

## **Memo to the Movement: Australian Homelessness Vulnerability Triage Tool (AHVTT)**

**To:** The Australian Advance to Zero Homelessness Movement  
**From:** David Pearson, CEO, AAEH  
**Date:** 3 July 2024  
**Subject:** Update on the creation of an Australian Homelessness Vulnerability Triage Tool

Dear Advance to Zero Colleague,

We are writing, as we do from time to time as part of our Memos to the Movement series, with an update regarding our shared efforts to end homelessness and the development of the tools and resources to support that. These memos are available on the [AAEH website](#). We encourage you to share them with your colleagues and to urge them to sign up for further updates [via our mailing list](#).

As we informed you in [July 2022](#), we have been developing the Australian Homelessness Vulnerability Triage Tool (AHVTT) to replace the VI-SPDAT. From now on, we will no longer be training organisations on the VI-SPDAT while we roll out the AHVTT. Use of the VI-SPDAT can however continue until each state transitions across to using the AHVTT.

The development of this tool has progressed well, and a series of training resources have been developed. However, its rollout has had to be delayed to align with the need to establish a new AtoZ Database. In addition to the below, we'll provide further updates about the changes to the national AtoZ Database as soon as possible.

### **AtoZ Database update**

- Given the growing number of AtoZ communities, the changed cybersecurity environment and increasing costs, the current AtoZ database arrangements supported by the AAEH through Micah Projects in Queensland are no longer fit for purpose and need to be replaced.
- To minimise the impact of changing the assessment tool and the database at different times, we have decided, based on consultation, to align the rollout of the AHVTT with the rollout of a new database.
- It is our plan to roll out new database support arrangements for the rest of the country (excluding QLD, NSW and metropolitan Melbourne, who have other arrangements) from 1 October.
- There is no change to communities in Melbourne, who receive support through Melbourne Zero and Launch Housing, or NSW, who receive data support from the End Street Sleeping Collaboration.
- QLD is rolling the new database out first, and so will be rolling the AHVTT out at the same time, from early July.

## AHVTT rollout

- For further background and history on the development of the AHVTT, see [previous memos](#).
- Updated versions of the AHVTT have now been created for individuals, families and youth following the feedback from people with lived experience, front-line workers and First Nations communities and are available on the [AAEH website](#).
- Promotional materials explaining the tool are also available on the website, including a poster and brochure.

## AHVTT training rollout

Training sessions will be scheduled closer to the rollout dates in each state, and will include both in-person and online training. In-person training on the AHVTT will be provided within AtoZ communities and everyone is encouraged to undertake the training in person where possible.

- AHVTT training dates will vary across states as we continue to implement our new database systems. For specific details regarding training in your state, please reach out to your [local AtoZ contact](#). Once the AHVTT is rolled out within your community, the VI-SPDAT will no longer be available for use.
- In-person AHVTT training will be available at this year's Australian Zero Homelessness Summit in Fremantle, WA, this October 2024. [Tickets are available now](#).
- AAEH will be providing online national AHVTT training. Booking details, dates and timings will be provided [on the AAEH website's events page](#) and via [mailing list updates](#). These two online sessions are offered to allow those who are unable to attend the training in-person to receive the support they need to confidently administer the new AHVTT.

## First Nations people and the use of the AHVTT

In developing a triage tool for use in Australia, it was important to ensure that the tool was culturally appropriate for use with First Nations people. To support this, the tool has been developed with extensive consultation with First Nations people and Aboriginal Controlled Community Organisations (ACCOs). We thank those involved in this collaboration and are grateful to Amber Maihi for leading this work.

- Included in the training program outlined above will be new training resources on the use of this tool in a culturally sensitive way.
- Improving the cultural appropriateness of practice in this space is a key part of the AAEH's commitment to reconciliation and the sovereignty of First Nations people over the data and information that is collected about them. We are working on a statement of intent regarding further work in this space and will share this once finalised.

We apologise for the delay in the rollout of the new common triage tool. We're doing our best with the resources we have available and appreciate your patience.

We encourage you to stay informed about upcoming training opportunities by [subscribing to our mailing list](#).

Your questions, feedback or offers of assistance are warmly welcomed to aid the continuous development of the AHVTT, training resources and additional tools linked to our commitment to using data to end homelessness. For more information please email [info@aaeh.org.au](mailto:info@aaeh.org.au).

Sincerely,

**David Pearson, CEO, AAEH**