



Shelter WA Update

September 2010

Shelter WA and Aboriginal Legal Service of WA Joint Submission on Indigenous Home Ownership

Shelter WA and the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia (ALSWA) jointly responded to the Indigenous Home Ownership Issues Paper prepared and distributed by the Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA). In compiling the submission we drew from the National Shelter Aboriginal housing forum and resulting Policy Platform; United Nations human rights reports and other data; and reported the findings of the Shelter WA Indigenous Home Ownership survey. Shelter WA thanks all those people who took the time to participate, we appreciate your input. Shelter WA and ALSWA recognise the benefits that home ownership can confer on Aboriginal peoples and this submission outlines recommendations to promote and support home ownership amongst Aboriginal peoples.

A copy of the submission is available on our website www.shelterwa.org.au or [here](#)

Shelter WA Non-Government Affordable Housing Alliance Meeting, Tuesday, 12th October 2010

Shelter WA together with the Community Housing Coalition of WA (CHCWA) and the Tenants Advice Service WA (TAS), are members of the Housing Advisory Roundtable chaired by the Department of Housing. The purpose of this Roundtable when it was formed was to provide strategic and policy oversight and a two-way communication and consultation mechanism between the non-government sector and the Department of Housing.

The rate of change and speed in which new initiatives in housing, policy and programs are being implemented has limited the ability of members of this Roundtable to be pro-active in seeking feedback from our stakeholders and members and actively promoting the interests of those we represent. Shelter, CHCWA and TAS wish to address this gap by bringing together representatives from the peak bodies, agencies and service providers concerned with the provision of affordable housing and associated services for those most vulnerable in our community.

The purposes of this Alliance meeting are to:

- create an Alliance of non-government peaks and service providers who are impacted by housing policy; and
- discuss mechanisms and strategies to best inform housing policy in WA, and especially how this Alliance can influence the HART Committee and the WA Council on Homelessness;
- respond collectively to the high volume of State Government policy and service initiatives resulting from the Social Housing Taskforce and the Commonwealth National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA) and National Partnership Agreements (NPA).

In particular, we want to be prepared to respond to several major changes coming up that will affect affordable housing organisations and service providers in WA:

- The soon to be released State Affordable Housing Strategy
- The impending not-for-profit Housing Growth Strategy
- Changes to the WA Residential Tenancies Act (RTA)
- Aboriginal Housing (i.e. including changes to Indigenous Community Housing Organisations and the roll out of the RTA in remote WA)

[A copy of the invitation is available here](#)

New Federal Ministers for Housing

Tanya Plibersek is no longer the Federal Minister for Housing. She will be taking on new Ministerial roles for Human Services and Social Inclusion. Shelter WA acknowledges her valuable input as Housing Minister. Housing will now be split between two portfolios with two Ministers. Senator Mark Arbib will now be responsible for Social Housing and Homelessness, and Minister Tony Burke will be taking on the Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio (that includes the National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS) and the Housing Affordability Fund).

Boarders and Lodgers Forum, International Tenancy Day, Monday, 4th October 2010

The Tenants Advice Service and the Interagency Boarder and Lodger Campaign Working Party bring to you as part of the International Tenancy Day: 'A Forum on Getting Law Reform for Boarders & Lodgers'. Boarders and lodgers are currently not protected under tenancy law in WA. This Forum is an opportunity to raise the issues and make recommendations for creating better consumer protection laws. Registration is essential. For more information visit www.taswa.org or [click here for flyer](#)

AIHW Media Release: Social housing helps over 400,000 households

About 406,000 households were being assisted by social housing nationally in June 2009, according to a report released on 23 September 2010 by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). The report, *A profile of social housing in Australia*, provides an overview of the different social housing programs that were provided under the most recent Commonwealth State Housing Agreement (CSHA), which was in place from 2003 to 2008, and the first six months of the National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA), which was introduced in January 2009. Click on the links to view the [media release](#) and [report](#).

Is life in Australia getting better?

The ABS recently released its Measures of Australia's Progress 2010 report (MAP). The MAP reports on numerous indicators across society, the economy and the environment. The report shows that there has been little improvement in housing outcomes in the previous decade. Key findings include:

- Rental affordability for low income households (that is the proportion of housing costs to gross income for low income renters) has remained constant over the past 10 years (28% in 1997-98 and 27% in 2007-08).
- The proportion of low income renter households in rental stress has remained fairly constant over the past 10 years (36% in both 1997-98 and 2007-08). The proportion of low income private renter households in rental stress declined from 55% in 1997-98 to 44% in 2007-08. Over the same period the proportion of low income public renter households in rental stress increased from 5% to 17%.
- The proportion of homes sold that were affordable to moderate income households declined from 36% in 2003-04 to 27% in 2007-08.
- The price of established houses in the capital cities rose by almost half (46%) between 2002-03 and 2008-09, with prices increasing at an average of 6.5% per year. Over this period, prices generally rose from quarter to quarter with the exception of fluctuations in 2004 and 2005, and four quarters of decline beginning in the June quarter of 2008. The recent decline in house prices was, in part, due to a wider slowdown in the economy as a result of the global financial crisis.

Click here to download the report [ABS Measures of Australia's Progress 2010 Report](#)

Latest AHURI Publications

What future for public housing? A critical analysis. Report available [here](#)

Pathways from out of home care. Report available [here](#)

Housing implications of economic, social, and spatial change. Final report available [here](#)

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 AGM (Thursday 21 October 2010) and Nominations to the Management Committee

Shelter WA's AGM will be held on Thursday, 21 October 2010 from 2pm at Claisebrook Lotteries House, Conference Room, 33 Moore St, East Perth. 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 3rd Tuesday of every month in Claisebrook Lotteries House.

Please phone 9325 6660 or alternatively email exec@shelterwa.org.au for further information.

Conferences and Workshops

International Tenancy Day, Boarders & Lodgers [Forum](#) (Perth) 4 October

Mental Health Week (WA) 10 – 16 October 2010, [events information](#)

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

Anti-Poverty Week 17 - 23 October [Events](#)

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

Seniors Week (WA) 31 October – 7 November 2010, [Events](#)

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

Homeless Connect Perth 17 November [Info](#)

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

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

International Human Rights Day 1 December [Info](#)

International Day of People with Disability 3 December [Info](#)

