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Study identifying housing models which can address the specific housing needs of those that rely on the services of Karinya House

Karinya House
Exploring housing models for the women of Karinya House



Summary

Iceni partnered with Karinya House to identify and evaluate a range of social and community housing models within the ACT, Australia and internationally. The study would help identify feasible housing options for Karinya House to pursue as a means of addressing the housing shortage in the ACT for the cohort of women it supports.

Karinya House's challenge

The need for community and affordable housing is a key issue facing Australia. Karinya House clients are on average staying in Karinya House accommodation for longer, reducing Karinya House's ability to support more women that need its service. A lack of appropriate and affordable housing is a key factor driving this problem..

Karinya House engaged Iceni on a pro-bono basis to conduct a study, focussing on domestic and international housing models which have been developed for specifically social and affordable housing needs. The study would evaluate the different models against a set of specific needs and assist Karinya House to identify what options it could pursue to help address its challenge – that is, increase the number of suitable houses for its cohort, and relieve the existing housing pressure faced by Karinya House.

Our approach

Undertaking the study involved a number of key steps. Identifying the key needs of the Karinya House cohort was a critical first step. This involved a local literature review, with findings validated by a select number of women supported by Karinya House.

A second review was the key next step. Our research methodology included a review of available documentation, articles and websites through online research, covering domestic and international models. This included research into:

* Types of housing models generally applied to increase supply of community and affordable housing for vulnerable communities. Where possible this research focused on housing models pertinent to the women supported by Karinya House.

*Countries: we focused on countries comparable with Australia (in terms of social demographics, political and economic models which might offer feasible models. As such, the study does not encompass the full suite of global housing models that

may exist, but instead takes a cross section of examples and case studies which may be feasible in an ACT context, which meet the identified needs of the women Karinya House walks alongside.

* Projects: we took a cross section of housing projects to examine how they would be applied. Where we could, we tried to focus on housing projects which most meet the needs of the cohort supported by Karinya House.

Engagement with key stakeholders within the ACT also provided additional information and identified new opportunities for Karinya House to pursue.

Value-adds

Iceni was able to bring its extensive experience in project management, stakeholder engagement, and research and analysis to the engagement. Karinya House's primary focus is on supporting vulnerable women who are pregnant and parenting with specific needs,, and are not geared towards undertaking research and analysis. This is the value and the capability that Iceni brought.

Iceni was also able to facilitate engagements with other organisations which are impacted by the shortage of safe and affordable (including social) housing in the ACT. These conversations could be held with a level of independence and impartiality, ensuring that mutually beneficial outcomes could be identified.

Ultimately, providing our service on a pro-bono basis means that Karinya House was able to direct more of its funds towards its primary purpose.

Client outcome

Iceni prepared a high-quality, well prepared study into various housing models which could benefit the women of Karinya House. The study outlined the pros and cons of each model and will enable Karinya House to make well informed decisions about what short, medium and longer term options it can consider pursuing, including what advocacy may be needed, and what options there are to partner with other organisations in the pursuit of common objectives.