

### WA Opening Doors to Affordable Housing Strategy 2010-2020

Opening Doors to Affordable Housing, the WA Affordable Housing Strategy 2010-2020 was released by the State government on May 11<sup>th</sup> 2011. Shelter WA, along with other housing stakeholders and interested peaks welcome the broad directions contained in the Strategy and the supporting initiatives identified.

Particularly pleasing are:

- commitment to maintain and increase Keystart home-loans and shared equity home ownership schemes,
- residential developments on government land requiring 15% affordable land and housing to be provided,
- a subsidised private rental brokerage scheme,
- land release of affordable land lots
- responses to the housing needs of key workers and others in high cost and regional areas
- strengthening planning reforms to facilitate increased timely supply of diverse smaller dwelling types
- forming and implementing an improved social housing demand model
- developing a waiting list applicant matching system to efficiently allocate appropriate housing best suited to households needs.

Shelter WA will be monitoring implementation of this strategy and we strongly endorse the vision of at least 20,000 additional new dwellings affordable for low and moderate income households by 2020.

Read the full report [here](#) The summary can be accessed [here](#) and the non-government Info Sheet is [here](#)

### The WA Residential Tenancies Act 2011

The long awaited WA Residential Tenancies Amendment Bill 2011 was tabled in Parliament on 18 May 2011. The Bill proposes to introduce legislative amendments to 'provide greater balance between the rights and obligations of tenants and lessors and enhance the clarity and effectiveness of the legislation'. This legislation will impact a wide population - over a quarter of WA households are renters.

While some tenant consumer protections will potentially be strengthened, including regulation of tenancy databases, better management for bond money lodgement and release and prohibition of landlords 'contracting out' of provisions in the Act, other proposed amendments are a tightening of the punitive 'three strikes' antisocial and disruptive behaviour tenant policies in Department Housing public rental dwellings.

Documents on the Parliament of Western Australia website relating to the Residential Tenancies Amendment Bill 2011 are [here](#)

Residential Tenancy dispute matters are heard and determined in a Magistrates Court. The Magistrates Court in WA may be constituted by a single JP acting alone, records are not required to be kept and determinations of Magistrates Courts are not freely publicly available or reported to any central authority. Decisions made by Magistrates are not reflective of common law or legal precedent and are the perspective of the individual JP's or Magistrate.

### The Homeless Rally – Rally for Justice 2 June 2011 at Parliament House

Despite significant political attention, substantial Commonwealth and State funds for public and non-government community agencies and the concerted effort of homeless service workers, homelessness remains evident and visible in WA, and the distressing long term impacts on people who experience this social tragedy continue. A public rally has been organised by Mr Gerry Georgatos from the Human Rights Alliance and will feature speakers from the CHOGM Action Network among others.

When: Thursday 2 June 11:45am. Where: Parliament House West Perth

## Applications for Positions on the Department of Housing's Regional Appeals Committees

The Department of Housing is currently seeking members from the community to join the Regional Appeals Committees operating in the metropolitan area and throughout the state. The function of Regional Appeals Committees is to review appeals against adverse public rental housing decisions to ensure that the Department has applied its policies and procedures fairly and correctly.

The Department is seeking to increase the diversity of representatives on these committees and encourages broad circulation of this information to potential candidates and networks.

Applications for these positions were advertised from 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2011 - the closing date 15<sup>th</sup> June 2011. Candidates are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the Expression of Interest Kit and Information Sheet.

For further information, or to apply for an EOI Information Kit on line, please send an email inquiry to [appealsfeedback@housing.wa.gov.au](mailto:appealsfeedback@housing.wa.gov.au). The EOI Information Kit is also available under Quick Links on the Department's website <http://www.housing.wa.gov.au>

## Federal Budget 2011

The Government of Australia released the Federal Budget 2011-12 on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2011. This budget contains a number of measures to encourage workforce participation among young people, people with disabilities and sole parents, but points to a slow contraction in the proportion of Commonwealth expenditure directed to Housing and Community Amenities from 1.64% (\$ 5,741m) in 2010-2011 to 1.06% (\$ 4,406m) in 2014-2015.

See the ACOSS analysis of the federal budget - [Federal budget 2011-12: Initial ACOSS analysis](#)  
Homelessness Australia's Budget Response and Briefing is [here](#)

## Radio National, April 12 2011: Social housing: a mixed community

Adrian Pisarski CEO QLD Shelter and Chair National Shelter, David Cant and tenant Jeremy Smith discuss the move away from the housing estate to the inner-city mixed community. Listen now!

<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/lifematters/stories/2011/3188131.htm>

### Help to Host Seniors Week Events in 2011

COTA WA, in partnership with the Department for Communities and Lotterywest, will be assisting community groups and local government organisations hold events during Bendigo Bank WA Seniors Week 2011.

Funded events should recognise and thank seniors for their contribution to the community, challenge the negative stereotypes around ageing, and promote the life course approach to ageing. Grants of up to \$1000 are available through the Seniors Week Community Grants Program, as a contribution towards meeting the costs associated with hosting events in Western Australia between Sunday 6 November and Sunday 13 November. Applications are strongly encouraged for events which target seniors who are at risk of becoming socially isolated or are members of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities. Applications open 23 May - 22 July 2011.

Application Forms on COTA WA's web- [www.cotawa.asn.au/seniorsweek](http://www.cotawa.asn.au/seniorsweek), ph: 9321 2133 or email [admin@cotawa.asn.au](mailto:admin@cotawa.asn.au).

**Media Contact:** Christie Lohr, Project & Program Development Officer Ph: (08) 9321 2133 email: [Christie@cotawa.asn.au](mailto:Christie@cotawa.asn.au)

## Arbib says community housing must use recent growth as a springboard to private investment

In his opening remarks at the CHFA National Conference, Federal Minister for Social Housing and Homelessness Mark Arbib called for the community housing sector to maintain the momentum created for the sector by the economic stimulus funding package by keeping its "foot on the pedal" in turning to the private investment and finance sectors.

In acknowledging that community housing is the growth engine for the future of affordable housing, he also noted that an estimated \$24 Billion is required to fund the construction of at least 90,000 affordable homes across the country, a figure too large for the government to manage on its own.

Yet he believes growth could be hampered by a lack of understanding about community housing, and recalled recent conversations with public housing tenants who believed a move to community housing was equivalent to being in private rental. He called on the sector to sell itself far more aggressively than it is currently doing, and compared the community housing sector to the industry superannuation fund sector 30 years ago, who undertook a large scale campaign to educate key target markets, and the public, about the value of investing in an industry super fund.

Supporting this focus, the Senator also highlighted the need for legislative reform, indicating he would like to see a growing and robust community housing sector unshackled from unnecessary red tape, through for example the introduction of national regulation. Read Minister Arbib's speech from CHFA's National Affordable Housing Exchange [here](#).

**Source:** Community Housing Federation Victoria (CHFV) Bulletin, May 2011 [Click here for link to article](#) or visit [www.chfv.org.au](http://www.chfv.org.au)

## Shelter WA Submissions and Projects

Shelter WA is currently involved in the following submissions. If you have any issues or concerns that you would like us to consider when preparing our submissions contact Shae at [research@shelterwa.org.au](mailto:research@shelterwa.org.au) or phone 9325 6660.

### Australian Bureau of Statistics Discussion Paper: Methodological Review of Counting the Homeless

Shelter WA is working with Homelessness Australia and other key stakeholders to respond to the Australian Bureau of Statistics Discussion Paper *Methodological Review of Counting the Homeless*. Dr Shae Garwood, Shelter WA's Research Officer attended a consultation workshop in Sydney on May 24<sup>th</sup>, to present Shelter WA's concerns with changes in the enumeration methodology that may significantly reduce the numbers of secondary homeless couch surfing young people and overcrowded Aboriginal households identified as homeless in the Australian Census of Population and Housing being undertaken on August 9, 2011.

A copy of the ABS discussion paper is available [here](#) and the Homelessness Australia Sector Briefing Paper can be found [here](#)

### Protecting the rights of boarders and lodgers

The Boarders and Lodgers Working Group is convened by the Tenants Advice Service and Shelter WA. An outcome of the meeting on 15 March was to create a questionnaire and compile responses into a report to be distributed to stakeholders. The purpose of the questionnaire is to get an accurate view of the issues and perspectives of organisations working with boarders and lodgers. Responses to the questionnaire will be compiled for the next meeting of the Boarders and Lodgers Working Group, and will be used to inform the future direction of the Group.

[Click here](#) to complete the survey on line or contact Shae Garwood at [research@shelterwa.org.au](mailto:research@shelterwa.org.au) to receive a copy of the questionnaire via e-mail.

### Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry

In February 2011, the Victorian Parliament commenced an inquiry into 'Liveability in Outer Suburban Melbourne', through the Outer Suburban/Interface Services & Development Committee, a Joint Investigatory Committee of the Parliament of Victoria.

The Committee held public hearings in Perth at Parliament House on 18 May 2011 and invited Shelter WA to talk about our work and discuss liveability issues for rapidly growing cities, including housing affordability, the impacts of population growth (in particular on health/medical services) and best practice in urban renewal in outer suburban areas.

The MPs on the Committee all represented rapidly growing outer suburban areas of Melbourne and were keen to learn from the initiatives, programs and experiences of metropolitan Perth. They also visited key locations in the outer suburbs.

Shelter WA's Research Officer Dr Shae Garwood spoke to the Committee and insights from Shelter WA forums held in October and November 2010 involving local government representatives, town planning and building approval staff, together with our submissions to Directions 2031 and the WA Community Development and Justice Standing Committee was well received.

## Grants and Funding Opportunities

### Community Grants Program

The Office of Multicultural Interests (OMI) vision is an inclusive and cohesive society drawing on the cultural and linguistic diversity of its people to enhance the social, economic and development of the State. The Community Grants Program (CGP) objectives support the OMI strategic plan by encouraging participation, equity and promotion of all Western Australians in projects and events that remove barriers and enhance cross-cultural engagement.

Applications can be submitted at anytime however, applications received after the closing date for each round will only be considered by the grants assessment panel in the next funding round. Application Forms and Guidelines are available [here](#).

**Closing round dates:** [4pm Thursday 18 August 2011](#) and [4pm Thursday 10 November 2011](#)

If you need help with your application, please contact [nilda.eisen@omi.wa.gov.au](mailto:nilda.eisen@omi.wa.gov.au) OMI Grants Officer or on 9217 1619

### Volunteer Grants – Applications Close 8 June 2011

Applications opened on 4 May 2011 for the Volunteer Grants 2011 initiative. Grants between \$1,000 and \$5,000 are available to help eligible not-for-profit organisations purchase essential equipment, contribute to fuel costs, training courses and background checks.

To support people most in need, preference will be given to organisations with volunteers that assist disadvantaged individuals, families and communities, organisations located in regional and rural areas, and organisations affected by recent natural disasters. **Applications close at 5pm (AEST) on 8 June 2011.** For more information, application guidelines and the application form, please visit [www.fahcsia.gov.au](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au) or call 1800 183 374.

## WA Senior Awards 2011 Nominations Now Open

The WA Seniors Awards recognise individuals and organisations for their commitment to Western Australian society.

Do you know a senior who's doing great things in your local community? Why not nominate them for a Department for Communities WA Seniors Award? Nominations close 5.00pm Friday 22 July 2011. [To download the nomination kit click here.](#)

If you have any queries on nominating an inspirational senior please contact the Department for Communities on 6217 8700.

Award winners will be announced at the gala ceremony on Sunday 6 November to mark [Bendigo Bank Seniors Week 2011.](#)

Do you come from a Commonwealth country? If so you could be a 'face of CHOGM.' See this link for more details [://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx?ItemId=139777&](http://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx?ItemId=139777&)

## Acting Opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders: MABO film - casting now

Work is about to start on MABO, the 2 hour telemovie for BLACKFELLA FILMS about the Australian hero Eddie Koiki Mabo.

The telemovie will be directed by Rachel Perkins with Producers Darren Dale and Miranda Dear, Written by Sue Smith.

Pre shooting and cast orientation will be from 22nd August - 16th Sept 2011

Shooting to commence on 19th Sept - 28th October 2011. Location of shoot in North Queensland.

Right now Zarkesh Casting is looking for many TORRES STRAIT and ABORIGINAL ACTORS for various roles. They are searching nationwide for Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal actors, so please spread the word to contact Anoushka directly.

There are lots of MALE roles for people in their late 20's - 50's.

And lots of KIDS roles - 11 - 18yrs old FEMALE roles as well...

If you know aspiring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander film stars, Zarkesh is happy to audition anyone..or they can self test and send ... including people living on the Torres Strait Islands (Murray, Thursday Island etc).

**Anousha Zarkesh Casting** Phone: 02) 9964 9625 Mob: 0413 689 495 Email: [azarkesh@iprimus.com.au](mailto:azarkesh@iprimus.com.au) [www.zarkesh.com.au](http://www.zarkesh.com.au)

## WA Young Member Applications Now Open for National Planning Group, National Youth Week 2012

National Youth Week is the single largest celebration of young people on the Australian youth calendar. It provides an opportunity for young people to express their ideas, views, raise important youth issues and celebrate the positive contributions made by young people in our community.

The Office for Youth is seeking nominations from young people aged 18 – 25 interested in being WA's Young Member on the National Planning Group for National Youth Week 2012.

If you would like to take a lead role in representing WA nationally, travel interstate and make National Youth Week 2012 unforgettable, then we would like to hear from you!

To apply you will need to forward:

- \* the WA Young Member Application Form, and
- \* a brief resume or CV.

If you would like more information or to apply to be WA's National Youth Week Young Member please visit [www.youth.wa.gov.au](http://www.youth.wa.gov.au) and click on National Youth Week 2012 or contact Mackenzie Bensch on (08) 6217 8315.

## Criminal Confiscation Grants Program

Local governments and non-profit community groups have been provided almost \$4million in grants to fight crime, tackle drug-related issues and help victims of crime.

Attorney General Christian Porter has announced the outcome of the most recent round of funding channelled into the community through the criminal property confiscation grants program, which directs money and other assets obtained illegally by criminals back into the community.

**Funding for the next round of grants is now open and will close at 5pm Friday 8 July 2011.**

As with the last round, the Department of the Attorney General (DotAG) will hold information sessions for interested parties living in metropolitan and regional area so they can get help and advice about putting together their applications.

The guidelines and policies for the next round of grants, an application form and a list of successful grant recipients is available on the DotAG website: <http://www.department.dotag.wa.gov.au/> For program queries, please call 9264 1206.

## Discussion Papers, Submissions, Issues Papers and Surveys

### Working Life and Mental Illness – SANE Survey

For people living with a mental illness, finding and keeping a job can be a major challenge. It can also be an issue for family and other carers who need workplace flexibility and support from time to time.

SANE Australia is interested in understanding the experiences of people with mental illness, and carers, who are in work: the challenges, the support you have found helpful, and the support you would like to see, to help maintain employment.

Please take the time to complete this short survey and help SANE better understand this issue, so that they can campaign for improved workplace education, training and support services.

*Please only proceed to complete this survey if you are currently in employment. This may be full-time or part time, paid or unpaid.* [Click here to go to survey](#)

### Youth of Australia wanted for national survey – Mission Australia

Mission Australia is calling on young people to have their say in their 2011 National Survey of Young Australians – the nation's largest annual report on the views, concerns and values of young people between the ages of 11-24.

Mission Australia's 2011 National Survey of Young Australians can be completed online at [www.mayouthsurvey.com.au](http://www.mayouthsurvey.com.au). The survey closes on **Friday 1 July** with the results to be published later in the year.

### Women & Housing Affordability Survey

Swinburne is currently seeking the views of single women, aged 40 and over (with or without children) who do not expect to own their home outright before they retire.

The survey is being conducted by the Institute for Social Research at Swinburne University of Technology in conjunction with the Salvation Army. More information is available at <http://www.sisr.net/Flagships/SC/Projects/WAHS.htm>

Data obtained from the survey will assist in developing a housing model to fit the needs of women in these circumstances. The survey is **anonymous**, all data is treated **confidentially** and it takes about 20-35 minutes to complete.

Survey respondents can enter for one of 20 \$50 gift vouchers. Details are collected separately. Prizes drawn 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept 2011 and winners are notified by correspondence. The survey closes 10pm Sunday 14th August 2011. [Click here for link to survey](#)

Swinburne Social Researchers encourage interested women to go to their Facebook page and leave comments

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Women-and-Housing-Affordability-Survey/217710001588704>

## Research, Resources, Reports and Publications

### Community Housing Federation Australia (CHFA) welcomes inclusion of affordable housing in National Urban Policy

On Wednesday 18 May the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Anthony Albanese launched the Federal Government's Our Cities, Our Future – A National Urban Policy, setting out the Government's broad principles, goals and objectives to towards making our cities and regional areas more productive, sustainable and livable.

Affordability issues are highlighted through the document. Household access to affordable options for where they live and work is a key principle underpinning the Policy's goals and objectives. Under the goal of enhancing the livability of our cities, supporting affordable living choices and facilitating the supply of appropriate mixed income housing are key objectives towards reaching that goal.

The Policy acknowledges that land release and high rise replacement of older housing is not the only solution to increasing the supply of appropriate and affordable housing in metropolitan areas. It recognises that we need to ensure that future housing is adaptable to the needs of an ageing population and can also accommodate a diversity of household types and sizes. Under this objective, the Policy further sets out its priorities, identifying what outcomes the Government wants to achieve towards improving the supply of appropriate mixed income housing and supporting living choices.

Current Government housing programs and initiatives are outlined in the document, and describes how those activities fit into the overall framework of the Policy. It also proposes further initiatives that the Government will or should undertake to meet the objectives of supporting affordable living choices and increasing the supply of appropriate mixed income housing.

What the Policy doesn't clearly articulate is how the Government will bring those proposals to fruition. While an initiative to 'ensure housing assistance is adequate, targets those in need and supports participation incentives' is laudable, there is no indication of how that initiative will be realised. The next step for the Federal government must be an action plan for implementing these proposals.

Better still would be to expand on the ideas put forth in Our Cities, Our Future and develop a comprehensive national housing policy that sets out a vision and action plan for addressing Australia's housing affordability crisis.

'Our Cities, Our Future' can be downloaded from [the Department of Infrastructure and Transport website](#). Source: CHFA

**Housing and homelessness services: access for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people**

The rate of homelessness for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is four times that of non-Indigenous Australians. Homeless Aboriginal Australians were almost twice as likely to sleep rough, or in improvised dwellings and shelters, than non-Aboriginal Australians. The rate of home ownership for Indigenous households was about a third compared to two-thirds for non-Aboriginal households. Aboriginal households were ten times more likely to be living in overcrowded conditions compared to non-Indigenous households. Click on the link to view the [media release](#) and [report](#).

**The health and welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: an overview 2011**

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

**Dementia among aged care residents: first information from the Aged Care Funding Instrument**

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

[Health and the environment: a compilation of evidence](#)[Juvenile justice in Australia 2008-09](#)**Documentary: *We are all just two steps from homelessness***

Each person has a different story behind their homeless experience and will challenge community perceptions about who is homeless. The participants featured are now back on their feet. Each has practical messages of hope and support for people currently experiencing homelessness.

[Link to We Are All Just Two Steps From Homelessness documentary](#)

They also make suggestions about how to end homelessness.

The DVD is accompanied by a booklet which can be downloaded [here](#)

For inquiries regarding screening opportunities or feedback please email: [2steps2homelessness@gmail.com](mailto:2steps2homelessness@gmail.com)

"I just watched the Two Steps film and am blown away at how it manages to highlight how dire homelessness is, without burrowing into hopelessness. The people it features are amazing, and the style really works to let their stories speak for themselves." Kate Cowmeadow, Deputy Executive Officer, Queensland Shelter.

**Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)**[Construction Work Done, Australia, Preliminary, Mar 2011](#)[Building Approvals, Australia, Apr 2011](#)[Dwelling approvals fall in April 2011 \(Media Release\), Apr 2011](#)[Census Media Release: National Reconciliation Week - Shedding some light on Census night \(Media Release\), 2011](#)[Family Characteristics, Australia, 2009-10](#)[Microdata: Income and Housing, Basic and Expanded CURF on CD-ROM/RADL, Australia, 2007-08 \(Re-Issue\)](#)[Production of Selected Construction Materials, Apr 2011](#)[Average Weekly Earnings, Australia, Feb 2011](#)[Demography News, May 2011](#)[Lending Finance, Australia, Mar 2011](#)[Housing Finance, Australia, Mar 2011](#)[Analytical Living Cost Indexes for Selected Australian Household Types, Mar 2011](#)[Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index, Mar 2011](#)[Production of Selected Construction Materials, Apr 2011 House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities, Mar 2011](#)[Census Media Release: 100 days until 100 years of Census taking in Australia, 2011](#)[Average Retail Prices of Selected Items, Eight Capital Cities, Mar 2011](#)[Census Media Release: Shedding some light on youth homelessness, 2011](#)[2011 Census Media Release: Census Collectors - will you be one](#)[How Australia Takes a Census, 2011](#)

## Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI)

[Final Report: No. 168: Australia's private rental market: the supply of, and demand for, affordable dwellings](#)

[Final Report: No. 166: The stigmatisation of social housing: findings from a panel investigation](#)

[Final Report: No. 165: The drivers of housing supply and demand in Australia's rural and regional centres](#)

[Final Report: No. 164: Housing, loneliness and health](#)

[Final Report: No. 163: Partnership working in the design and delivery of housing policy and programs](#)

[Final Report: No. 161: Stakeholder views of the regulation of affordable housing providers in Australia](#)

[Final Report, No. 160: Gentrification and displacement: the household impacts of neighbourhood change](#)

[Positioning Paper: No. 139: The residual income approach to housing affordability: the theory and the practice](#)

[Positioning Paper: No. 138: Bridging the divide: the experiences of low-income households excluded from the private rental sector in Australia](#)

[Positioning Paper: No. 137: Pathways and choice in a diversifying social housing system](#)

[Research and Policy Bulletin: Issue 140: Sustainability decisions in Australian households](#)

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[Research and Policy Bulletin: Issue 139: Asset poverty and older Australians' transitions into housing assistance programs](#)

[Research and Policy Bulletin: Issue 138: Housing, inequality and the role of population mobility](#)

[Research and Policy Bulletin: Issue 137: Gentrification and displacement: the household impacts of neighbourhood change](#)

[Research and Policy Bulletin: Issue 136: Reverse mortgages and older people](#)

### International alliance to end homelessness

AHURI has joined with 26 international leaders in homelessness research, policy and practice to sign the International alliance to end homelessness.

[Find out more here...](#)

### AHURI Board appointment

As Professor Linda Kristjanson steps down from the AHURI Board as director, we are pleased to announce that Professor Graeme Wright has been appointed. Professor Graeme Wright is Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research & Development at Curtin University.

[Find out more here..](#)

## WA Government Department of Housing Update

[Click here for link to the Department of Housing Update](#)

## Australian Policy Online (APO)

[www.apo.org.au](http://www.apo.org.au)

[House price indexes: eight capital cities](#) Estimates of changes in housing prices in each of the eight capital cities of Australia.

[The residual income approach to housing affordability: the theory and the practice](#) The residual income approach to housing affordability is one that looks at what different household types can afford to spend on housing after taking into account the other necessary expenditures of living.

[Report of the Inquiry into the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in Western Australia](#) The overwhelming evidence to this Inquiry was that the mental health needs of children and young people have not been afforded sufficient priority and there is an urgent need for reform in terms of both investment and focus.

[Will the budget slow the growth of disability support pension numbers?](#) We need to be clear about the nature of the problem before judging the value of new measures, writes Peter Whiteford in Inside Story

[Mind the gap](#) In Inside Story Andrew Leigh looks at evidence of growing inequality in OECD countries including Australia

[Federal budget 2011-12: Initial ACOSS analysis](#) Outlining key measures announced in the Budget in areas of interest to ACOSS members, this briefing does not offer extensive comment on the merit or otherwise of these measures.

[Global food losses and food waste](#) The issue of food losses is of high importance in the efforts to combat hunger, raise income and improve food security in the world's poorest countries.

[Performance benchmarking of Australian business regulation: planning, zoning and development assessments](#) Identifies wide-ranging differences in the ways all levels of government plan and zone land uses and assess development proposals.

[Sustainable Australia - sustainable communities](#) Outlining the Government's framework for future growth in Australia, this strategy focuses on policy settings and governance arrangements for services, job and education opportunities, housing, amenity and the environment.

[Dementia among aged care residents](#) The Aged Care Funding Instrument (ACFI) is a new tool to appraise the care needs of permanent residents in residential aged care facilities.



[Global poverty](#) Global poverty has complex causes and wide-ranging effects. In this essay Michelle Soweby examines the scale of the problem together with its impacts.

[Federal budget: the experts comment](#) Expert analysis from Saul Eslake, John Quiggin, Julian Disney, Ian Hickie, Jill Blackmore, David Black, Bob Williamson and more in this selection of comments on the budget from The Conversation.

[Ensuring the policy relevance of population health research: experiences from the Drug Policy Modelling Program](#) The Drug Policy Modelling Program takes a unique approach to tackling the illicit drug problem by aiming to improve evidence-informed policy by reducing the gap between research and policy.

[Report on government services 2011: indigenous compendium](#) This compendium contains all Indigenous data contained in the Report on Government Services 2011.

[Electricity prices: the facts](#) Cost of living pressures are front of mind for many Australians, particularly due to rising electricity prices. The following policy brief highlights and discusses the key factors behind rising electricity costs in Australia.

[The myth of the ageing crisis](#) There is little evidence that population ageing will hurt the budget, writes Ben Spies-Butcher in The Conversation

## Department of Health and Ageing (DOHA)

[Extra Funding for HACC Services in Western Australia](#)

[More Surgery and More Beds for WA Thanks to National Health Reform](#)

[Funding for Albany Community Care Respite Centre](#)

[Clinicians Taking the Lead](#)

[Better Diabetes Care, Closer to Home for Regional West Australians](#)

[2011-12 Budget Offers Greater Support for Mental Health Patients](#)

[Supporting Healthy and Resilient Children Through the AEDI](#)

[2011-12 Budget Provides Greater Access to Psychological Support](#)

[Supporting Regional Australia with Extra Funding for Community Mental Health Services](#)

[March 2011 Medicare Statistics](#)

## National Human Rights Action Plan Website

The National Human Rights Action Plan website is now online at [www.humanrightSACTIONPLAN.org.au](http://www.humanrightSACTIONPLAN.org.au).

The site has information on what a Human Rights Action Plan is, but more importantly content on 17 different human rights areas or themes. For each area we have provided NGO information about the current issues and the relevant recommendations made to Australia in the Universal Periodic Review. There are also links to submissions, news and event. The site will be used as a hub for NGOs to discuss the progress of the National Action Plan and Baseline Study (once they are released), to share ideas and to post information on work being done.

Each week we will have a guest commentary or blog on a different theme. The opening blogs are from the expert on human rights action plans, Bill Barker, and the leader of the campaign for a human rights act, Susan Ryan. In the coming weeks we will have blogs on prisoners rights, homelessness and the rights of people with mental illness planned – they are great.

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Follow us at [www.twitter.com/rightsagenda](https://www.twitter.com/rightsagenda) Join us at [www.facebook.com/HumanRightsLawResourceCentre](https://www.facebook.com/HumanRightsLawResourceCentre)

## Australian Government funded Raising Children website

The Australian Government funded Raising Children website has been expanded to provide extra support for parents of teenagers. The Network's website [www.raisingchildren.net.au](http://www.raisingchildren.net.au) is a trusted source of information for millions of Australian families with more than 18 million hits since it started in 2006. The website now contains an interactive guide which shows some tricky parent and teen situations and explores how different approaches to communicating with teenagers can get different results.

## New guidelines on premises standards

Disability Discrimination Commissioner, Graeme Innes, has released a guideline that will help building professionals and others to better understand how the Premises Standards apply to new and upgraded public buildings. The Disability (Access to Premises – buildings) Standards 2010 (the Premises Standards) commence on 1 May 2011.

Their introduction will in many cases require the development of new skills, knowledge and approaches by those in the building industry including developers, designers, architects, builders, project managers, certifiers and building operators.

The *Guideline the Premises Standards* is online at: [www.humanrights.gov.au/disability\\_rights/standards/PSguide.html](http://www.humanrights.gov.au/disability_rights/standards/PSguide.html)

## Publications - Anita's Black Book Challenge!

Most have heard of the BBC's Book Challenge listing 100 books. Ever wondered what an Indigenous list might look like, and how many books most Australians would have read in terms of home-grown Indigenous literature?

Dr Anita Heiss has put together a list of Indigenous authored books across genres: fiction, non-fiction, poetry, children's, published plays and anthologies. This list is by no means definitive, with over 5000 published Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in Australia (see Black Words), the list is endless but these are some 'must reads' that she recommends.

For Anita's 100 Black Book Choice list, visit - <http://anitaheissblog.blogspot.com/2011/04/anitas-bbc-black-book-choice-reading.html?spref=fb>

## Community Sector Services: Online Resource Coming Soon

Thanks to a Lotterywest grant, small to medium community sector organisations in urban and regional Western Australia will benefit from an online support framework now in development by Community Sector Services.

Through its website Community Sector Services (CSS) will provide resources such as:

- an online ICT helpdesk
- tools and resources
- the ability to host forums on matters relevant to the sector using social media tools.

A major online resource directory will be launched later this year, listing product and service providers specifically aimed at the not for profit sector's needs. CSS understands that smaller organisations often don't have the time or resources to seek out suppliers or compare products and price. By visiting CSS's online directory organisations will have access to providers pre-screened by CSS and offering products that align with the community sector needs and values.

CSS will also continue to provide subsidised ICT advice to assist organisations with developing ICT strategies. To date, CSS has consulted on ICT to over 50 organisations across Western Australia. Community Sector Services is a not for profit organisation acting on behalf of its members to provide products to the community services sector that improve their service delivery, support organisational sustainability and reduce operational risk.

To learn more about CSS please visit the CSS website at [www.communitysectorservices.org.au](http://www.communitysectorservices.org.au)

## The Spiers Centre: New Website

The Spiers Centre Inc (TSC) is a not-for-profit organisation that provides a variety of programs to counsel and support predominantly low income families and individuals of all ages and cultures in the northern suburbs of Perth. The Spiers Centre now has a new website that gives information about its programs and services and how to get in touch. For more information, please visit the new site at: <http://www.thespierscentre.com.au/>

## Befriend Inc: Reducing Social Isolation

The fight against social isolation has begun with Befriend Inc, a new not-for-profit organisation that aims to reduce social isolation across the Perth metropolitan area. The organisation, founded by a group of young adults passionate about promoting social inclusion, creates opportunities for people to form friendships naturally through sharing meaningful experiences together as a social group. In its first year, the organisation has attracted over 140 new members, and started 11 social club groups. Befriend Inc's social club groups are open to all adults and free to join. Members are grouped together with 6-8 other members with similar interests who live in their area.

The social club groups catch up once/fortnight to do all kinds of things including going for coffee, out for meals, to the movies, to the pub, bowling, watching sports games, etc. The choice of what to do is completely up to the members of the group. Befriend Inc also organises larger events for all Befriend members, friends, family and community members including a monthly Sunday Sizzle BBQ, a music/dance night, and the annual Befriend Ball.

The organisation is seeking more members to join its social club groups and volunteers to help out in a variety of roles. Check out [www.befriend.org.au](http://www.befriend.org.au) for more information, or call 0404 831 201. Every person has the capacity to be a friend, brightening your life and someone else's.

A key characteristic of Befriend Inc is that it is not designed to service a specific population group. Many social / recreational services are for a specific population group (eg people with disabilities, people with mental illness, people with AOD problems, etc) which perpetuates the idea that these groups should be kept segregated from the rest of society. Befriend Inc is open to anyone and everyone, promoting social inclusion. We value independence and initiative - the choice of what to do is up to the members of the group to decide and organise as a group, just like a natural group of friends.

# Conferences, Events and Workshops 2011

## Workshops - Age-Old Grief - June & July 2011

In the 1950s and 1960s many single and married women whose babies were stillborn were not permitted to see or talk about their babies after giving birth and have continued to grieve privately throughout their lives. To allow these women an opportunity to tell their stories, to grieve openly and to talk about contemporary attitudes to grief towards the death of a baby, Sue Kennedy will be running two workshops on the following dates:

**14 June:** 10am – 12pm and **12 July:** 10am - 12pm. Morning tea will be provided.

Groups are facilitated by Sue Kennedy, a counsellor with SIDS & Kids WA in Kensington. Age group: Adults only.

For more information and to register please phone: 9474 3533 or email: [suekennedy@sidsandkids.wa.org](mailto:suekennedy@sidsandkids.wa.org)

## Not-for-profit Regulation: The Challenge of Striking a Balance

Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard has formally recognised Australia's A\$50 billion not-for-profit (NFP) sector with an office in her department dedicated to creating the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission, the one-stop regulator for nonprofit organisations formally announced in the 2011 federal budget .... [read more](#).

## Men in Black Ball - 18 June 2011

Ernie Dingo, one of Australia's most well known personalities will support this year's Men in Black Ball, fundraising for Men's Advisory Network. Ernie Dingo said male depression across the community is a huge issue and he is very honoured and happy to support this event.

Former Fremantle Dockers player, Heath Black, will also support the event. Heath will share his personal journey with depression, the challenges he faced and will pre-launch his book, titled 'Black', on the night. His story has been featured in media nationwide.

The event is only weeks away, so stand by your man and join in the fight against male depression by bringing him to the Men in Black Ball on 18 June. Tickets are available from [www.momentumwf.com.au](http://www.momentumwf.com.au)

## 5th National Disability Awards – Closes 30 June 2011

Australians are encouraged to nominate individuals and organisations that make a positive contribution to the lives of people with disability for the fifth annual National Disability Awards. The Awards recognise organisations and individuals from many sectors that provide opportunities for full inclusion, access and participation for people with disability.

**Nominations close 30 June 2011.** For more information please [click here](#) for the media release.

## Communities and Families Clearing House

A new CAFCA Practice Sheet entitled [What role can child and family services play in enhancing opportunities for parents and families: Exploring the concepts of social exclusion and social inclusion](#) is available now on the CAFCA website.

This Practice Sheet draws upon research to provide practitioners and policy-makers with ideas about how the concept of social inclusion can be used to plan and deliver child and family services in ways that enhance opportunities for parents and families. All [CAFCA Practice and Resource Sheets](#) are freely available on the CAFCA website.

CAFCA welcomes comments and suggestions from subscribers about current publications or ideas for future publications. If you would like to provide comments and suggestions please email them at: [aifs-cafca@aifs.gov.au](mailto:aifs-cafca@aifs.gov.au) or call on: (03) 9214 7888.

## A new book on "Women and the Law"

ACT Australian of the Year 2010 and editor of the book, Patricia Easteal AM, looks at the unique issues women in Australia face obtaining access to justice due to gender roles and inequality. Chapters on Indigenous Women, Domestic Violence, and Women in Prison discuss their experiences.

This book is an excellent resource for legal practitioners, community workers, policy makers and members of the general public interested in practical steps they can take to redress the often invisible biases that permeate the legal system.

Professor Easteal has provided a 25 minute video cast discussing her book and some of the issues it delves into. You can watch the video here: <http://vimeo.com/23787284>

If you are interested in purchasing copies of *Women and the Law in Australia* for yourself or your organisation, you can do so here: <http://www.lexisnexis.com/store/catalog/productdetail.jsp?prodId=prod12600347>

For more information contact: Emma at the Women's Law Centre: [projects@wlcwa.org.au](mailto:projects@wlcwa.org.au)



## National Men's Health Gathering 19-22 September 2011

Earlybird registrations close on 17 June 2011

19 - 22 September, 2011. Pan Pacific Hotel, Perth, 207 Adelaide Terrace, Perth, WA 6000

For details: [www.workingwithmen.org.au](http://www.workingwithmen.org.au)

The Gathering will incorporate:

- 9th National Men's Health Conference.
- 6th National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Male Health Convention
- 5th National Men and Family Relationships Forum

The 2011 National Men's Health Gathering provides a chance for delegates to participate in strengthening the advancement of male health in the Australasian region and beyond through effective strategic planning and knowledge management.

You are invited to participate as a Sponsor in the National Men's Health Gathering 2011. The Gathering will provide your organisation with excellent opportunities to promote your products and services and take advantage of an event that will have strong community interest and media coverage.

## TGA Launches New Website

The Australian community's access to authoritative information about the safety of medicines and medical devices will be greatly enhanced with the launch of a revamped Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) website.

[Click here to view the full media release](#)

## Conferences, Events and Workshops 2011

**Reconciliation Week** 27 May – 3 June. For more info visit [Reconciliation Australia](#).

**Australasian Therapeutic Communities Association (ATCA) Annual [International Conference: Therapeutic Communities Today - No Closed Doors](#)** (Fremantle) 30 May - 3 June.

**Connecting Up [Conference Reboot Your Nonprofit](#)** (Melbourne) 1-3 June

**St Vinnie's [CEO Sleepout](#)** (National) 16 June

**Drug and Alcohol Nurses of Australia (DANA) [Conference](#)** (Melbourne) 15-17 June

**Refugee [Week](#)** (National) 19-25 June

**Australasian Housing Institute (AHI) 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Leadership [Retreat New Perspectives](#)** (Townsville, QLD) 20-23 June

**Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander [Housing & Community-Centred Planning Closing the Gap by building stronger communities](#)** (Brisbane) 21-22 June

**2<sup>nd</sup> Biennial National Homelessness [Summit](#)** (Sydney) 23-24 June

**6<sup>th</sup> Annual Housing [Congress](#)**, (Brisbane) 28-29 June

**NAIDOC [Week](#)** (National) 3-10 July

**Australian Social Policy [Conference Social Policy in a Complex World](#)** (Sydney) 6-8 July

**Primary Health Care Research [Conference](#)** (Brisbane) 13-15 July

**The Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Research [Conference](#)** (Melbourne) 14-15 July

**5<sup>th</sup> Annual Australian Women's Leadership [Symposium](#)** (Perth) 20-21 July

**WA Family Therapy Association [Symposium: Family Therapy in the Tapestry of Clinical Practice](#)** (Bentley, Perth) 29 July

**National Homeless Persons' [Week, My Address: diversity in homelessness](#)** 1-7 August

**WA Rural and Remote Mental Health [Conference](#)** (Newman, WA) 9-11 August

**Garma Festival** (Gulkula, NT) 5-8 August. Info is also available at [www.yyf.com.au](http://www.yyf.com.au). Deadline for bookings 22 July.

International Unity in Diversity [Conference Media, Marginality & Diversity](#) (Townsville, QLD) 18-19 August

ConnectGroups, Self Help & Support Groups [Awareness Day](#) (WA) 8 September

2011 State Regional Arts [Conference Open Your Eyes](#) (Geraldton) 13–16 September

National Men's Health [Gathering](#) (Perth), 19 - 22 September

AHURI 7<sup>th</sup> National Housing [Conference](#) (Brisbane) 20-23 September

Public Health Association Australia (PHAA) 41<sup>st</sup> Annual [Conference](#) (Brisbane) 26-28 September

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting [CHOGM](#) (Perth) 28-30 October

[World Homeless Day](#) (International) 10 October

Youth Health 2011: *It's totally important*, 8<sup>th</sup> Australian & NZ Adolescent Health [Conference](#) (Sydney) 9-11 November

The Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs (APSAD) [Conference](#) (Hobart) 13–16 November. .

Social Inclusion Week (National) 19-27 November [Website](#)

Yfoundations Annual [Conference](#) *Creating a future without youth homelessness* (Sydney) 22-24 November

## Media Statements/Releases

West Australian Council of Social Services (WACOSS)

[www.wacoss.org.au](http://www.wacoss.org.au)

### State Affordable Housing Strategy Broadly Welcomed

The Strategy has been broadly welcomed by the community sector. [Click here](#) to read this article in full

### WACOSS Appaulds Landmark Funding Decision Thursday 19th May 2011

The Barnett Government's 2011/12 Budget has delivered a landmark decision that will protect the critical services upon which our communities rely. [Click here](#) to read the media release in full

### Federal Budget Takes With One Hand to Give With the Other 10th May

"The WA Council of Social Service has welcomed some great initiatives in the Federal Budget released by the Treasurer this evening, but has serious misgivings about the inconsistent budget measures and the impact they will have on disadvantaged Western Australians," says WACOSS CEO, Irina Cattalini. [Click here](#) to read the full media release

## WA State Government

[Warmun homes built in record time](#)

[Seven new infrastructure projects announced for the Pilbara](#)

[Twenty seven specialists appointed to development assessment panels](#)

[Government and industry move to increase affordable housing in WA](#)

[State Budget 2011-12: More housing for people with disability](#)

[Opening of Kath French Secure Care Centre signals start of quality care services for State's most vulnerable young people](#)

[State Budget 2011-12: \\$39million increase for child protection services](#)

[State Budget 2011-12: Building the State \(Peel\)](#)

[State Budget 2011-12: Building the State \(East Metropolitan\)](#)

[State Budget 2011-12: Building the State \(North Metropolitan\)](#)

[State Budget 2011-12: Building the State \(South Metropolitan\)](#)

[State Budget 2011-12: \(Households\)](#)

[State Budget 2011-12: \(Royalties for Regions\)](#)

[State Budget 2011-12: \(Transport\) - Massive injection to build WA's road, rail and bus networks](#)

[State Budget 2011-12: Investing now to keep the growth going into the future](#)

[State Budget 2011-12: \(Social Housing\) - People with the greatest need set to move into their own homes](#)

[State Budget 2011-12: Building the State \(\\$1billion Social Services Package to support those in need\)](#)

[State Budget 2011-12: Delivering major social infrastructure for future generations](#)

[Grant to provide long-term accommodation for residents with mental illness](#)

[Local governments focused on future challenges](#)

[New laws to tackle anti-social behaviour by tenants in public housing](#)

[Minister opens new Department for Child Protection office in Fitzroy Crossing](#)

[RDAP brings more residential land to Wheatbelt towns](#)

[Land transfer benefits Mingullatharndo community within the Shire of Roebourne](#)

[Consumer champions wanted: applications called for WA's consumer advisory committee](#)

[Local government forum planning for future decades](#)

[Affordable Housing Strategy opens more doors](#)

[\\$4million boost to fight crime and help victims](#)

[Entertainment Centre demolition makes way for Perth City Link](#)

[Minister honours volunteers' efforts at National Volunteers Week Gala Dinner](#)

[Strong business confidence to drive demand for regional industrial land](#)

[New Women's Health and Family Services for Northbridge](#)

[New appointment to Heritage Council](#)

[State Government working to support international students living in WA](#)

[Minister announces appointment of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage consultant](#)

[National Volunteer Week marked with release of State strategy](#)

[Grant to provide long-term accommodation for residents with mental illness](#)

[Broome North house and land packages to deliver more choice](#)

[New suburb honours Australian motoring legend](#)

[Roebourne's transformation begins](#)

## WA Greens Party

[Senator Scott Ludlam's questions to the Senate Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities Committee:](#)

- [NRAS](#),
- [Housing Supply](#) and
- [Sustainable Communities](#)

[Gillard's welfare policies more rubbery than her figures](#)

[New approach, not re-badged intervention needed for the NT](#)

## WA Labour Party

[Catastrophic drop in land supply](#)

[Barnett's secret tax coming to a rates notice soon](#)

[Barnett's budget rests on a house of sand](#)

[Ethnic funding must be restored in State Budget](#)

[State budget must address police housing needs in country WA](#)

[Barnett blows \\$18 million on office fitouts in 11 months](#)

[Indigenous affairs needs to be urgently addressed](#)

[Barnett must end Roe Highway extension bungle](#)



[Sorry Day stands as a reminder of the need to do more](#)

[Wanjina-Wunggurr Uunguu native title recognition](#)

[Budget to provide more support to students with disabilities | Prime Minister of Australia](#)

[Community input on household assistance - The Hon Jenny Macklin MP](#)

[Australia's social policy agenda centre stage at OECD - The Hon Jenny Macklin MP](#)

[Attorney General's Department - 1st May 2011 - New national building standards to improve accessibility for people with disability](#)

[Helping young people transition from out-of-home care - The Hon Jenny Macklin MP](#)

## Useful links

Homelessness Australia [Newsletter](#)

[Community Housing Federation Australia](#)

[Tenants Advice Service WA](#)

[Housing Industry Association Ltd](#)

[Real Estate Institute of Australia \(REIA\)](#)

[Homeless Information Clearing House](#)

[Community Housing Coalition WA \(CHCWA\)](#)

[WACOSS](#)

[Australasian Housing Institute](#)

[Real Estate Institute of WA \(REIWA\)](#)

### Shelter WA 2011 Newsletter & Update Publications

Shelter WA publishes a quarterly newsletter and monthly updates and welcomes your input.

We accept articles, reports, new housing related and support services, and are happy to promote events, training etc.

The deadline for contributions for Shelter WA's June Update is **23 June**

If you have any questions or require further information contact Stephanie at Shelter on 9325 6660 or email [cdpo@shelterwa.org.au](mailto:cdpo@shelterwa.org.au)

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