



# Shelter WA Update

## July 2010

### **HOMELESS PERSONS WEEK 2010**

Community Housing Coalition WA is hosting Homeless Persons Week August 2 - 8, 2010. The week aims to: raise awareness of homelessness in the community, celebrate and acknowledge current services being offered to homeless people, foster collaboration of services working for homeless people, attract more volunteers and financial support into the sector, build partnerships between the various stakeholders including Government, Private Sector, the Not-for-Profit Sector, media and the general public. A week of varied events is planned including service providers 'open days', exhibitions, workshops, prominent speakers and a Walk to Support the Homeless. For more information visit: <http://www.communityhousing.com.au/articles/news/homeless-persons-week-2010>

### **YOUTH SECTOR CONFERENCE – Youth Affairs Council WA**

The Youth Affairs Council of WA is holding a youth sector conference entitled Fairground on July 15 and 16 at Burswood Resort. The conference theme is 'Fairground', and represents an opportunity to encourage social inclusion through the continued development of an even playing field for young people across metropolitan and regional areas of Western Australia. The Fairground program will meet the needs of a cross section of youth sector workers, with presentations tailored to suit those new to the industry, and a professional stream designed specifically for experienced sector workers.

For further information about the Fairground Conference please contact the Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia:

<http://www.yacwa.org.au/fairground>

### **FAHCSIA – Indigenous Home Ownership - Discussion Paper**

This paper canvasses the issues affecting home ownership amongst Indigenous Australians across Australia, including those factors particular to Indigenous land ownership. It also outlines existing supports and services in place to assist with home ownership and raises questions to stimulate discussion on this important issue. Contributions will help the Australian Government to continue to develop new approaches to facilitate opportunities for Indigenous Australians. Home ownership is a key priority within the [Indigenous Economic Development Strategy \(IEDS\)](#) which was released on 24 May 2010. Written submissions should be provided by close of business on 17 September 2010. For more information:

[http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/progserv/housing/Pages/IndigenousHomeownership\\_IssuesPaper.aspx#1](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/progserv/housing/Pages/IndigenousHomeownership_IssuesPaper.aspx#1)

### **Australian Electoral Commission & Volunteering WA - Your Vote Counts – event has been held**

A meeting to discuss and develop communication and management strategies to improve access to the election process by people experiencing homelessness. The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) and Volunteering WA (VWA) will be holding a meeting **this Friday morning (16 July)** to look at ways of reaching and engaging homeless people in the up-coming election. AEC and VWA are looking at really innovative and flexible ways of involving the homeless and ensuring that they have the opportunity to vote and to have their vote counted.

The aims of this strategy are to:

- Highlight the importance the homeless have in exercising their vote
- Provide information on and access to options to getting on the electoral roll
- Advise on voting options—mobile polling, early voting
- Provide guidance to AEC staff on the needs of the homeless
  - barriers to communication
  - appropriate language
  - communication channels
  - appropriate times to approach people for enrolment purposes
  - best locations and timing for providing voting services

10.00am – 11.30am Friday 16 July, Conference Room, City West Lotteries House, 2 Delhi Street West Perth

Refreshments will be provided. RSVP by Thursday 15 July to [maurene@volunteeringwa.org.au](mailto:maurene@volunteeringwa.org.au) Phone: 9482 4333

### **Introduction to Aboriginal Australia Edmund Rice Institute for Social Justice, Fremantle**

Friday 13 August 2010: 10.00 am - 5:00 pm. Presenters: Dr Noel Nannup and senior Aboriginal undergraduates

- the role of Fremantle in Nyoongar history (based upon a 90 minute walking tour);
- Aboriginal history in WA, and how this influences current realities;
- Aboriginal relationships with the natural world, and between cosmology, spirituality, astronomy, land, culture, food, flora and fauna;
- 'what makes blackfellas tick', and what Aboriginal Australia treasures as its distinctive strengths;
- the twenty most important Nyoongar words, their English meaning, and how to pronounce and use them accurately;
- the personal journey of expert Aboriginal presenters;
- contemporary Aboriginal-led solutions to Aboriginal problems; and
- how success for Aboriginal Australia is critical for social justice in Australia.

Registration & Payment: <http://erisj.org.au/registration>. Registrations close 12 August.

For more information about the ERISJ: [www.erisj.org.au](http://www.erisj.org.au) or phone 9432 2400.

### ***The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare: Australia's Health 2010***

*Australia's health 2010* is the 12th biennial health report of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. It's the nation's premier source of statistics and informed commentary on: determinants of health and keys to prevention; diseases and injury; how health varies across population groups; health across the life stages; health services, expenditure and workforce; the health sector's performance. If you're interested in health, *Australia's health 2010* is an essential reference for your bookshelf.

AIHW catalogue number (AUS 122). Available from CanPrint for \$60 (1300 889 873).

Click on the link to view the [media release](#) and [report](#).

### ***AHURI: The State of Australian Cities 2010 report—towards a national research agenda***

Your opportunity to respond to proposed research agenda. In March this year the Australian Government launched the *State of Australian Cities 2010* report. The report progresses the cities agenda at the national level, setting the context and scope for further involvement by the Australian Government in urban policy and planning. The next stage will involve the development of a national cities strategy that outlines the Australian Government's approach to achieving more productive, liveable and sustainable cities in the future. The *State of Australian Cities 2010* report does not aim to identify key gaps in the research evidence base, nor to develop a national research agenda—but these are appropriate tasks for AHURI as the national research institute focussed on housing and urban matters. As an initiative under AHURI's National Cities Research Program, a discussion paper invites your response to the proposed research priorities. To view the [AHURI discussion paper](#), and to provide [your feedback](#). Due date for input: Friday 30 July 2010

### ***Australasian Housing Institute (AHI) Nominations***

Nominations for the Institute's Western Australian awards for Excellence in Housing 2009/2010 are now open. This year there are six categories of awards: Inspirational Colleague; Outstanding Achievement; Leading Innovation; Leading Practice; Leading Housing Solutions; and Tenant Led Initiative. Full information about the awards, selection criteria and conditions of entry are available on the AHI [www.housinginstitute.org](http://www.housinginstitute.org) or email [admin@housinginstitute.org](mailto:admin@housinginstitute.org). Nominations close on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2010 and the awards will be presented at a dinner in September

### ***National Quality Framework – Families and Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA)***

The first stage consultations are now complete. These consultations sought to gather ideas on what quality service provision is, introduce the concept of a National Quality Framework and gather feedback on the components it may include. [Read the submissions or for more information click here](#). The second stage consultations will be held in the second half of 2010.

### ***Families then and now: 1980-2010***

From the Australian Institute of Families, a fact sheet on all aspects of families for the last 30 years, [click here](#).

### ***National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS) News***

#### **Round Four applications – Now open**

Round Four is now open for applicants who can deliver a minimum of 20 new NRAS homes for low and moderate income households. The Round Four assessment process has been streamlined to ensure that assessment is timely, and that applications are assessed as they are received. Because NRAS aims to encourage large-scale investment in affordable housing, priority will be given to the assessment of applications to build 100 or more homes in the event that lots of applications are received at once.

Round Four applications close at **5pm AEDT on Tuesday 14 December 2010**. Visit the FaHCSIA website at [www.fahcsia.gov.au](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au) for a copy of the Round Four Application Guidelines and Application Form.

#### **NRAS Incentive goes up**

Each year the NRAS Incentive is indexed to the rental component of the CPI.

Effective 1 May, the NRAS Incentive increased to \$9,140:

- \$6,855 – Australian Government contribution per dwelling; and
- \$2,285 – State or Territory contribution per dwelling.

#### **Round Three attracts applications for 24,000 NRAS homes**

FaHCSIA has now received 16 Round Three applications from large-scale investors proposing construction of almost 24,000 NRAS dwellings. Minister for Housing, Tanya Plibersek recently announced approval of the first two Round Three NRAS projects including the following WA project:

- **Yaran Residential Investments** has been approved to build 1,114 NRAS homes in Western Australia. Yaran's 47 projects will be spread across the Perth region from Mandurah in the far south to Merriwa in the outer north. Projects are also proposed for regional areas including Denmark, Mount Barker and Bridgetown in the south west.

### ***Australian Social Inclusion Board***

The Australian Social Inclusion Board (the Board) is currently conducting research on cycles of disadvantage. As part of this research, the Board will be holding public consultations in each capital city. You are invited to attend the consultation in your capital city to share your expertise, knowledge and experiences on cycles of disadvantage, and how people avoid or break out of disadvantage. The Board was established in May 2008 as the main advisory body to the Government on ways to achieve better outcomes for the most disadvantaged. A key component of its role is also to consult widely with different members of the community to provide advice on how to improve social inclusion.

Consultation will be held in Perth on the 2 September, 9am-12pm (RSVP by 26 August). More detailed information including details on venue and discussion agenda will be provided when people register an interest in attending. To register your interest for any of the sessions, or if you have any queries, please send an email to Laura Backhouse at [Laura.Backhouse@pmc.gov.au](mailto:Laura.Backhouse@pmc.gov.au). Please mention your name and contact details and which session you wish to attend. For a brief introduction to this research, see: <http://www.socialinclusion.gov.au/Partnerships/Board/Pages/BreakCycleReqSubs.aspx> For more general information on the Board, see: <http://www.socialinclusion.gov.au/Partnerships/Board/Pages/default.aspx>

### **WA Seniors Award Nominations**

Seniors and Volunteering Minister Robyn McSweeney has called for nominations for the 2010 WA Seniors Awards. The awards, now in their 25th year, recognise the outstanding work done for seniors, and by seniors, in WA. Award winners will be announced on October 31 to mark the start of Seniors Week 2010. This year, the 2010 Burswood WA Senior of the Year Award will be chosen from three new categories including: *Community Award for voluntary work*; *Intergenerational Award for working with children and young people under 25*; *beyondblue Inspirational Award for Wellbeing for seniors who promote awareness of mental health messages for older people*. Other individuals who have worked in a paid or voluntary capacity to improve the lives of seniors can be nominated for the *Westscheme Champion for Seniors Award*. Any not-for-profit community group or organisation that has developed innovative techniques to allow seniors to lead full and satisfying lives can be nominated for the *Bendigo Bank Active Ageing Leadership Award*. Finalists in the WA Seniors Awards are automatically entered into the Australia Day Council National Awards Program. Nomination forms are available by calling 6217 8700 or visiting [www.seniorcard.wa.gov.au](http://www.seniorcard.wa.gov.au). Nominations close at 5pm on Tuesday, August 31

### **Private Tenancy Support Service - Australian Red Cross**

Red Cross assists people who are in private rentals and are at risk of eviction and homelessness. Tenancy Support Officers provide strengths based case management to assist individuals and families to stabilize their tenancies through referrals, life skills development and assisting them to access and participate in education, employment and training opportunities. Red Cross provides this service to people in the north west metropolitan area of Perth and accepts referrals from agencies and individuals. This program is funded by the joint Commonwealth/State funded Homelessness National Partnership Agreement.

For more information contact Australian Red Cross on: 08 9225 8888 or email [watenancysupport@redcross.org.au](mailto:watenancysupport@redcross.org.au) or visit their website [www.redcross.org.au](http://www.redcross.org.au)

### **Working to Stabilise Private Rental Tenancies - RUAH Tenancy Support**

Ruah Tenancy Support is a mobile case management support service that works with people who are renting privately, and whose tenancy is at risk and needs to be stabilised. It also works with newly housed private rental tenants to make a smooth transition from an experience of transient/ unstable housing or homelessness. Ruah Tenancy Support operates from Monday-Friday 8.30am - 4.30pm. You may leave a message for the Tenancy Support Workers by: PAGER 9480 5500. Leave a brief message for 'Ruah Tenancy Support'. A worker will return your call as soon as they are able (usually the same day). Email: [rts@ruah.com.au](mailto:rts@ruah.com.au)

### **Stabilising Tenancies Anglicare Rockingham (STAR)**

The Supported Tenancy Anglicare Rockingham assists people who are struggling to maintain their tenancy through strength based case management. This may include problems with rent arrears, standards or other issues impacting on your ability to keep your tenancy. STAR is for you if you are:

- Renting privately (not through Homeswest), and
- Living in City of Rockingham or Kwinana

The Supported Tenancy Anglicare Rockingham (STAR) program can:

- Help you negotiate with your landlord and other parties in respect of your private rental
- Mediate conflicts
- Give you useful information
- Help you with budgeting
- Link you to other useful services, and
- Provide support

Please phone to make an initial enquiry and if you are suitable for the program a support worker will make an assessment appointment with you. Phone: 9528 0701 or visit <http://www.anglicarewa.org.au/community-services/housing-services>

### **Changes at AHURI WA and the Housing and Urban Research Institute of WA (HURIWA)**

**Professor Fiona Haslam McKenzie** has stepped down from her position as Director of both the AHURI WA Research Centre and Housing and Urban Research Institute of Western Australia from July 1, 2010. **Dr Steven Rowley** will be taking over as Director of the Housing and Urban Research Institute of Western Australia, located at Curtin University. Steven will also take the role of Deputy Director of the AHURI WA Research Centre.

Steven is an active researcher in his role as a land economist and has worked on several Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute research projects. Steven will also take over a number of industry committee positions and assist community and industry groups with research updates and information. The Director of AHURI WA Research Centre is **Dr Paul Flatau** Murdoch University, whose work on the economics of homelessness and the social and indirect cost savings of the provision of homeless services was Australian ground breaking in 2008/09.

Shelter WA has valued Professor McKenzie's work and efforts for AHURI and HURIWA, and wishes her well in her continuing role with Curtin University at the John Curtin Institute of Public Policy and the Curtin Graduate School of Business, and in her new role yet to be announced.

### **Bouquets for WA Department of Housing and the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing**

The State Government has delivered 89 new homes in just six months to some of Western Australia's most remote indigenous communities. Housing Minister Bill Marmion praised the Department of Housing for exceeding the delivery target of 75 houses by June 30, 2010. "The department really pulled out all the stops to build and deliver the agreed homes in a very challenging time frame," Mr Marmion said. "They are to be congratulated for overcoming a range of obstacles and exceeding expectations by a wide margin, delivering 89 new homes, 78 of which are already connected to services.

### **Bouquets for WA Department of Housing and the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing (continued)**

The State Government has secured a \$4million bonus payment from the Federal Government under the National Partnership Agreement for Remote Indigenous Housing. Housing Minister Bill Marmion said the bonus was awarded to Western Australia to recognise the Department of Housing's delivery of three additional homes above the target of 75 required by the agreement's June 30 deadline. "This bonus payment will directly apply to additional housing for indigenous West Australians in remote communities," Mr Marmion said. "I am very proud of the work the department has performed to meet this target. WA is the only State to meet the Federal Government's original targets. "WA has led the nation and clearly demonstrated its ability to successfully deliver new homes and refurbishments to remote indigenous communities."

The Minister said the department had overcome obstacles, including unexpected wet weather and road closures during peak delivery times and a shortage of tradespeople. "While we are the biggest State in Australia, with the most remote indigenous communities, WA leads the country in closing the gap on indigenous disadvantage," he said. In addition to building new homes, the department also completed 150 refurbishments. "From WAs most remote outpost of Kalumburu in the north to Blackstone in the far east, and in the far-flung communities in between, this Government has stepped up to the challenge of improving living conditions in remote communities," the Minister said.

"Creating indigenous employment opportunities has been a key platform of this program, and I can confirm that the indigenous employment target of 20 per cent participation has been exceeded across the construction and refurbishment programs." "We have proven our commitment and ability to deliver for remote communities and close the gap. It is now time for the Federal Government to stop the delays and agree to the targets for 2010-2011, so that WA can continue with our construction and refurbishment program without delay," Mr Marmion said.

Shelter WA congratulates the Department of Housing and it's contractors, staff, administrative people and processes. Well done!

### **Shelter WA Seeks Founders and Early Members for 30 Year Anniversary**

Shelter WA was established in 1979 by a group of committed, passionate individuals who recognised the need for a peak body to advocate for a housing system that effectively responded to the needs of low-income and otherwise disadvantaged housing consumers including those who were homeless or at risk of homelessness.

The founders of Shelter WA lobbied the State Government and negotiated with the then State Housing Authority to contribute to development of policies and procedures in public housing and private rental and boarding houses and night shelters.

Since those early days, several other housing peak bodies and advocacy services were developed, that had their germination in Shelter WA, including the Tenants Advice Service WA and Community Housing Coalition of WA.

We have recently become aware that there are people who have been granted Life Member status, but with the passage of time these records and historical knowledge is lost.

Shelter WA is very keen to reconnect with our Founders and Life Members and those who have played a part in Shelter WA from the early years and encourages our readers to spread the word and get back in touch if you are one of these important people.

### **Shelter WA Nominations to the Management Committee**

Shelter WA is an Incorporated Association with a Management Committee that provides corporate governance, strategic and policy direction. We are currently seeking nominations from interested members to join the Committee and become part of a team dedicated to the health and wellbeing of Shelter WA. The Committee meets at 4.30pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month in Claisebrook Lotteries House East Perth. Please phone 9325 6660 or alternatively email at [exec@shelterwa.org.au](mailto:exec@shelterwa.org.au), for further information.

### **Conferences and Workshops**

**National Homelessness Conference 1 - 3 September 2010 [here](#)**

**National Community Legal Centres Conference 25-27 October Victoria [here](#)**

**Australia New Zealand Third Sector Research (Sydney) 15-16 Nov [Conference](#)**

**Men's Advisory Network 9 August [Conference Seminar:](#)**

**Australasian Housing Researchers (Auckland) 17-19 Nov [Conference:](#)**

**6<sup>th</sup> National Homelessness (Brisbane) 1-3 Sept [Conference](#)**

**The 20<sup>th</sup> Mental Health Services (Sydney) 14-17 Sept [Conference](#)**

**Suicide Prevention (Brisbane) 17-20 Nov [Conference](#)**

**National Self Help and Support Group Awareness Day 8 September Info [here](#)**

**International Social Housing The Hague (Netherlands) 13-14 Oct [Summit](#)**