury	Point Pearce Aboriginal Community Council
Catherine Clohesy	South Australia Housing
Daniella Alhadeff	PwC
Daniella Dickson	PwC RAP Manager
Eddie Newchurch	Point Pearce Aboriginal Community Council
Erin Woolford	South Australia Housing
Jakirah Telfer	PwC Indigenous Consulting
Jeffrey Newchurch	Kurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation
Joanne Bowen	PwC The Impact Assembly
Kaylene O'Loughlin	Point Pearce Aboriginal Community Council
Kieran Wong	Fulcrum Agency
Klynton Wanganeen	Narungga Nation
Lakshmi Narayanan	PwC
Lyell Sansbury	Point Pearce Aboriginal Community Council
Lynette Newchurch	Point Pearce Aboriginal Community Council
Nick Juniper	Fulcrum Agency
Rex Angie	Point Pearce Aboriginal Community Council
Roland Ah Chee	PwC Indigenous Consulting
Trevor Wanganeen	Narungga Nations Aboriginal Corporation

Our Teams

Ready Transition

Name	Organisation
Alexandra Joseph	Department for Correctional Services
Chloe Hampton	Amazon AWS
Emily Duivesteyn	CDCB/ Baptist Care SA/AHCSA
Kaitlyne Bowden	Berry Street
Kirsten Sandstrom	SYC Ltd (HYPA)
Lorna Robinson	Student
Maithili Mishra	Minter Ellison
Melissa Harvey	Minter Ellison
Rearna Hawkins	Youth Inc
Riley McCullough	Australian Red Cross

In My Home

Name	Organisation
Ian Cox	Office for Homelessness Sector Integration
Melanie Sharpe	PwC
Michael Steven	Service to Youth Council
Rose Lagoon Williamson	Youth Inc
Sabina Bertuzzi	PwC
Sarah Bishop	Kurlana Tapa Youth Justice Centre
Sarah Strathearn	Australian Red Cross
Sheryl Boniface	Service to Youth Council

System Navigator

Name	Organisation
Bella Graczyk van Herk	UNSW
Colby Cringle	PwC
Courtney Hebbberman	Student
David Kaldor	Australian Red Cross
David Pearson	AAEH and Advance to Zero
Dr Selina Tually	UniSA
Lee Prouse	Australian Red Cross
Neridah McDonald	UNSW
Poppy Brown	Australian Red Cross

Mandatory Inclusionary Zoning

Name	Organisation
Adrian Pisarski	National Shelter
Cassie Parker	UTS BCII Student Intern
Richard McLachlan	Meriton
Ryan van den Nouwelant	UNSW
Wendy Hayhurst	Community Housing Industry Association

Housing Boost Aggregator

Name	Organisation
Adrian Pisarski	National Shelter
Andi Nygaard	Swinburne University
Carrie Hamilton	Housing Action Network
Charles Northcote	BlueCHP Limited
Erin Sales	Australian Institute of Superannuation Trustees
Gemma Pinnell	Industry Super Australia
Geordan Murray	Housing Industry Association
Mark Degotardi	Community Housing Industry Association NSW
Wendy Hayhurst	Community Housing Industry Association



It was a fantastic line-up of speakers and curation of ideas and presentations. It's rare to attend a zoom event where the delivery itself embodies the principles that are being presented. Really powerful work.

- Ending Homelessness Symposium Attendee, October 2021

Understanding young people's experience of homelessness after leaving youth detention

Many young people have little or no support to find a safe home to go to after leaving detention.

Finding a home is dependent on relationships, connection and opportunities, with many young people missing out on securing appropriate housing.

We wanted to know what had or hadn't worked for young people who had been in detention and experienced homelessness after leaving. Our research partner, the Centre for Social Impact (CSI), discovered that there's been a concerning lack of attention paid to this transition.

The gap in current research means there is no systematic or coordinated understanding or evidence-base about best practice supports to prevent homelessness post release from youth justice detention, particularly research led from a 'lived experience' perspective. (CSI, 2021)

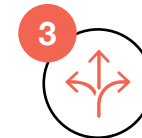
To address this gap in research we needed to find young people willing to tell CSI their story. This proved to be a challenge and didn't go according to the research plan. It's an important lesson as we explore how to better work with young people with lived experience of homelessness and youth justice to ensure their insights inform work in this area. We're going to apply these findings in 2022 as we kick off a 3 year research project on the impact of lived experience in solving for homelessness. Here's what we learned.



1 Not everyone who satisfies the definition considers themselves to be (or have been) homeless. Young people who have 'couch surfed' or only used crisis accommodation for a short period, often did not consider themselves to have been homeless.



2 Telling your story is not easy. Trust and a sense of safety are critical. Building trust requires relationship and time. Choice about when, where and to whom I tell my story helps alleviate fears of being unsafe or exposed.



3 All of this requires a flexible approach that is tailored to the individual. Flexibility and tailoring aren't always strengths of traditional research or project approaches. This is a time to think differently!



Dr Ariella Meltzer, presenting CSI research findings



The gap in current research means there is no systematic or coordinated understanding or evidence-base about best practice

2021 Highlights | Preventing Youth Homelessness

How do we make sure that every 16-24 year old transitioning from custody or out of home care in South Australia has a home and a supportive community where they can thrive?

This challenge drove our three social lab teams to form, explore and develop potential solutions throughout 2021. Each lab team is made up of 6-10 volunteers who contribute their diverse knowledge, connections and experience.



First Nations Inclusion Principles

First Nations participants developed a set of principles to inform how we create a culturally safe environment for the Better Journeys social lab. These principles are used by the Better Journeys lab teams to inform their work and are not designed to be publicly shared beyond the lab.



In My Home

This team will build the case for social impact investing to support young people aged 16 – 25 transitioning into independent living - to place the young person's needs at the centre of housing solutions.



Ready Transition

This team is exploring a solution defined by lived experience interview data - a system where young people transition from out of home care/youth justice when they are ready to. Their focus is conducting peer to peer interviews.



System Navigator

This team is taking a First Nations lens to develop a "Navigator" concept to improve outcomes for young people leaving care who otherwise experience confusion or barriers to getting the support and services they need.

2021 Highlights | Preventing Youth Homelessness



Including the voice of young people

The voices of young people with experience of the justice and out of home care systems often go unheard. We want to be part of changing that, so have enlisted the help of Lorna Robinson. Lorna is a highly valued member of the Better Journeys team who draws on her life experience to help drive change. She strongly believes in the ability of stories to empower young people and influence decision makers.



There is so much power in these stories to drive change. Their profound reality can bring lived experience issues to the forefront by making them real to others and evoking emotions and personal connection.

It's incredible that the people I interviewed trusted me and were willing to talk to me about such sensitive personal experiences. I believe that giving power to these young people is my greatest accomplishment and contribution since joining Better Journeys.

- Lorna Robinson



2021 Highlights | Increasing the supply of affordable homes



Since 2018, we've been working on how to increase the supply of homes that are affordable for people on low to moderate incomes.

We are continuing to work on the housing supply solutions developed in the More Homes social lab. None of these solutions will solve the supply issue alone, each focusing on a different aspect of the problem. This year, our focus has turned to how we pilot, implement and influence for these solutions to become reality in Australia.



The Priority Project - housing for women experiencing domestic and family violence

This team is developing a solution to provide housing to address the issue of homelessness among women and children as a result of domestic and family violence (DFV). The Priority Project is a rentals register that will prioritise access to affordable rental housing for women and children experiencing DFV. Mission Australia, Salvation Army, The Real Estate Institute of Queensland (REIQ) and Constellation have committed to and are working towards running a Queensland pilot of The Priority Project in 2022.

2021 Highlights | Increasing the supply of affordable homes



First Nations Elder Village

This team developed a proof of concept for an elder village to provide culturally appropriate aged care that allows First Nations people to maintain connection to country and community as they age. In 2021, the team worked together with Narungga Nations leaders and community to define a vision, outcomes and design principles for an elder village for the community. Our shared vision is to establish an elder village that will: provide sustainable, affordable and culturally safe living options for Elders; and create control, self-determination, economic and social innovation opportunities for the Narungga Community. We are currently working with PwC to secure funding to commence project feasibility for the elder village build and operations.



Mandatory Inclusionary Zoning (MIZ) and Housing Boost Aggregator (HBA)

The teams for MIZ and HBA focused on influencing strategies throughout 2021.

MIZ is a proposal to include social and affordable housing in all new housing developments. This year we published a draft MIZ [national framework](#) and

created accessible [communications materials](#) to engage new audiences for whom the planning process is complex and confusing, and to ensure we are building support for MIZ beyond technical experts.

On HBA, we partnered with the Community Housing Industry Association (CHIA), Industry Super Australia (ISA) and other housing sector stakeholders to develop and propose a single unified policy to facilitate institutional investment at scale for social and affordable housing development.

HBA simultaneously proposes both a development feasibility gap solution and the means of bridging between that and large-scale institutional investment requirements. It builds upon established precedent yet is innovative in its tailored, value-for-money approach to individual housing project needs.

Engaging a broader audience in understanding and supporting these solutions is critical to success in the medium to long term. In 2021, we focussed on presenting at conferences and stakeholder briefings as well as the production of [communications material](#).

Giddy ride the evolutionary Constellation Project rocket ship projecting sunlight tendrils out of the dead of night toward absolute change.

Inebriated wildlife is a problem © Courtney Hebberman

Board and Supporters

Thank you to our founding and alliance members for their support throughout 2021.



MinterEllison



Equity Trustees



Constellation would like to thank Australian Red Cross, Mission Australia and PwC for their support of part-time secondments of Sarah Soteriou (ARC), Davina Dressler/Emma Sayers (MA), Erin Hannan-Jones and Jacqui Jones (PwC).

Board Members

Keith Bryant, Chair
Keith Rovers
Marion Bennett
Oliver Frankel
Poppy Brown
Rosalie Wilkie
Shamal Dass

Working Groups

First Nations Leadership Team

Cheryl Axelby
Eveanne Liddle
Greg Slabb
Ivan Simon
Jenny Brown
Lee Prouse
Mary Doctor
Rebecca Pietrobon
Shona Reid
Yvette Carolin
Belinda Shea (FN Co-ordinator)

Influence Working Group

Julie Hamblin, Chair
Chris Blampied
Hilary Hannam
Keith Bryant
Keith Rovers
Marion Bennett
Mike Allen
Oliver Frankel
Philip Frost
Phillip Coleman
Wendy Hayhurst

**We receive support from trusts managed through the Equity Trustees Sector Capacity Building Fund: Harold Moreland Oldham Perpetual Trust, J E & N Ganderton Endowment & Cederic Ivor Morrison Perpetual Trust.*

Questions? Get in touch.


For more information or general questions on Constellation


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For all other Constellation enquiries please contact

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We acknowledge and pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of Australia, whose ancestral lands and waters we work and live on throughout Australia. We honour the wisdom of, and pay respect to, Elders past and present. We recognise the importance of First Nations young people who are our future leaders.



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