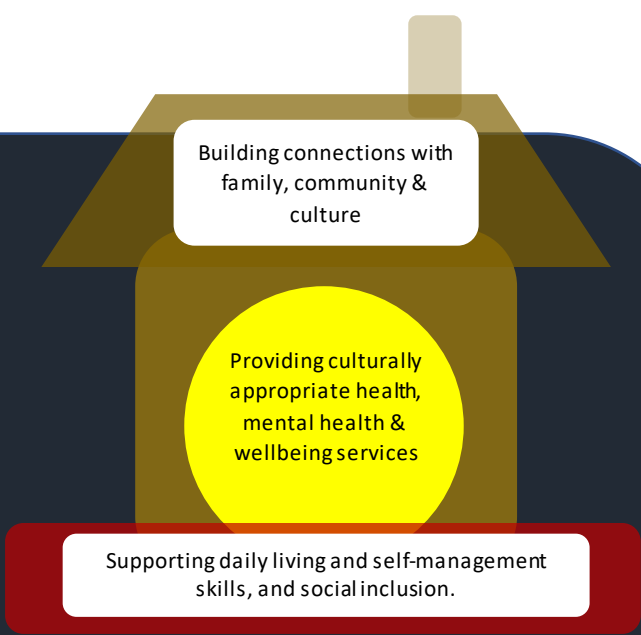


Together Home

High Needs Packages



Building connections with
family, community &
culture

Providing culturally
appropriate health,
mental health &
wellbeing services

Supporting daily living and self-management
skills, and social inclusion.

High Needs Packages



- HomelessnessNSW is supporting the Department of Communities and Justice in the delivery of the Together Home Program through the administration of higher needs packages.
- The High Needs Panel (HNP) has been established in response to the Together Home Program Guidelines to support the allocation of funding for high needs packages.
- High Needs Packages are intended to provide highly vulnerable individuals with tailored support that aims to promote independent living skills, social inclusion and provide access to other supports like clinical mental health support and drug or alcohol services



Eligibility

40 packages across NSW will be allocated for individuals aged 18 years plus who are being supported through the Together Home program and:

- Have been assessed using the VI-SPDAT screening/triage tool and received a minimum score of 15+ **and/or** the service has assessed as suitable for referral.

Priority access will be given to:

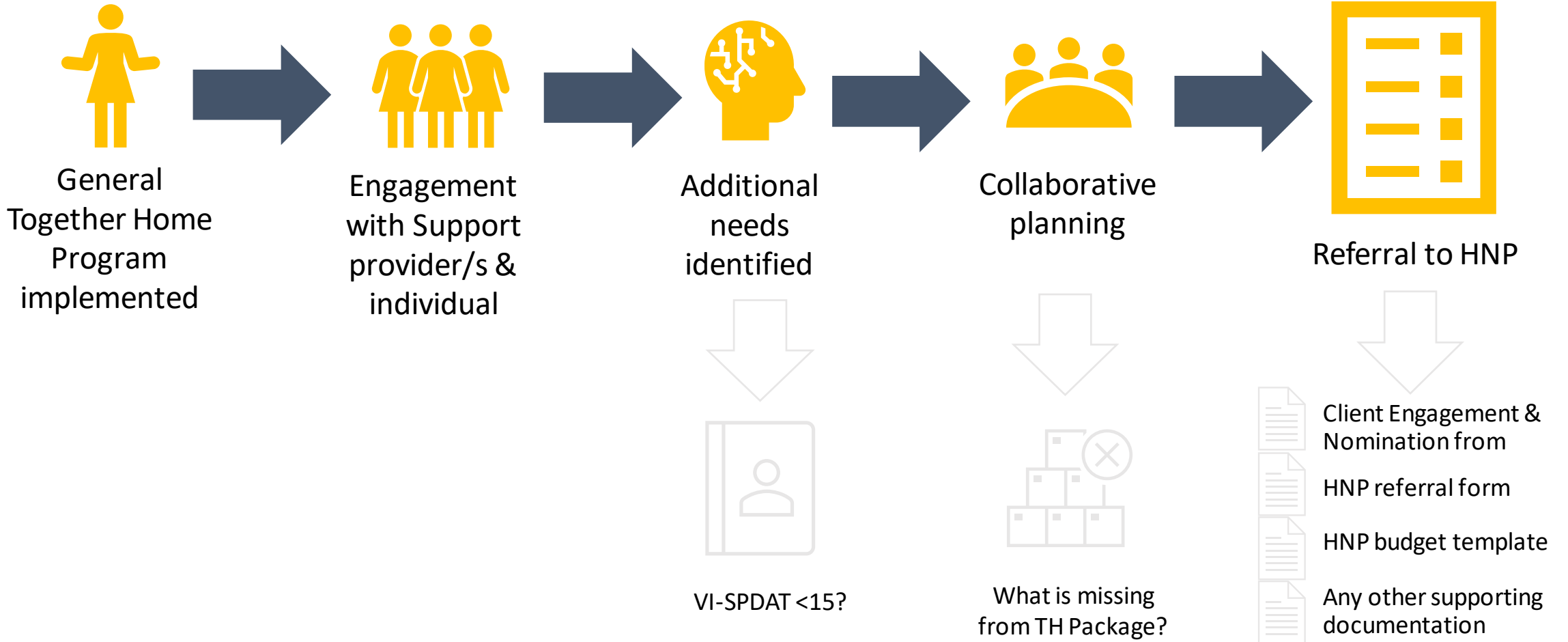
- Individuals who identify as Aboriginal or/both Torres Strait Islander
- Individuals who identify as Aboriginal or/both Torres Strait Islander who are over 45 yrs.
- Individuals over 55 yrs.
- Individuals under 24yrs
- Females
- Individuals who identify as LGBTQIA+



When to consider making a referral

- High Needs packages are intended for people with needs that are greater than what can be provided by the general Together Home program.
- It becomes evident that a current Together Home support package is not meeting the needs of an individual, and additional support is required
- An individual has been accepted into the Together Home program and requires additional support whilst waiting for an NDIS or HASI package

Making a referral





The VI-SPDAT

The VI-SPDAT is used internationally. It is based upon data sources and peer reviewed research from around the world. Completing a VI-SPDAT will allow you to understand the individual, rather than relying on assumptions about the acuteness of a persons' needs. A **VI-SPDAT score of 15+** will indicate a person may need a high level of support to stay housed.

The VI-SPDAT is a mandated tool, and has been selected for the following reasons:

- It is supported by an extensive body of evidence .
- It will help prioritise referrals for high needs support packages.
- The information gleaned is easily understood.
- The high needs panel process has been specifically designed to operationalise the information gleaned from the tool.



VI-SPAT score under 15?

- The VI-SPDAT is a self-report pre-screening, or triage tool. Completing it will help you to identify whether an additional support package is needed.
- Flexibility can be applied where a person has a small number of acute issues that seriously impact their housing stability, rather than a larger number of complex, co-occurring issues and the impact of these issues may result in a person requiring intensive support even though they may have a lower score.
- You may know a person's history or have other information from other agencies/ sources. If you believe the VI-SPDAT does not provide a full and accurate picture, then you can attach other information to a referral, such as observations or documentation, with the consent of the individual.



HNP Referral form

- Designed to capture additional information to the Client Engagement and Nomination form
- Identifies if an individual belongs to a priority group
- Identifies the individuals VI-SPDAT score
- Provides space for agencies to describe an individuals needs and risk
- Provides space for agencies to provide details of an individuals referral history



HNP Budget template

- Requires agencies to develop a support plan for an individual based on the needs identified through the VI-SPDAT, engagement with the individual and communication with other services
- Provides space for agencies to outline the required package e.g. service type, provider and cost
- Encourages agencies to consider long term planning e.g transition to mainstream service provision



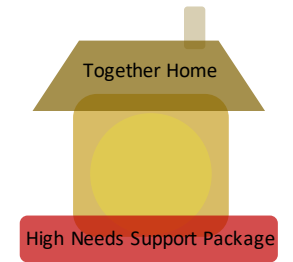
The High Needs Panel

The panel includes independent representatives from DCJ, Health, NDIA, Aboriginal representatives and a person with lived experience.

- All referrals are screened pre-panel meeting– Involves a check that all relevant information has been provided and individual meets the criteria for a high needs package.

The Panel will meet monthly to review referrals received. The role of the panel is to:

- Ensure the prioritisation of packages for priority groups
- Ensure an equal distribution of packages across the state
- Provide a check and balance of identified needs and the outlined cost of supporting those needs
- Provide recommendations to the referring agency where a referral is not successful.
- Approve the release of funding for successful referrals



After the panel meeting

- Panel will communicate decision with the CHP
- Notify DCJ of decision
- DCJ will issue letter of variation to CHP
- Additional funds released to CHP by HNSW
- The process will be progressively reviewed

The panel process may result in systemic barriers being identified that prevent support being provided to an individual. HomelessnessNSW will seek to advocate to address those barriers.

Guidelines are being developed that will detail the High Needs Package processes.

Contacts and Dates

- You can visit the Homelessness NSW website at <https://www.homelessnessnsw.org.au/high-needs-package-referrals-now-open> to access the required forms.
- Round 1 is now open and closes 18th September.
- The first panel meeting will be held on 1st October.
- Any Questions please contact: highneedspackage@homelessnessnsw.org.au