

Media Release

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Hon Bill Shorten MP and Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA visit successful From Hospital 2 Home pilot in South Perth

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Hon Bill Shorten MP (Minister for the NDIS) accompanied by Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA (Minister for Health; Mental Health) attended Hall & Prior's From Hospital 2 Home (FH2H) unit in South Perth this morning.

The visit was organised to celebrate the success of the first FH2H operated by Hall & Prior at their purpose-built disability transition support facility in South Perth, the granting of an extension for the program and the announcement of an additional FH2H pilot to be run by Ability WA in Coolbinia.

In September 2022, Mr Shorten revealed that around 177 WA hospital beds were being taken up by patients who did not need to be there, despite being medically ready for discharge. This is because those patients may be medically fit to be discharged but are in limbo until arrangements through the NDIS are in place and they can leave hospital.

Pilot schemes like FH2H will go some way to address these log-jams. Judging by the success so far of the Hall & Prior FH2H in South Perth which, since it opened over a year ago, has admitted over 24 participants, with none of those 24 returning to hospital of FH2H, this model for after hospital care will be a template for national roll-out. It is estimated that the initial pilot, operated by Hall & Prior, has saved 3,441 hospital bed days.

In addition, over 370 bed days every month are being freed up in the tertiary hospital system, reducing system-wide pressures and enabling better access for Western Australians needing acute hospital care.

Ms Sanderson said that the South Perth FH2H facility was a "fantastic success", not only for individuals but for hospitals too.

"The initial pilot is estimated to have saved a huge 3,441 hospital bed days which is why we are so pleased to announce the establishment of a second facility," said Ms Sanderson.

"Eligible people can stay in a more appropriate setting than a hospital while they plan long term arrangements, which is both much nicer for patients while at the same time assists our hospital system."

With a second pilot scheme set to open next week in Coolbinia with a six-bed capacity and three participants already lined up to move in, Ms Sanderson announced that there were plans to look at opening a third facility in the southern suburbs.

Mr Shorten paid tribute to Premier Mark McGowan's support of the initiative.

"Hat's off to Mark McGowan – this is a fantastic story," said Mr Shorten. "This is a model for the nation . . . I am thrilled our work is coming together and seeing the number of people leaving hospital and going home or into appropriate accommodation is on the rise."

He also expressed his sincere thanks to the Hall & Prior team and pointed out that the Albanese Government had doubled NDIS hospital planners – or 'wranglers' as he put it – to 54.

For all media enquiries please contact:

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The planners meet with each person within four days of them being ready for discharge, and their NDIS plan will then need to be completed within 15 to 30 days. By doubling the number of planners, the capacity to place those in hospital who are ready to leave will be improved.

Ability WA's CEO Jacquie Thomson said her team had watched 'with interest' the pilot scheme for FH2H, a purpose-built disability transition support facility, and will be well-placed to launch the new facility next week in the north of Perth. The six-bed residence will accommodate people with complex support requirements while long-term community-based supports are sourced and implemented through NDIS pathways, Ms Sanderson's office announced.

Hall & Prior Health and Aged Care Group and the WA Department of Health partnered collaboratively to pilot the FH2H model that supports the safe discharge of patients who no longer need hospital care and are awaiting transition to person-centric community-based support in an appropriate accommodation setting.

The pilot program, operated by Hall & Prior focuses on supporting participants to access accommodation and supports that are appropriate for their long-term needs. A key aspect of this program is providing participants with the skills they need to thrive in a community setting.

"Our staff and program help our participants understand the support they need, plan the steps to get there and provides them with transitional accommodation and support during the process, until they are ready for safe discharge," said Graeme Prior, CEO, Hall & Prior.

During the tour, Mr Shorten and his colleagues were shown the facilities and met with staff and residents in the lounge. Participants were interviewed while preparing lunch residents Fiona Turner, Michael Sparks, Cameron Somms and Bradley Maslin. The ministers met and spent time with them, finding out about how the residential facility had given them all the chance to leave hospital and embark on the next stage in their lives.

"It's fabulous to be here, it's really made my week," said Mr Shorten. "I won't do anything better during my visit to Western Australia than talk to participants and the amazing staff who work here."

Further information about FH2H

- FH2H focuses on providing support services in interim support accommodation, which meets the needs of the individuals with related disability, mental health, and/or social needs, while funding for longer-term supports are arranged.
- FH2H supports up to 12 participants at a time, with an objective to transition patients to permanent accommodation over a 12 to 18-week period.
- 19 participants (out of 24 so far) have moved into supported independent living options.
- Two participants have returned to their own homes with increased support.
- Three of the 24 have moved into residential aged care.
- None of the participants have returned to hospital of FH2H.
- There are support workers on site, 24/7. *Continued overleaf/*

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- There is the option to top-up a participant's services with their NDIS plan.
- To be eligible, participants must be between 30 and 65 years of age; eligible for funding through the NDIS (or other funding); referred from a Perth metro or country WA public hospital; medically ready to be discharged from hospital; and working towards the goal of moving into a permanent accommodation option.

Photos are available on request.

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