



Non Government Affordable Housing Alliance
Formative Stakeholder Consultation Meeting
12 October 2010

Overview of Purpose

- Previously Commonwealth State Agreements required a peak / representative body to be established and maintained
- A number of structures for Housing and Homelessness and engaged with providers and stakeholders
 - SAAP Ministerial Committee
 - Housing Ministers Standing Committees
- Stated intention of WA Gov to reduce committees. Since CoAG reform, Productivity Commission & WA EAC reports, new bodies formed.
 - Partnership Forum
 - Advisory Councils
 - Homelessness
- New 'world order' but apparent gaps in NGO sector structures for communication and NGO capacity to consult, inform and respond
- Particularly necessary with rapid change, new initiatives and new (time limited) programs funded and implemented under NPA's

Consultation and Representation

- Peak body roles
 - consultation
 - information dissemination
 - representation
 - systemic advocacy
 - policy development and evaluation
- Currently Shelter WA, CHCWA, TAS sit on
 - Housing Advisory RoundTable
 - WA Peaks Forum
 - National Sector Specific Representative Bodies

Strengthening NGO Consultation and Policy Input Mechanisms

- Terms of Reference and membership for HART (Dept Housing)
- Terms of Reference and membership for WA Peaks Forum
- Partnership Forum ToR and membership
- WA Council on Homelessness ToR and membership
- Not duplication, not 'secret squirrel', not 'commercial in confidence' / competitive advantage, not invitation (friendly comments) only
- Clear, accurate, transparent, without fear or favour, independent, non-biased representation of broad sector
- Policy developed 'with' not 'done to' ie collaborative inclusive approach instead of 'top down'

HART Terms of Reference

- The call for a Roundtable stems from the need to engage with peak bodies and advocacy organisations on key social housing policy issues affecting Western Australians. Central themes include social inclusion/exclusion; services to regional and remote areas; and sustainable housing.
- The **Housing Advisory Roundtable (HART)** will advise the Department of Housing's Director General on the National Affordable Housing Agreement's (NAHA) National Partnership Agreements (NPA) on:
 - Homelessness;
 - Social housing; and
 - Remote Indigenous housing.
- The Department's Roundtable process is designed to establish collaboration and cooperation between the major stakeholder groups that have a direct stake in social housing. These major stakeholder groups include:
- The Department as both a vehicle for service delivery and a centre of on-going policy development and implementation;
- Non-government and not-for-profit organisations (NGOs and NFPs) involved in directing social housing issues.

HART Terms of Reference

TERMS OF REFERENCE

- To provide a forum for strategic and operational policy discussion between key stakeholders and the Department.
- To advise on the implementation and coordination of social housing policy.
- To act in a consultative role in relation to the Government Agenda on social housing.

Principles

- *Roundtables are conducted, and communication is given, in an open, clear, accountable and proactive manner, providing open and accurate information and learned intelligence. The Department will be transparent in its assessment of information being considered.*
- *All roundtable participants will respond in the same proactive and solutions-focused manner.*
- *The roundtable will function as a link to the voice of the consumer. The Department welcomes the involvement of the social housing sector and the availability of its expertise.*

Purpose of Today

- Discuss communication/information/consultation mechanisms already in place
- Discuss coordination/integration of information sources, relevance and utility of existing mechanisms
- Consider gaps if any
- Consider strengthening links and policy engagement
- Identify model/structure and endorse key agency responsibilities

Discussion Session 1

What mechanisms are currently in place for you and your organization to:

- Stay informed about policy initiatives that impact your agency and target client groups
- Contribute to the development, review and evaluation of policy affecting your agency and target client groups?
- Is this enough? Do you feel adequately informed & represented?
- Is there a need for a collective voice for the non-government affordable housing and support stakeholder sector(s)?

Discussion Session 2

- How can this sector collectively respond;
 - to new policy initiatives,
 - contribute to the development of new policy, and
 - feed into review and refinement of policy to capture service provider practice wisdom and experience? (into HART, WA Affordable Housing Strategy, WA Council on Homelessness, Directions 2031, Community Housing regulation and growth)
- What structure should this take?
- What mechanisms and processes could be utilised?

Thank You and Next Steps

- Write up notes from discussion groups
- Feedback to attendees for further input / clarification
- Alliance agencies to meet and consider next steps
– meet with Homelessness Council
- Dept Housing HART meeting feedback
- Consider regular events workshop/forums vs other mechanisms (newsletters, tele/video conferencing, surveys/questionnaires) or ad-hoc as needs in response to issues
- Feedback to group by end Nov 2010