

Making sure a child's first home is in the safety of their mother's arms.

The Together Program is an innovative three-year pilot, developed in response to the growing number of babies being born into homelessness. It is a sobering reality that many pregnant women experiencing homelessness, actively hide their situation due to the fear of child removal and other co-occurring complexities and trauma such as mental health challenges, family and domestic violence, and experiencing addiction. This often leads to insufficient prenatal care, minimised birth planning, and lack of much needed support.

The Together Program seeks to bring the needs of these women and their newborns, and the challenges they face because they lack a safe and secure home, into the spotlight. The Together Program provides tailored comprehensive wrap-around supports during the crucial first 1,000 days of a child's life from conception (where possible), including stable housing, medical care, and individualised support. The program aims to enhance maternal and child well-being, parenting skills, and the mother-child relationship, while also reducing the need for child protection intervention and improved overall quality of life.



Accommodation

with flexible, person-centred property and tenancy management

Stable, affordable Housing with trauma-informed supportive letting arrangements for a period of 9-12 months. Facilitating women's engagement in their housing journey through education on housing processes, teaching tenancy rights and responsibilities and acting as a support for early intervention prior to any potential tenancy related challenges.



Specialist Case Management

Uniting WA

Intensive wrap-around intervention involving tailoring support and resources to the unique needs and goals of mothers and their babies, fostering a collaborative and empathetic approach which enhances the individual's overall well-being and self-determined progress.



Essential Medical and Health Support

Homeless Healthcare

Nursing support to link mum and baby to maternity, pre-natal, and post-natal care. Advocacy and assistance in addressing mental health concerns and addiction related support requirements.



Research and Evaluation

The University of Notre Dame, Home2Health

Following mothers and babies through the first 1,000 days, to increase understanding of magnitude, barriers, enablers, need, and demand to influence data-driven sector advocacy. The evaluation of the Together Program is intended to highlight outcomes and influence service delivery beyond the pilot term.