

Homelessness Policy

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| Policy Identifier: | CDV-009-P |
| Approved by: | General Manager Community and Customer Services |
| Date of Approval: | 13 November 2023 |
| Effective Date: | 13 November 2023 |
| Review Date: | 13 November 2026 |
| Version: | 4 |

Head of Power

Our Future Redlands – A Corporate Plan to 2026 and Beyond

Local Law No. 4 (Local Government Controlled Areas, Facilities and Roads) 2015.

Subordinate Local Law No. 4 (Local Government Controlled Areas, Facilities and Roads) 2015.

Policy Objective

To reduce the incidence of homelessness in Redland City, improve responses to people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, and ensure all members of the community can enjoy the use of public space and feel safe.

Policy Statement

Redland City Council, through its Corporate Plan, is committed to providing services that deliver our community's shared vision and collective aspirations; *Naturally wonderful lifestyle. Connected communities. Embracing opportunities.* We are a values led organisation and our organisational values encapsulate what we care about, influence how we operate and support our mission: Make a difference, make it count.

Redland City Council recognises that people experiencing or at risk of homelessness are some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in our community. Access to secure, appropriate and affordable housing is a basic requirement for all people and an essential component of an inclusive, vibrant and sustainable city.

The causes of homelessness are complex and multifaceted requiring action from all levels of government and the community. The Federal and State Governments are responsible for funding and providing services to assist people experiencing homelessness. Council's role in addressing homelessness is to facilitate and coordinate local responses and ensure provisions for affordable housing are included in planning instruments.

Council is committed to:

- Undertaking a compassionate and balanced approach to public space management and upholding the needs of all members of the community to enjoy the use of public space and to feel safe.
- Developing partnerships with community service providers, state government agencies, other local governments and the business community to work collaboratively and innovatively to maximise efforts to ensure the coordinated delivery of services for homeless people within the City.
- Advocating and lobbying the Federal and State Governments to reduce the incidence of homelessness within Redland City through the provision of appropriately funded services and effective housing, employment and social services policies.

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Definitions

| Term | Definition |
|------------------------|--|
| Primary homelessness | People without a 'roof over their head' i.e. people who are living on the streets, rough sleeping, sleeping in parks, squatting in derelict buildings or using cars or trains as temporary shelter. |
| Secondary homelessness | People who have no home of their own and frequently move from one type of shelter to another i.e. homelessness services, hostels, staying with others such as friends and relatives and people staying in boarding houses for 12 weeks or less. |
| Tertiary homelessness | People who live in boarding houses on a medium to long term basis (more than 13 weeks), do not have self-contained facilities or the security provided by a lease. |
| Chronic homelessness | People with an experience of homelessness that is long lasting or recurs over an extended period of time. This includes people who have been homeless for more than 12 months or who have had repeat periods of homelessness over a period of 12 months or longer. Chronic homelessness may include primary, secondary and tertiary homelessness at different times. |
| Rough sleeping | People who are sleeping, or bedded down, in the open air (such as on the streets, or in doorways, parks, bus shelters or in reserves) and people in buildings or other places not designed for habitation (such as sheds, car parks, cars, derelict boats or stations). |

Associated Documents

Redlands Youth Engagement Policy ([A196604](#))
 Community Safety Policy ([A196596](#))
 Seniors Administrative Directive ([A196621](#))
 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Policy ([A3155038](#))
 Financial Assistance to the Community Sector Policy ([A196657](#))
 Child and Youth Friendly Redlands Administrative Directive ([A3160256](#))
 Homelessness Guideline ([A3503432](#))
 Stronger Communities Administrative Directive
 Redlands Housing Strategy 2011-2031
Human Rights Act 2019

Document Control

Only Council can approve amendments to this document by resolution of a Council Meeting, with the exception of administrative amendments which can be approved by the relevant ELT member. Refer to *Policy Instrument Development Manual* for an explanation on administrative amendments ([A4063988](#)).

Any requests to change the content of this document must be forwarded to relevant Service Manager(s).

Approved documents must be submitted to the Corporate Meetings and Registers Team for registration.

Version Control

| Version number | Date | Key Changes |
|----------------|---------------|---|
| 1 | April 2019 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New policy |
| 2 | November 2019 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added Associated Documents and minor administrative changes resulting from policy framework review. |
| 3 | March 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrative update to include reference to new Corporate Plan |

For Corporate Governance Use Only

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|----------------|---------------|--|
| 4 | November 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Updates to Associated Documents, Definitions, and add 'or at risk of' homelessness |