

We've revamped our website

We've updated our website to showcase our recent work and keep you informed. Here's a preview:

Consumer Voices: Sustaining Advocacy and Research in Australia's New Consumer Policy Framework (July 2009) - this is a joint submission from Shelter WA and other key community organisations. It draws on the collective thoughts and experience of these organisations to reflect on the workings of consumer advocacy both within Western Australia and at a national level, to address the questions put forward in the "Consumer Voices" issues paper. The responses are interesting and informative. For the full report see http://shelterwa.org.au/documents/WAJoint_Submission_Consumer_Voices.pdf

Development of a State Mental Health Policy and Strategic Plan 2010-2020 for Western Australia (July 2009) – this presents our considered response to the Western Australian Mental Health planning consultation. It outlines our priority areas for reform so that future services for people with mental health problems can be improved. It is sobering to reflect on the fact that almost 20% of adult Australians or 1 in 5 people will experience a mental illness at some stage in their lives. Without adequate housing people have no capacity to address other problems in their lives and no opportunity for employment, education or social inclusion. This is particularly true of those suffering from a mental illness. Get housing right and the rest will follow. For our response see: http://shelterwa.org.au/documents/MHSurveyWAPlanSubmissions_ShelterWAregional.pdf

National Shelter Seniors Housing Consultation (June 2009) – this report from National Shelter consolidates the current research and thinking around the issue of providing adequate housing for our ageing population. It challenges the widespread perception of high levels of home ownership amongst older people. This perception masks the reality, for example: the 100% increase in 'housing stress' in households headed by a person aged 70 or over between 2004 and 2008 and the dramatic decline in homeownership amongst the forthcoming generation of retirees, people aged 45 to 59. The underlying causes of housing affordability problems are explored, initiatives documented and possible solutions proposed. For the full literature review see: http://shelterwa.org.au/documents/natshelter_seniors_lit_review_000.pdf

Affordable Housing Consumer Reference Group: Scoping Project

Christina's project is officers and the background out to members of further consumer* be completed at the *Consumers at the consultation paper



progressing well - meetings with government stakeholder agencies have been completed and consultation paper and questions have been sent the WA Peaks Forum. Their responses and some consultation will inform the final report which will end of September. Mental Health Consumer Advisory Group. See the at:

<http://shelterwa.org.au/documents/WAPeaksHousingConsumerParticipationConsultationPaper.pdf>

19th Annual TheMHS Conference

Our Executive Officer, Bronwyn Kitching, will be presenting a paper "Housing for People with Mental Illness" at the Mental Health Services Conference which will be held at the Convention Exhibition Centre from **1 to 4 September**. The theme of this year's conference will be "You, Your Family, Your Community, Your Mental Health, The path ahead". Bronwyn will be speaking about housing options for people living with mental illness in the context of current socio-political developments and the historical intersection of social housing and mental health.

30th Anniversary National Community Legal Centre Conference

Community Legal Centres (CLC's) are celebrating 30 years of service to the community with their conference at the Hyatt Regency Hotel Perth, from **14 to 17 September**. The conference theme is "Inclusive Justice – CLC's in action". The 2009 National CLCs conference has a social inclusion and human rights focus and will explore how CLCs provide access to justice for those communities that are most disadvantaged and for individuals who are at the greatest risk. The conference will be of great interest to legal and community workers with guest speakers including Justice Virginia Bell and Carol Martin MLA, Member of the Legislative Assembly for Kimberley. Shelter WA's social work student Katie Arpino will be directing attendees to pro-bono legal services on Monday the 14th. For more see www.naclc.org.au or email: marylin_hall@clc.net.au

Volunteer Grants 2009

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) are providing funding for eligible non-profit organisations to support and encourage their volunteers with grants of up to \$1000 for the purchase of equipment and the reimbursement of fuel costs. Funding is limited and applications will be assessed and prioritised according to how strongly they meet the selection criteria. Applications close Friday, **25 September** at 5pm AEST. For more information phone 1800 183 374, email vg2009@fahcsia.gov.au or see the website: www.fahcsia.gov.au



[Economic Audit Committee](#)

In October 2008 the State Government announced that it would “conduct a wide-ranging review of the operational and financial performance of the Western Australian public sector”. Their first report in March 2009 articulated the need for change as well as the opportunities and direction of reform in the sector. To inform this change process the Economic Audit Committee has invited submissions from the community and interested citizens. Shelter WA has contributed to this discussion and would like in particular to see consistency across government regional boundaries. It is a source of frustration for service delivery agencies and researchers not to be able to apply common geographical regional analysis to departmental performance and service provision particularly in the areas of housing support, homelessness, education and training and mental health care – in effect, all areas where cross-departmental co-operation and collaboration is required for efficient and effective service delivery. Consistent regional boundaries would address many of the disconnects and facilitate communication between government departments and between the government and non-government sectors. To view the Terms of Reference or make a submission before the deadline of **August 31** email: economic.audit@dtf.wa.gov.au

[ACEA / Reintegration Puzzle Conference 2009](#)

Deakin University School of Psychology, the Australasian Correctional Education Association (ACEA) and the Education and Vocational Training Unit of the West Australian Department of Corrective Services are hosting a conference for people interested in promoting social inclusion for prisoners and offenders on their release. The conference runs from **August 30 to September 2** and will focus on community reintegration. Community organisations with financial limitations and/or those who are regionally isolated are invited to submit an expression of interest for subsidised registration. To find out more, email: jcrosbie@deakin.edu.au or see: www.deakin.edu.au/hmnbs/psychology/research/ease

[West Australian Foyer Network launch](#)

Foyers are integrated learning and accommodation centres providing safe and secure housing, support and training for young people. The WA Foyer Network will be officially launched by Grahame Searle, Director General, Department of Housing and Steve Glew, from the Department for Child Protection on **September 9** at Central TAFE, East Perth. To hear firsthand about the achievements of Foyer UK and take part in the Open Forum please RSVP by **August 31** by email to eleanor.harris@anglicarewa.org.au or phone 9263 2165. For more information visit: www.foyer.org.au

[Homelessness National Partnership Agreement workshops](#)

The Department for Child Protection has been conducting a series of presentations across the State on the Homelessness National Partnership Agreement WA Implementation Plan. For agencies to be eligible to apply for funding, they are required to participate in a workshop/s to develop the service specifications. Registrations close **4pm 31 August** for metropolitan and **4pm 15 September** for regional locations. For further information see the website: www.community.wa.gov.au

[Anti-Poverty Week](#)

Poverty and severe hardship affect more than a million Australians. Anti-Poverty Week runs from **11 to 17 October** and aims to strengthen public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty and hardship and to encourage research, discussion and action to address these problems. Last year more than 350 activities, including workshops, lectures and forums, as well as displays, stalls and awards, were registered by over 500 organisations. They included welfare agencies, community centres, overseas aid organisations, religious groups, schools, TAFEs, universities, businesses, unions, hospitals, youth groups, housing organisations, media outlets, sporting groups, local councils and government departments. To get involved visit www.antipovertyweek.org.au or email apw@antipovertyweek.org.au

[Housing Reception Models for Asylum Seekers in Australia](#)

Over the next year Hotham Mission Asylum Seeker Project will work with a consortium of agencies including HOST consulting, Council to Homeless Persons Victoria and Dr. David Corlett to scope national and international models of housing reception for asylum seekers living in the community. The project aims to research international models, develop best practice housing reception standards and inform future policy. National consultations will occur during August and September 2009. For further information visit www.asp.hothammission.org.au or email sarah.asp@hothammission.org.au

[Seniors Week Community Grants](#)

The Council on the Ageing (COTA), in partnership with Lotterywest and the Department for Communities, is inviting organisations to apply for funding for events held during Seniors Week 2009 (October 25 to November 1). Grants of between \$500 and \$1,000 are available to recognise and promote seniors. Applications close at **5pm on Friday September 4**. For further information email: admin@cotawa.asn.au To register your event email: events@communities.wa.gov.au or see www.seniorscard.wa.gov.au

[Carers Week 18-24 October](#)

Carers WA has free tickets available for carers to attend the launch of Carers Week at Kings Park on **Sunday 18 October**. This promises to be a fun family day out with food, games and entertainment. Call 1300 CARERS (1300 227 377) to secure a place.

[Young People Who Care 2009 Nomination](#)

Young People Who Care is an annual awards program, run by Silver Chain and Carers WA, which recognises the efforts of young people in Western Australia who provide care to others in the community. The awards program is open to people between the ages of 10 and 18 who provide voluntary care to a person or people in their community or a family member with a disability or illness. If you would like to nominate a young carer or to recognise a group of young people providing voluntary care in the community, call (08) 9242 0242 or email: info@youngpeoplewhocare.com.au by **Friday 25 September**.

