



Reimagining the Role of Lodging in Ending Homelessness: An Evaluation of Foundation Housing's Lodging and Support Services

SUMMARY

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Foundation Housing Lodging Accommodation and Support Service

The FHL Lodging Accommodation and Support Service provides a contemporary model of lodging houses and an effective long-term accommodation solution at low-cost. The service model allows people to stabilise their lives and develop a long-term accommodation plan without the pressure of an imminent deadline, and helps residents achieve stability and self-sufficiency by providing ongoing support and assistance. This contemporary model aligns with key aspects of Housing First Principles and challenges the perception that these principles cannot be applied across different accommodation options for those experiencing homelessness.

Lodging Accommodation and Support Service



Lodging

- 239 lodging/shared houses.
- 15 lodging sites in Perth and Broome.
- 44% kitchenette.
- 60% ensuites.
- Combined rent and utility charge.
- License to occupy.

Support service

- Sensitive allocation.
- Quarterly risk assessments.
- 69 Partnerships with organisations and agencies.
- Self-funded Lodging Support role.
- Community engagement – 118 activities in past 12 months.



In 2022

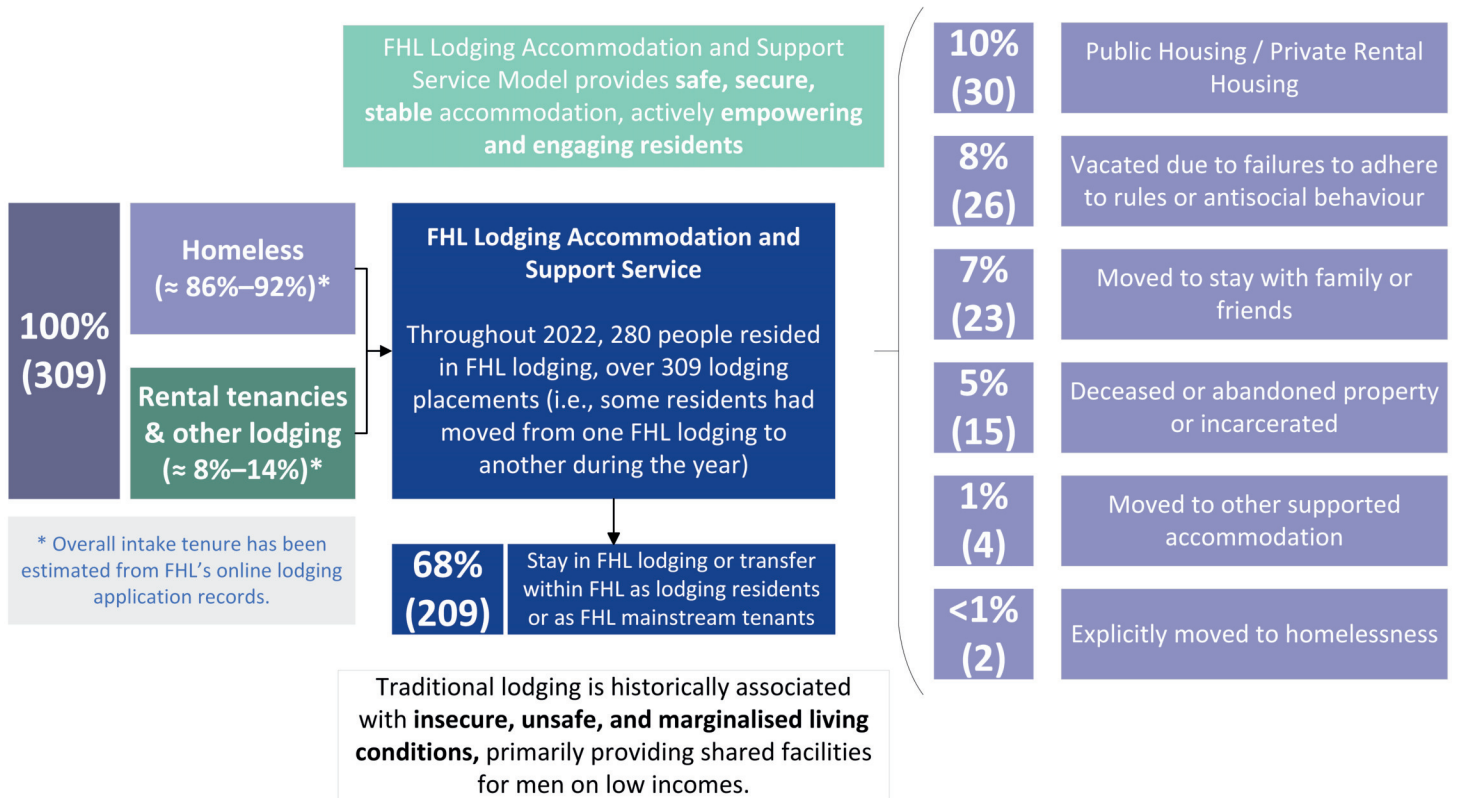
- 280 clients, 309 placements.
- 73% male.
- Average age 48.
- 44 days average time from application to placement.

Housing outcomes

- Most new residents were **homeless on entry**:
 - FHL Lodging primarily serves those who are experiencing homelessness, or are risk of homelessness.
- **280 people housed** throughout 2022.
- Lodging traditionally seen insecure/short-term, but FHL has **high retention rates**:
 - **68% of residents stayed** in FHL in 2022.

ENTRY POINT

EXIT POINT



Individual outcomes

Safe



Positive resident-centred culture, based upon values of inclusion, equity, respect, and dignity. Residents are empowered to choose how to live their lives.

Residents feel safe within their accommodation

78% of residents feel safe where they live:

“I feel safe here, I never want to leave.”
– FHL resident

80% of residents had support to achieve their goals.

Connected and equipped



Support provided to residents when health and wellbeing may impact their ability to sustain their accommodation.

73% of residents aware of health services available to them.

83% of residents able to access the health services they need.



Healthy



Meaningful connections with residents and facilitates opportunities for them to engage with one another, with staff, and with the wider community.

73% of residents have participated in community engagement activities.

89% of residents reported increased confidence to start looking for employment and/or education/training (excluding those already employed, of retirement age, or on disability pension).

Stable



Residents provided with affordable and suitable accommodation with flexible time limits, and support to maintain their accommodation.

Residents are provided with affordable accommodation with no time-limits

- **78%** of residents view lodging as long-term.
- **90%** of stakeholders view lodging as long-term.
- **63%** of residents have been living in accommodation for > 2 years.

94% of residents are confident in maintaining accommodation.

Empowered



Positive resident-centred culture, based upon values of inclusion, equity, respect, and dignity. Residents are empowered to choose how to live their lives.

80% of residents aware of rights and responsibilities and were involved in decisions that impacted them.

80% of residents feel respected while living in FHL Lodging.

77% of residents aware of housing rights, **92%** aware of responsibilities as residents.

System-level outcomes

Cost efficient

Daily cost of only \$11.63 per person, compared with:

- \$56.17 based on the Report on Government Services (ROGS) 2024 data (2022–2023 financial year).
- \$121.74 for the Common Ground Model.

Reduction of homelessness and risk of homelessness

- Avoid high average health and justice costs.
- Low reliance on the strained public housing system or stretched homelessness support system.

Alignment with Housing First Principles



Housing is a human right



Choice and control for service users



Separation of housing and treatment



Recovery orientation



Harm reduction



Active engagement without coercion



Flexible support for as long as required



Person-centred planning

Why is Foundation Housing's model successful?

The lodging accommodation offered by Foundation Housing extends beyond temporary solutions, emphasising **long-term stability**, while the engagement and support services address the **holistic** needs of residents, **promoting health, wellbeing, and social connection**.

1. Comprehensive, person-centred approach.
2. Low-cost community housing, proven to reduce and prevent homelessness.
3. Accommodation is safe, secure, and affordable.
4. Long-term stability.
5. Tailoring services to individual preferences.
6. Collaboration with external organisations and agencies.
7. Optimised resources and reduced operational costs.
8. Mitigated the burden on government resources while simultaneously cultivating a sense of community among its residents.

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