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Community Housing International Expert Presentation Monday 22nd March

Julie and David Cowans, UK Community Housing experts will be discussing growth strategies for Community Housing Providers, attracting and harnessing private sector investment and using policy levers effectively on Monday March 22 between 9am – 1pm at the Goodearth Hotel 195 Adelaide Terrace. RSVP by cob 18 Mar to Dolores ph: 9221 7933 Or reception@communityhousing.com.au

Headwest (Acquired Brain Injury) Housing Seminar Thursday March 25

Let's talk about . . . Affordable Accommodation. A seminar for people living with acquired brain injury and carers **10am – 1 pm 25th March 2010. Tompkins on Swan Cnr. Dunkley Avenue and Canning Highway, Alfred Cove**

In partnership with Department of Housing, Community Housing Coalition, Aboriginal Health Council of WA, Disability Services Commission.

The Seminar offers an opportunity to learn about:

- Bond assistance for private rental
- Home ownership on a low income
- Accommodation /community living support options

Morning tea and light lunch provided, wheel chair accessible, number of places limited

RSVP by March 18 to Raelene York 9330 6370 or admin@headwest.asn.au

Please let Raelene know of any special dietary requirements or if you need an interpreter

Australasian Housing Institute Ideas Cafe and Disruptive Behaviour Forum March 24 & 25

The Australasian Housing Institute's (AHI) CEO Joan Ferguson is coming to WA during March and while here she will be facilitating two events at the Duxton Hotel, 1 St Georges Terrace Perth. The first is an Ideas Cafe. *Do you have a great idea for improving housing service delivery?* Come along to share your ideas, hear from others and talk about how to turn these great ideas into action and great results for tenants and other customers. Joan Ferguson will facilitate the Ideas Cafe and will share with participants an idea she picked up from the fabulous people at Notting Hill Housing Trust in London and one of her own notions for better tenancy management. The All Together Better model of tenancy management is still a trial in Notting Hill and builds on some good old fashioned tenancy management practices and combines these with the exciting use of new technology. Wednesday 24 March 9:30-12:30, to register [Click here](#)

The next day Thursday 25 March 9:30-12:30 Joan will facilitate a discussion forum about the WA Disruptive Behaviour Management Strategy. Does the strategy strike the right balance between supporting people maintain their tenancies and tackling serious behaviour problems? The Department of Housing intends to implement a new approach, which seeks to respond to community concerns about disruptive behaviour by providing appropriate supports to address the causes of tenancy dysfunction, balanced with early intervention and stronger sanctions to hold seriously disruptive tenants to account for their behaviour. Shelter WA's EO will speak at this event.

Join us for a lively discussion of the complex and very important issues raised and

- learn about the safeguards which need to be in place if we are to prevent homelessness
- discuss the role of support providers in addressing the causes of tenancy breakdown
- understand the implications for women escaping domestic violence

examine the implementation challenges for housing managers. This is a free event. To register online [Click here](#)

Equal Opportunity Aboriginal Substantive Equality Community Forums Langford & Midland

The Equal Opportunity Commission WA is holding 2 Community Forums for Aboriginal people.

All people should have access to a public service that best meets the needs of those using it. Policies within government departments which do not address the needs of people from different backgrounds need to be changed. Come and hear how this is being done. Speakers include: Yvonne Henderson: Commissioner for Equal Opportunity & representatives from State Government Departments of Indigenous Affairs, Police and Housing will tell you what they are doing. You will also get a chance to tell the Equal Opportunity Commission what you think. Come and have your say!

LANGFORD When: **24th March 2010** Time: 5:30pm – 8:30pm

Where: Langford Aboriginal Association Inc. (LAA) 15 Imber Place WA 6147 Langford

MIDLAND When: **21st April 2010** Time: 5:30pm (for 6pm start) – 8:30pm

Where: Midland Sports Complex Lot 21 Patterson Drive Middle Swan

RSVP or enquiries to: Melané White – EOC - 9216 3900 Melane.White@eoc.wa.gov.au

Youth Homelessness Matters Day April 14

Single young people and young people with children were two of the groups identified as having increased rates of homelessness between the 2001 and 2006 Census' and people under 25 make up almost one third of the homeless population in the Counting the Homeless Report published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. See the State Reports here: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10832>. The Youth Affairs Council of WA will again be hosting an event to mark this important day. If you are interested in hosting an event yourself, YACWA is there to help - contact them on 9485 2750. For more info on Youth Homelessness Matters, [click here](#)

Harmony Day Event Sunday 14th March

The Town of Vincent is holding a free community event this Sunday 14th March 5pm – 8pm at Hyde Park. The Harmony Day motto is 'celebrate diversity, encourage awareness, live tolerance'. Bring a picnic rug to the new stage area corner Vincent and William Street North Perth. See www.vincent.wa.gov.au for more details.

Ethnic Communities Consultation on Government Services Thursday 18th March

The Federation of Ethnic Community Councils of Australia is supporting the national inquiry into Federal Government services by hosting a Forum on Thursday 18th March 5 - 8:30pm at Multicultural House 20 View Street North Perth. They want to hear about how well government agencies work with people from migrant and refugee backgrounds and are seeking information in areas like health, housing, employment, learning English and interpreting services? Migrant and refugee experiences are important— they will help the Ethnic Communities Councils government know:

- Which agencies are helpful, easy to use and easy to understand
- Which agencies are hard to access, hard to understand or unhelpful
- How they could work better to help refugees and migrants
- How government services can be better delivered

\$25 vouchers are offered to people for their participation. Light refreshments will be served. For catering purposes please RSVP by calling ECCWA on 92275322 or email: eccwa@iinet.net.au or policy2@fecca.org.au

Neighbour Day – Celebrate your Community with your Neighbours Sunday 28 March

The last Sunday in March has been identified in Australia as Neighbour Day since 2003, when Andrew Heslop, shocked by a news story about an elderly neighbour found dead in her flat years after passing away, decided to engage with an international Media company to do something about it. In the 7 years since, Andrew has been working to make Neighbourhoods more compassionate and supportive. This year sees the day begin to become truly international and with the motto 'the community you want starts at your front door', we hope ordinary people everywhere will do something small to engage with their neighbours and grow community spirit from the ground up. Read more about this inspirational story and what is happening across the country here: <http://www.neighbourday.org/>

Community Housing Federation of Australia & WA Federation of Housing Collectives Forum

At the First Fremantle Housing Collective, corner of Swanbourne and Watkins Streets Fremantle between 10am and 12:30 on April 1 FOHCOL will present a Forum on Security of Tenure, one of the most important issues for tenants in social housing. Speakers for the event (in alphabetical order) are:

- Eddy Bourke: Policy Officer of Community Housing Federation of Australia
- Michelle Burgermeister: Community Legal Education Coordinator for Tenants Advice Service
- Daniel Guise: Best Practice Unit Manager for Community Housing Coalition of WA
- Bronwyn Kitching: Executive Officer of Shelter WA
- Tina Merry: Policy and Strategic Development Manager for Foundation Housing

For RSVP and for further information telephone FOHCOL on 9336 5045

International Womens Day Wrap-up

The 2010 International Womens Day marked by many women in workplaces and communities around the world on Monday 8th March, encouraged women to celebrate their strengths and contribution to society. In announcements from our Australian Government, 6 new Womens' Alliances were established, each focusing on a key theme of either economic security, equal rights, violence against women, immigrant and refugee women, rural women and indigenous women. These 6 alliances will share \$3.6M over 3 years. As women continue to experience violence and familial homicide, homelessness, sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking and we watch the debate over paid maternity leave, and acknowledge the gender pay gap in all sectors, most significantly in our own community and not-for-profit 'glass ceiling' where over 70% of employees are female but under 20% of Managers and Executives are women, we need to remain ever conscious. 1960's Feminism started the battle toward equality for women but the cause is definitely not yet won. For more see: http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/women/progserv/equal/Pages/womens_groups.aspx

The Big Issue 350th Edition

With the motto 'a hand up not a hand out' and 'helping people help themselves' Australia's best known street magazine, The Big Issue, will celebrate its 350th edition on Monday 15th March – 84 of those with Walkley Award-winning journalist and author Alan Attwood at the helm. Sold on the streets by homeless and marginalised people, The Big Issue magazine is a fortnightly, independent current affairs and entertainment magazine which exists to help disadvantaged Australians earn an income and make positive changes to their lives. Since its launch on the steps of Flinders St Station in Melbourne in June 1996, The Big Issue vendors in Australia have sold more than 5.5 million magazines, with \$9.5 million going into the pockets of homeless and unemployed people. **WELL DONE BIG ISSUE.** Keep those fantastic stories, articles, photos, poems and original artwork coming. And remember – when you see the vendors on the streets – this magazine really does directly help individuals selling copies and has measurably changed lives, and it's a much deeper, higher quality, read than many other magazines devoted to cult of empty celebrity.

Deaths In Custody Rally Wednesday 17th March

Mr Ward was an Aboriginal Elder who died of heat exposure, organ failure and dehydration in the back of a prison transport van two years ago. The family have received no compensation, the transport company still holds the contract for prisoner transfers and no-one has been charged. Justice delayed like this is justice denied. Attend a public rally for Mr Ward and his family at 12:30 on Wednesday March 17th at Parliament House, Harvest Terrace Perth. For more information contact Marc Newhouse 0415074602 or Craig Collins on 0428810445 / 94441930 email @iinet.net.au

NEWS FROM SHELTER WA

JOBS

Shelter WA has two permanent part time positions vacant – closing date 4pm 19th March. See the Homepage on our website for details on the Community Development and Policy Officer and The Research Officer and remember to follow the Instructions for Applicants. www.shelterwa.org.au

FREE CONSUMER MEMBERSHIP

Shelter WA's Management Committee recently approved a new membership category and changes to our fee structure. We can now offer FREE membership to low-income housing consumers, which is anyone earning less than \$30,000 per year and living in private rental housing, public housing, community housing, on a Centrelink benefit or in a minimum wage job. We would like to engage with people who have experienced homelessness, have stayed in emergency or crisis accommodation, lived in a hostel, refuge or boarding house

Also Associate Membership at \$20 pa is offered to individuals who work in the public service.

Shelter WA has provided information, advocacy and contribution to WA since 1979 and is needed now as much as ever. Join up!

Shelter WA

Shelter WA is Western Australia's independent community based peak body on affordable housing. Our role is to represent and inform the views of consumers and community groups on major housing issues. Shelter WA is committed to the principle of accessible, affordable, appropriate and secure housing for every person.

We do this by:

- coordinating and representing community sector views to government;
- developing and responding to policy and current issues;
- providing education and information, based on sound research; and
- promoting housing options for people on low incomes.

Contact Details: 1st Floor, 33 Moore Street, East Perth WA 6004 Ph: 08 9325 6660 Fax: 08 9325 8113 shelterwa@shelterwa.org.au