

Housing 2020 Forum

Shelter WA's November 12 housing forum "More Than a Roof and Four Walls" and "Housing 2020: Considering an Affordable Housing Strategy" attracted participants from the Government and community sectors, as well as private individuals. A presentation by our Executive Officer, Bronwyn Kitching, provided an overview of the two reports, the 56 recommendations from the Social Housing Taskforce, the Future Directions paper, its four reform themes and their inherent challenges. Lively group discussions followed as people grappled with the complexity of the conceptual challenge Bronwyn set - how do we prioritise resources across the crucial changes that are needed to stimulate and develop the affordable housing sector?

Consideration was given to: the level of Government jurisdiction involved and whether reform would require a policy change (as well as changes to political will and culture) at Commonwealth, State, Regional and / or Local level; consumer related initiatives and the processes of policy development, collaboration, partnerships, cooperation, financial and human resourcing; the access to viable and available alternative housing options to transition households, address under occupancy, offer home ownership and shared equity schemes; and, those recommendations that are already underway and well supported as well as those that are harder to achieve and complex. The participants showed themselves to be knowledgeable and passionate in their determination of solutions and surprisingly experienced - over one third of the attendees (senior officers and executives from the affordable housing sector) had lived in public housing.

For the full presentation and the handout see: http://www.shelterwa.org.au/documents/SHTF_2020_Forum_Nov09.pdf
Shelter WA would like to thank all who attended for their valiant and valuable contribution which will inform our submission to the Social Housing Taskforce in December.



Intense focus from hard working participants at Shelter's Housing 2020 Forum

Housing News

Residual Current Device fact sheet available

In response to the recent tragic electrocution death of a toddler, in a Department of Housing tenancy, the Department has inspected 7,500 of its dwellings in the region. Work orders have been issued to repair or install residual current devices (RCDs) as required, to ensure the safety of tenants. A residual current device, also known as a safety switch or RCD, provides high level personal protection from electric shock. Fuses or circuit breakers do not offer the same level of protection against faults involving current flow to earth. For further information, refer to the fact sheet at <http://www.dhw.wa.gov.au/Files/FactSheetRCD.pdf>

Homeless shelter project

The State Government has contributed \$22 million toward a major new facility in Lime St, East Perth for the homeless. The joint project with the Federal Government and Anglican not-for-profit organisation St Bartholomew's House (St Bart's) will commence early in 2010 with completion planned for 2012. The Federal Government is contributing \$7.3 million and St Bart's \$1 million to the project, which will include 54 long-term accommodation units, 12 crisis units, 42 transitional lodging-house units and a 40-bed aged-care facility. The land is owned by the East Perth Redevelopment Authority (EPRA) and will be leased to St Bart's for 40 years. The facility will house homeless men, with priority given to those who are at greatest risk in the community, such as the aged and the ill and will go some way toward achieving the Government's stated goal of 20,000 new affordable housing dwellings by 2020.

Collaborative effort increases community housing stock

The Department of Housing has awarded a \$36 million contract to the Satterley Property Group to deliver 231 new homes throughout Perth as part of the Nation Building Economic Stimulus Package. The homes will be built on land owned by the Department of Housing and linked to its New Living Program, which revamps older suburbs. New homes will be built in Balga (65), Bertram (55), Girrawheen (81), Hamilton Hill (27) and Westminster (three) at a total cost of \$36,172,456. Most of the new homes will be two bedroom, six-star energy rating (see report below) and will form part of the Department's community housing program. The Satterley Property Group has worked with the Department since 1994 on development of New Living Projects. Collaboration such as this, between the Government and the private sector, has been recommended in the recently released Social Housing Taskforce Report "More Than a Roof and Four Walls."

New social housing stock for South-West communities

The South-West region will benefit from a \$60 million construction project, funded by the Federal and State governments, to build 283 new homes. The new affordable dwellings will include 32 seniors units in East Bunbury, funded with \$8.5 million from the Commonwealth's Social Housing National Partnerships Agreement and eight family homes in Glen Iris, funded with \$1.4 million from the State Government Stimulus Package. Across the South-West region 251 homes are planned for completion by early 2011, 49 of which are already under way. Access Housing, a not-for-profit housing organisation, will manage 40 of the homes in Bunbury. The additional dwellings will add to affordable housing stock and relieve pressure on the rapidly expanding waiting list for social housing.

HIA dismisses Government energy efficiency push

Australia's largest building group, the HIA has embraced the decision of the Building Ministers Forum to defer consideration of new energy efficiency regulation of new dwellings. The HIA's Managing Director, Shane Goodwin stated in a HIA media release on November 14, that "...the housing industry recognised that new homes had to play a part in reducing Greenhouse Gas emissions. However, the 6-star controls would have next to no effect on reducing either energy consumption or Greenhouse Gas emissions but would increase significantly the cost of new dwellings." He further stated that "The current regulatory approach is reducing consumer choice and will 'dumb-down' design in housing". Shelter WA wonders how much more dumbed down builder's designs could be in the range offered as affordable housing. Surely the challenge of a problem to be solved and the ability to transcend traditional ideas and rules to provide innovative solutions is the essence of creativity not its antithesis.

Foyer Network meeting

Foyer WA would like to invite interested people to a networking event on **Wednesday 9 December 2009**, 3.30-5pm, at Anglicare WA, Challen Room, Level 1, 23 Adelaide Terrace, Perth. Australia's first Foyer development will be located in the Perth metropolitan area and will provide secure housing and onsite support services to 70 young disadvantaged people aged 16 to 25 who are homeless or in housing need, to stabilise their lives and transition to independence. Get news on Foyer Foundation Australia and an update on the current West Australian Foyer development. Drinks and nibbles will be provided. For further information on Foyer see: www.foyer.org.au Please **RSVP** to Eleanor Harris on 9263 2165 or email: eleanor.harris@anglicarewa.org.au by Monday 30 November 2009.

Homeless Connect

The Homeless Connect project brings together local, State and Federal Government departments and agencies, businesses and community groups to provide free services to homeless people for a day. The aim is to facilitate access to a range of services that will assist people who are homeless to find new pathways forward. Services include a mobile Centrelink office, free health checks, legal and budget advice, counselling and employment and training options. Homeless Connect Perth 2009 is based on a 'one-stop-shop' model of service delivery used in over 170 cities in the USA, Canada and Australia.

The second Homeless Connect event in Perth will be held on **Wednesday, 25 November 2009** at the **Citiplace Community Centre, Perth**. For more information see: <http://www.perth.wa.gov.au/homelessconnect>

Student Practicum comes to an end

Our Curtin University Social Work practicum student, Katie Arpino, is saying goodbye to Shelter WA this week. We would like to thank Katie for her work on the Acronym Information Sheet, the Housing 2020 handout, her contribution to the Tenancy Forum and the Housing 2020 Forum and for her unfailing good humour around the office in the face of limited resources and ridiculously tight deadlines. Welcome to the not-for-profit sector Katie! In Katie's own words:

"My Shelter WA Social Work first practicum experience has been an enlightening one. I came to this practicum with little experience of an office environment and some knowledge of social policy development and change. My prac at Shelter WA has given me a wonderful platform to gauge what is currently happening in this dynamic sector and how social work fits within it. I would personally like to thank Bronwyn, Corinne and Susan for their encouragement and support as I've really had an enjoyable and educational time. Thank you also to the Management Committee for this opportunity. I will leave this practicum grateful for the experience, with fond memories, a huge amount of learning and membership for myself and my family! I will keep in touch with the great work Shelter WA is doing (being a voice for low income consumers and other disadvantaged people who need and want affordable and appropriate housing) and continue to support their efforts."

Voluntary Income Management information sessions

The Hon Jenny Macklin MP, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) recently announced an expansion of the Income Management for Child Protection and Voluntary Income Management programs across Perth. The programs aim to help families better manage their budgets to meet the costs of essential everyday goods such as food, rent, clothing and utilities. FaHCSIA has committed \$18.9 million to the trial programs over two years, which will be then be evaluated in terms of the Government's broader welfare agenda. Centrelink is offering the Voluntary Income Management program as a free and confidential service, on a voluntary basis, to people in Armadale and Gosnells, Fremantle, Spearwood and Rockingham and Morley, Warwick Grove and Innaloo. The Income Management for Child Protection initiative will commence in these districts in early 2010. This separate initiative gives the Western Australian Department for Child Protection the power to recommend to Centrelink that a family's income support and family payments be quarantined to be used for the benefit of children. For more information call the Centrelink Income Management Contact Officer on (08) 9464 8158 or email imwa@centrelink.gov.au

Future directions for the Not-for-Profit Sector

The Productivity Commission's draft research report "Contribution of the Not-For-Profit Sector" was released on 14 October after extensive consultation with the sector. The report undertakes a research study on the contributions of the not for profit sector with a focus on improving the measurement of its contributions and on removing obstacles to maximising its contributions to society. Written submissions are invited to the Commission until **24 November 2009**. To review the report, see: http://www.pc.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/91717/not-for-profit-draft.pdf

WACOSS Conference 2010 – Call For Abstracts

The West Australian Council of Social Service (WACOSS) is inviting abstract submissions from volunteers and workers in the community, business and government sectors, academics and other experts. The "Gearing for Change" conference committee, planned for May 2010, is interested in topics applicable to social policy and the social sector which will contribute to a positive, constructive and enjoyable networking event. WACOSS are anticipating around 300 participants from across Western Australia for this, their biennial Conference. There will be four strategic themes: mission - claiming our identity; experience – growing our strengths; voice – learning our business; and, reform – driving our future. Further information can be obtained from the Conference Secretariat, EECW Pty Ltd, on 9389 1488 or email info@eecw.com.au

Abstracts must be submitted online by **Friday 18 December 2009**, via the link provided at: <https://register.eecw.com.au/ei/getdemo.ei?id=425&s=4OK0RAOS6>

ACOSS Community Sector Survey

The Australian Council of Social Services (ACOSS) Community Sector Survey is conducting a nationwide survey to compile information about the community sector. This information is used to inform policy work and to highlight pressures on the sector. ACOSS is requesting distribution of the survey through your networks. Help WACOSS and ACOSS by clicking below to complete the [ACOSS Community Sector Survey](#). Every eligible organisation that completes the survey before the 16th of December 2009 will be entitled to six months' free use of the events, jobs, and training boards on the ACOSS website, valued at \$320.

Our Mob, Our Minds, Our Spirit Mental Health Conference

Alma St Centre, in partnership with the Fremantle Research and Education Association Inc, would like to announce that the **2nd Our Mob, Our Minds, Our Spirit Mental Health Conference** will be taking place at The Esplanade Hotel in Fremantle between the **23rd and 25th of November 2009**. This conference is the only national conference of its kind that dedicates its entire program to explore and discuss the important issue of Social and Emotional Wellbeing in the Aboriginal community. For more information see: <http://www.freoresearcheducation.org/Our%20Mob.html>

Youth Homeless Short Film and Photo Competition

Young people make up one third of the estimated 100,000 people who are homeless every night in Australia. While the release of 'The Road Home', the Federal Government's white paper on homelessness, raised awareness for many of us, it missed many more. Film and digital technology are powerful communication tools, particularly for young people. They are the required medium for a competition which not only raises awareness of youth homelessness but also encourages and rewards young people's creative efforts. This competition starts in February 2010 and is open to all young Australians aged between 12 - 24 years. It asks for a 3 minute short film or photograph which can be in the form of a documentary, drama, animation or photo montage using video camera, digital stills or mobile phone. Teachers and youth workers can register online to receive a copy of The Oasis DVD and material for schools and youth organisations. For further information see: <http://www.theoasismovie.com.au>

White Ribbon Campaign

November 25, 2009 is International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. United Nations Secretary-General Ban-Ki Moon has labelled violence against women the most prevalent violation of human rights on the planet. Currently, one in three Australian women experience physical or sexual violence in their lifetime. **The White Ribbon Campaign** is working to develop a culture of gender equity and respect where attitudes and behaviours that support the use of violence are no longer tolerated and Australia becomes a safer place for all women and their children. The campaign aims to end violence against women by encouraging men and boys to take positive action to create change. It asks all men to swear never to commit, excuse, or stay silent about violence against women. Prime Minister Kevin Rudd has called on all men to take action to end violence against women, "Every man, in every walk of life, all of the 10 million males in Australia, should swear on November 25," Mr Rudd said. You can voice your commitment to this cause and swear at www.myoath.com.au or see: <http://www.whiteribbonday.org.au/>

16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence

The Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services in WA is encouraging 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence to further raise awareness about violence against women and its impact on a women's physical, psychological, social and spiritual well-being. The **16 Days of Activism begins on 25th November** on International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women **and ends on December 10th**, International Human Rights Day. If you would like to organise or participate in an event to show your support and embrace this year's theme, 'Commit - Act - Demand: We CAN End Violence against Women!' contact the Women's Council on (08) 9420 7264 or email: info@womenscouncil.com.au