

## **SHELTER WA's RECENT ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS**

### **Western Australian NGO Affordable Housing Stakeholder Alliance:**

Shelter WA (SWA) together with the Tenants Advice Service (TAS) and the Community Housing Coalition of WA (CHCWA) held a consultation and engagement forum/workshop on the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2010.

We have been progressing this work internally and looking at implementing the suggestions that were made for stronger collaboration and integration between us and our membership and networks. We have also clarified and strengthened links with the WA Council on Homelessness and our voice and role in the Housing Advisory Roundtable (HART) convened by the Department of Housing.

Please find below a brief synopsis of where we are at and what will be happening in weeks to come.

#### **Outcomes and key points from 12 October 2010 meeting:**

- Information sources are multiple and adequate
- Opportunities to have input into government policy development and evaluation is currently limited or non-existent
- Not enough time given to consultation and engagement process by government
- Smaller organisations don't feel adequately represented or that they "have a voice" or capacity to advocate, unlike larger organisations with direct links to government who are often approached by government for input
- Need for peaks to communicate more effectively with member organisations and coordinate actions and responses
- Peaks need to be working at a ministerial level
- Need to strengthen existing structures rather than creating something new

#### **Since the meeting on 12/10/11 the NGO Alliance Key Stakeholders have:**

- Met with Anna Paris from the WA Council on Homelessness (WACH) to forge stronger links, understand the terms of reference of the WACH and explore integration, opportunities for input and information sharing;
- Discussed a variety of issues & policy engagement at Housing Advisory Roundtable (HART) meeting 1/11/10
- Been notified that the State Affordable Housing Strategy is scheduled to be released in December 2010.

#### **Where to from here / future actions:**

Currently SWA, CHCWA and TAS are formulating an action plan to guide the efforts of the NGO Housing Alliance. Some actions include:

- NGO Housing Alliance Key Stakeholders (SWA, TAS, CHCWA and WACOSS) will meet regularly to coordinate input to relevant committees, including the Housing Advisory Roundtable.
- Alliance Stakeholder organisations to improve processes for consultation with members and provide more opportunities for involvement – invitation in electronic communications for network members to identify practical and service issues, implementation progress, linkages
- Development of the NGO Housing Alliance aims, scope, purpose and terms of reference
- Generate a timeline with key events and dates for the NGO Housing Alliance to be prepared to collectively respond to; these include:
  - Release of State Affordable Housing Strategy - December 2010
  - Review of the Residential Tenancies Act 1987 (RTA) anticipated for 2011
  - Next HART meeting (January 2011) and prior to each meeting to inform HART agenda
  - WA Council on Homelessness (State Plan - Opening Doors)

1. Shelter WA Recent Activities and Events	2. National Shelter Meeting 26 & 27 November
3. Exploring Consumer Protections for WA's Boarders & Lodgers	4. Shelter WA Housing & Economics Forum & TASWA State Tenancy Conference
5. Fair Trading Bill 2010	6. Conferences and Events
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## National Shelter Meeting Hobart November 26-27

The State and Territory Shelter organisation Executive Officers recently came together in Tasmania for our National Shelter face-to-face and AGM. Western Australia continues to perform well against the other states in regards implementing the reforms, new services and initiatives of the National Partnership Agreements on Social Housing and Homelessness, with WA one of only a small number of State and Territory jurisdiction to have fulfilled the upgrades, new buildings and renovation targets and deadlines set by FaHCSIA under these funding agreements.

National Shelter work over the coming year 2011-2012 will include:

- Looking at rent setting models and frameworks in public and community housing, nationally and state-by-state
- Exploring the regulation and registration of Community Housing Organisations and monitoring the form that a nationally consistent regulatory system may take – following the FaHCSIA consultation around regulation of Community Housing Organisations that closed in June 2010
- Monitoring and supporting work to strengthen state based Residential Tenancies Legislation toward a nationally consistent consumer protection framework
- Completing a national project looking at Marginal Tenancies across the country – including the variety of models addressing security of tenure issues for caravan park residents, boarders, lodgers and rooming house tenants.
- Monitoring the data collection model to be introduced that will replace SMART (the NDCA minimum data set for former SAAP services)
- Revisiting the tax review paper of 2009 (the Henry Report), to explore taxation models and consequent implications in relation to the way housing is treated in the Australian Tax System.
- Monitoring the 2011 Census preparation and implementation regarding **'Counting the Homeless'** as this data and the definitions of homelessness (Primary, Secondary and Tertiary) will have a direct bearing of number evidence for States reporting against homelessness reduction targets identified in the NPA's Homelessness and Social Housing.
- Monitoring the work being done with Homelessness Australia around 'exits to homelessness' particularly from health facilities – hospitals, psychiatric units, corrections and incarceration facilities and Child Protection services (foster care and out-of-home care services)

## Exploring Consumer Protections for WA's Boarders & Lodgers

Shelter WA is working with TAS and a number of other agencies progress work toward the reform and strengthening of consumer protections for Western Australian citizens who are in tenures identifying them as Boarders and Lodgers. In WA there is no consumer protections for these people and very little by way of ensuring adequate standards of facilities in premises and buildings that operate in this way. We are aware of several residential houses in inner city and middle ring suburbs that house 6 or more unrelated individuals that are neither registered by the local government authority, nor any other state jurisdiction, and that pose significant consumer protection and safety concerns for the vulnerable people they house. International students are a particular cohort who is accommodated in these unregulated forms of tenure, and for whom the certainty of lease agreements and minimum conditions would greatly improve their ability to study in WA and contribute financially to the economy and community.

At a recent meeting of the Boarders and Lodgers working group it was agreed that:

- Legislative Reform is the main objective of the working group
- Need to balance the interests of both consumers and providers of boarders and lodgers accommodation.
- Working group is concerned that having too many objectives may hinder the progress/focus of the working group. Looking into supply may also involve more organisations which includes department of housing, department of planning.
- The question of supply of additional housing needs more debate. It should be ancillary to the main objective, which is Legislative Reform. "Supply issues" will be a consideration by the working group and not an objective.
- The Fair Trading Act provides for the enforcement of compulsory codes of conduct for certain industries. There can be other reforms done to charters/regulations/best practices/building standards.

### Shelter WA Forums

#### *Housing Economics and Planning: Local responses to the need for affordable housing*

Thank you to all of those who participated in Shelter WA's recent workshops on housing economics and planning.

Presentations from the workshop are now available on our website at [www.shelterwa.org.au/forums.html](http://www.shelterwa.org.au/forums.html). We will be compiling a document on the myths and facts about affordable housing, which will be available in the first part of 2011.

If you would like to be informed of upcoming events and new resources, please join our mailing list here [http://www.shelterwa.org.au/SWA\\_update.html#members](http://www.shelterwa.org.au/SWA_update.html#members)

Speakers and topics were:

**Dr. Steven Rowley**, Director of the Housing and Urban Research Institute of WA

*Housing Economics: The costs and benefits of delivering affordable housing*

**Dr. Shane Greive**, Lecturer in Urban and Regional Planning at Curtin University

*Effective planning mechanisms to promote diversity in housing size and cost*

**Julian Wright**, Senior Strategic Housing Officer with the City of Perth

*Implementing local housing initiatives: Affordable housing for key workers in the City of Perth*

#### **Change of Accommodation for National Rental Affordability Scheme**

The National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS) will be relocating to Lovett Tower in Woden on 6 December 2010.

Their new postal address will be:

National Rental Affordability Scheme  
PO Box 787  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

The NRAS general enquiries number remains the same (1800 334 505) as does the NRAS helpdesk (1300 911 235).

They will advise of their new fax number and amended email addresses as soon as possible.

#### **Tenants Advice Service WA, State Tenancy Conference**

A Conference about matters related to tenancy issues - such as tenancy law, advocacy and support of tenants. For those who provide tenancy support, advocacy, consumer protection, information or advice on anything to do with tenancy.

**7 & 8 December 2010**, Ibis Hotel, 334 Murray Street, Perth  
[Registration details](#)

### Debate,

#### **'Public Housing is a Dinosaur!'**

2:45pm, Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December,  
Ruby Room at IBIS Hotel, 334 Murray Street, Perth.

The teams will be as follows;

#### *Affirmative:*

Kathleen Gregory, CEO, Foundation Housing  
Tammy Solonec, Managing Solicitor, Law & Advocacy Unit,  
Aboriginal Legal Service  
Ian Carter, CEO, Anglicare WA

#### *Negative:*

Penny Carr, Executive Officer, Queensland Tenants Union  
Bronwyn Kitching, Executive Officer, Shelter WA  
Matt Berry, Senior Tenant Advocate, Tenants Advice Service Inc.

Paul Hill, the Solicitor at TAS, will be the moderator and chair for the debate.

#### **Important Consumer Protection Legislation**

Two important pieces of legislation passed through the Western Australian State Parliament on Thursday 25 November 2010 that will have a fundamental impact on consumer protection laws and administration in Western Australia.

#### **Fair Trading Bill 2010 (WA)**

The first piece of legislation is the Fair Trading Bill 2010 (WA). The Fair Trading Bill 2010 (WA) still needs to receive Royal Assent to become an Act and a proclamation is then required to bring this Act into operation, however, it is intended that these actions will be completed in time for the *Fair Trading Act 2010 (WA)* to come into operation in Western Australia on 1 January 2011.

The Commonwealth's Australian Consumer Law will also come into operation on 1 January 2011.

The Fair Trading Bill 2010 was amended during its passage through the Legislative Council and, therefore, the Bill is in some respects different to the Bill which the Government introduced into Parliament on 22 September 2010.

The *Fair Trading Act 2010 (WA)* will achieve the following three key outcomes:

- a) it will implement the new, nationally uniform Australian Consumer Law in Western Australia as the Australian Consumer Law (WA);
- b) it will replace the current *Consumer Affairs Act 1971 (WA)*, the *Door to Door Trading Act 1987 (WA)* and the *Fair Trading Act 1987 (WA)*; and
- c) it will continue the role of Commissioner for Consumer Protection; however it makes a number of changes to the powers of the Commissioner.

The Act provides that the Australian Consumer Law as set out in Schedule 2 to the Commonwealth's *Competition and*

*Consumer Act 2010* (the re-named *Trade Practices Act 1974*) as in force when the Act commences, will apply as a law of Western Australia, to be known as the Australian Consumer Law (WA).

Future amendments to Schedule 2 to the Commonwealth's *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* made by the Commonwealth, will not apply in Western Australia unless and until separate amendments are made to the *Fair Trading Act 2010 (WA)* to apply those Commonwealth amendments as a law of Western Australia.

Regulations relevant to the Commonwealth's Australian Consumer Law will automatically apply in Western Australia but they will be subject to disallowance by the Western Australian Parliament as if they were regulations made in Western Australia.

The Australian Consumer Law (WA) effectively replaces the consumer protection laws currently contained in the *Fair Trading Act 1987 (WA)* and the *Door to Door Trading Act 1987 (WA)* and the product safety laws currently contained in both the *Consumer Affairs Act 1971 (WA)* and the *Fair Trading Act 1987 (WA)*. Much of the existing law is retained and will be familiar to those who are familiar with the current laws. However, there are a number of important new provisions in the Australian Consumer Law. These include:

- entirely new provisions relating to unfair contract terms;
- new provisions in relation to "consumer guarantees", which replace, with enhancements, existing provisions relating to implied conditions and statutory warranties;
- changes to the unconscionable conduct provisions;
- specific new provisions regulating false and misleading representations in relation to testimonials and statutory consumer guarantees;
- new obligations for those traders that offer rebates, gifts, prizes etc;
- new obligations for traders in relation to accepting payment in advance for goods and services;
- a new, express protection for consumers from any obligation to pay for unsolicited services;
- where goods have more than one displayed price, traders will be under a new obligation to sell the goods at the lowest price or withdraw the item from sale;
- new obligations for traders in relation to the advertising of goods or services to include a single price, including taxes and other charges;
- new requirements in relation to lay by agreements, including an obligation on traders to provide written lay by agreements;
- a new obligation on traders to provide consumers with receipts for purchases of goods or services over \$75 and a right for consumers to require a receipt (within a reasonable timeframe) for goods or services less than \$75;
- a new right for consumers to require traders to provide an itemised bill for any services; and

- some documents required to be provided by traders to consumers will need to be "transparent", requiring them to be expressed in clear language, be legible and be presented clearly.

The existing door to door trading laws will be replaced by new laws covering "unsolicited consumer agreements", which include both door to door transactions and, in certain circumstances, telephone sales.

Product safety laws will remain essentially the same, however, the administration of product safety laws will be subject to some changes, including that only the Commonwealth Minister will be able to make safety standards for consumer goods or product related services and only the Commonwealth Minister will be able to impose a permanent ban on consumer goods or product related services.

Maximum penalties have been increased and there are a range of new remedies and enforcement actions provided for, including civil pecuniary penalties and substantiation notices.

The *Fair Trading Act 2010 (WA)* preserves the power to make State specific codes of practice, and continues on the existing codes of practice in place for the retirement village industry and the fitness industry. There are, however, some changes to the way in which such codes are made and enforced.

The *Fair Trading Act 2010 (WA)* continues the role of Commissioner for Consumer Protection, however it makes a number of changes to the powers of the Commissioner. The most important of these is that the Commissioner will have a new power to institute or defend legal proceedings on behalf of a business where a matter of public interest is involved.

#### **Acts Amendment (Fair Trading) Bill 2010 (WA)**

The second piece of legislation is the Acts Amendment (Fair Trading) Bill 2010 (WA).

This Bill contains a number of amendments that are consequential to the enactment of the Fair Trading Act 2010 (WA) but it also contains important changes to occupational licensing within the Consumer Protection portfolio.

The Acts Amendment (Fair Trading) Bill 2010 (WA) also still needs to receive Royal Assent to become an Act and a proclamation is then required to bring this Act into operation, however, it is intended that these actions will be completed in time for the provisions relevant to the *Fair Trading Act 2010 (WA)* to come into operation in Western Australia on 1 January 2011. Other provisions will come into operation later in 2011.

The most significant changes contained in this Bill are those that will transfer the functions of four statutory licensing boards to the Commissioner for Consumer Protection and the Department of Commerce.

The licensing boards affected are: the Land Valuers Licensing Board, the Motor Vehicle Industry Board, the Real Estate and Business Agents Supervisory Board and the Settlement Agents Supervisory Board.

The licensing functions of these boards will be vested in the Commissioner for Consumer Protection. The employing and

financial responsibilities of these boards will be vested in the Director General of the Department of Commerce.

To preserve industry input into the licensing functions, the Bill will establish a Motor Vehicle Industry Advisory Committee and a Property Industry Advisory Committee. In addition, the Bill establishes a new Consumer Advisory Committee to provide general advice to the Minister and the Commissioner for Consumer Protection.

It is currently intended that the licensing boards affected by this Bill will be wound up on 30 June 2011. It is expected that the new advisory committees will come into operation in the first half of 2011.

The other significant change to licensing implemented by this Bill relates to motor vehicle dealing. The Bill inserts a new deeming provision into the Motor Vehicle Dealers Act 1973 (WA) that will provide a rebuttable statutory presumption that a person who sells or exchanges four or more motor vehicles in a 12 month period is carrying on the business of dealing in motor vehicles and, therefore, will be required to be a licensed motor vehicle dealer. A range of exemptions will be prescribed by regulations to avoid capturing persons such as legitimate collectors. It is expected that these new provisions will come into operation in the first half of 2011.

These two pieces of legislation represent fundamental changes to consumer laws and administration in Western Australia.

Stakeholders affected by these laws may need to seek separate advice on the implications of the changes on their activities.

The Department of Commerce and the relevant licensing boards will provide more information on the changes in the coming weeks and months.

In the meantime, further information on the Australian Consumer Law can be found at [www.consumerlaw.gov.au](http://www.consumerlaw.gov.au) or [www.commerce.wa.gov.au](http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au).

### Questions on Notice - Question No. 2754

Friday, 26 November 2010 SENATE 67. The following answers to questions were circulated:

Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs: Program Funding **Senator Scullion** asked the Minister representing the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, upon notice, on 15 March 2010: With reference to the Council of Australian Governments' resolution to renegotiate the funding arrangements pertaining to the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing, as at 1 March 2010:

- a) what funding has been provided to each state and territory government through this agreement; and
- b) how many houses have been constructed by each state and territory government through this agreement.

**Senator Arbib**—The Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs has provided the following answer to the Honourable Senator's question:

- a) The National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing (NPARIH) provides a total national allocation of \$5.5 billion over the period of the agreement. The actual total allocations for each state and territory are subject to an ongoing competitive bids process subject to delivery of new house, rebuild and refurbishment targets.
- b) In 2009-10, 316 new houses and 828 refurbishments were delivered across Australia (see table below). As at 22 October 2010, the most recent reports by jurisdictions stated that a further 36 new houses and 358 refurbishments have been delivered under the NPARIH this financial year and 165 new houses and 338 refurbishments are also underway.

2009-10 NPARIH New Housing Delivery

Jurisdiction	New Housing PBS Targets	New Houses Completed	Refurbishment PBS Targets	Refurbishments Completed
NSW	50	58	50	2
QLD	65	46	150	152
SA	44	33	63	61
WA	75	78	150	150
TAS	2	0	12	12
NT	60	67	152	344
Other Delivery	24	34	10	107
<b>Total</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>828</b>

### Fremantle Street Doctor - new session

Fremantle Street Doctor is now operating a new session, **Thursday, 6-9pm at Cockburn Youth Services.**

The Street Doctor Van (with a Doctor and Nurse) and a Fremantle **headspace** Outreach worker will be at the Centre every week to provide a free, Primary Health Care service to all community members, with a target for youth.

If you have any young people at your service or school that need a doctor, please recommend they attend this session.

The headspace outreach worker can also link young people into other services that may be helpful or of assistance to their personal circumstance.

This provides a great opportunity to link more young people into a General Practitioner for any health concerns, including: Vaccinations, Physical Health exams, Sexual Health (STI tests, pap smears, birth control), Mental Health concerns, Prescriptions, Antibiotics or any other health related inquiries.

**There are no costs to the patient and no appointment necessary, just show up.**

If you have any questions contact Fremantle headspace at 9335 6333 or the Freo Street Doctor coordinator, Wendy Rose at 9319 0555. [www.fremantleheadspace.com.au](http://www.fremantleheadspace.com.au)

**headspace** | National Youth Mental Health Foundation

## Conferences and Events

### Christmas Lunch in the Park 2010

Mission Australia are hosting a Christmas lunch in Wellington Square Park (East Perth) on Saturday 25 December from 11.30am – 2.30pm. The day will include a delicious Christmas lunch, a visit from Santa and entertainment. It's free and no RSVP required – just go along on the day!

### WAAC: WA Sexual Health Week - Community Small Grants

WA Sexual Health Week 2011 will run from Monday 14 February until Sunday 20 February 2011. The ongoing theme for WA Sexual Health Week is *'Safety, Pleasure and Respect'*. The target group for 2011 is youth aged 15 – 24 years.

Young people are particularly vulnerable to STIs for many reasons, including poor knowledge of STIs and inconsistent or incorrect use of condoms.

The WA Sexual Health Week Committee aims to create an enabling environment for the WA community (and young people in particular) to improve their sexual health, through community engagement and collaborative partnerships.

For this reason, the WA Sexual Health Week Committee is providing a Community Small Grants Scheme. This will enable health promotion officers, public and community health nurses, Aboriginal health workers or other relevant personnel and youth-oriented organisations in regional/remote WA to apply for financial assistance (grants up to the value of \$500 each) from the WA Sexual Health Week Committee to contribute to hosting a small event in their community.

For further information and an application form, please contact Kristen Knox at the WA AIDS

Council via [kknox@waids.com](mailto:kknox@waids.com) or on (08) 9482 0000

### Ruah Community Services: Intensive Housing Support Program

The Housing Support program is directed at adults and young people (16 years plus) with severe and persistent mental illness who are residing in Specialist Mental Health Inpatient Units of Graylands Psychiatric Hospital, Bentley Clinic, RPH Psychiatric Unit, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital (ward D20), and Armadale Hospital.

The Housing Support program offers fast tracked Department of Housing accommodation, and assists individuals in obtaining alternative forms of long-term accommodation options after assessing their needs and situation. Brokerage funding is available to assist individuals with essential household furniture. A community case manager provides ongoing links to support services for 12-months after independent accommodation is secured (9 months direct work and 3 months follow-up phone contact). Referrals can be made through the psychiatric inpatient units via the Social Work Departments. There is no waitlist for this program. Referrals are accepted during designated intake periods.

Please contact [jenny@ruah.com.au](mailto:jenny@ruah.com.au) for further information or to request a program information package.

### 'Working Together: Smarter Not Harder'

*How can we all work together more effectively to support the needs and aspirations of Aboriginal families living in and around the City of Armadale?*

A sector based forum of non government and government agencies that provide services for Aboriginal families. Lunch will be provided following the forum for networking opportunities.

Participants include:

Mark Bin Bakar – AKA Mary G, Black Queen of the Kimberley. Former Western Australian of the Year and passionate advocate for building resilience in Aboriginal Communities

Basil Hanna – Chief Executive Officer of Parkerville Children and Youth Care and a driving force behind Australia's first Child Advocacy Centre

Forum Facilitators – Tim Muirhead and Danny Ford

There are many people, in many agencies, working diligently to meet the needs and aspirations of Aboriginal people (and others) within Armadale. It can be frustrating. Sometimes there's just not enough time in the day. And yet many times we don't achieve as much as is needed.

In the mean time many Aboriginal people and (extended) families face a range of issues in their lives. They are confronted with a complex maze of services, and it can be difficult and often stressful navigating this maze. Sometimes people can 'fall through the cracks' of support that is available.

The City of Armadale's Champion Centre in collaboration with the Aboriginal Affairs Coordinating Committee which comprises The Department for Child Protection, WA Police and the departments of Indigenous Affairs, Education, Health and Housing is creating a 'One Stop Shop' that is seeking to develop a more effective relationship between Aboriginal residents and services. This is based on an understanding that the key is not to develop more and more services, but to make sure that the services that are already here are able to work together in maximising their effectiveness.

This is great in theory. But how do we really make effective collaboration throughout the sector happen? This forum will allow participants to explore that question.

*WORKING TOGETHER: SMARTER NOT HARDER promises to be a rich and creative conversation.*

For more information and to register for this **FREE** forum contact Sue Gasior at [sgasior@armadale.wa.gov.au](mailto:sgasior@armadale.wa.gov.au) or (08) 9399 0642

Thursday December 9, 9am – 1pm, Champion Centre, 76 Champion Drive, Seville Grove

### **Call for Papers for the 2011 National Indigenous Domestic Violence Conference to be held at Sea World Resort, Gold Coast, Australia on May 17-19, 2011**

Following the successful staging of the Global Domestic Violence Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, it was decided that a national indigenous conference be organized in Australia. One of the highlights of the event was the presentation by Mr. Hughie Pepper, an Indigenous Australian and Dr. Chris Laming of Monash University whom presented a keynote on 'Engaging Australian Indigenous Men to Stop Violence'.

Hughie Pepper is an Aboriginal man of the Gonnai Kurnai people of Gippsland. He is a community leader, enormously respected. Hughie is the 'go to' person, highly regarded by both mainstream and indigenous workers alike, because of his integrity, genuineness and ability to quietly get things done. By developing programs in conjunction with others whilst taking a holistic approach to combating domestic violence within his community, Mr. Pepper outlined his work that bridges and links two worlds, the Koorie and non-aboriginal people in his area. In his presentation, he further outlined the work within the Regional Indigenous men's behaviour. Furthermore, his work as case manager based at the Latrobe Community Health Service proven to be a leading factor in combating domestic violence within the whole region, working and facilitating men's behaviour change groups for more than ten years.

Because of his Aboriginality and his status, based on who he is and how he is, Hughie Pepper has been able to challenge those men in the Aboriginal community who are abusive. It was quite clear from Mr. Pepper's presentation and soon become apparent that he is a role model for young men and boys and demonstrates how he straddle two worlds, whilst keeping his sense of humour and his feet on the ground. Delegates at the conference were impressed with the presentation, the approach that Mr. Pepper's team and community were taking to overcome domestic violence in his area.

Indigenous people from throughout Australia should take pride and feel proud of the many of successful projects to overcome family violence in the country. From an Indigenous point of view, Australia is one of the leading countries in overcoming domestic violence, placing Indigenous Australians at the full front of the battle. One of the things that emerged from the conference was the need for further development of the global coalition's network and to further engage indigenous input into the coalition. To this end, a series of smaller conferences will be held throughout the world, devoted to indigenous domestic violence issues within local communities.

The 2011 National Indigenous Australian Domestic Violence Conference is scheduled to be held at the Sea World Resort in the Gold Coast. Planning is in the early stages however, the date will be on 17-19<sup>th</sup> of May 2011. The conference will focus on increasing awareness of programs being delivered throughout Australia and some parts of the world. One of

the special guest speakers will be Ms. Maria Liza Edubas from the Philippines who is the chairperson of the Global Coalition Against Domestic Violence (GCA-DV). Furthermore, a guest speaker from New Zealand and Thailand will also be speaking at the conference.

To ensure grassroots community programs are highlighted, no less than 50 percent of the conference proceedings are and is devoted to community groups. Papers are now being called for with the first closing date on the 25<sup>th</sup> of December 2010. To further ensure the continuous success of the conference, an Australian Indigenous working group is being established to advise the coalition on correct adherence to cultural equilibrium. Furthermore, two (2) Indigenous Australian applicants are being sought for to form an international working group for the establishment of a world-wide Indigenous conference which is being planned in 2013. At this point in time, no country has been chosen for this event and as such the working group would be responsible for nominating and choosing for the first ever international Indigenous Domestic Violence. Ms. Liza Edubas, the chairperson says 'Australia or New Zealand stands a strong chance of hosting the next global event because of the involvement of Mr. Pepper's team and other delegates from Australia.

For more information on the 2011 National Indigenous Domestic Violence Conference in Australia, please visit <http://ica-dv.webs.com> or send us an email at [sosmedical@ymail.com](mailto:sosmedical@ymail.com)

### **Australian Therapeutic Communities Association (ATCA) 2011 in Perth - Call for Abstracts**

ATCA Conference, 30 May - 2 June 2011, the Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle

#### ***TCs Today - No Closed Doors***

Conference Topics

- Co-morbidity: best practice for consumers with co-occurring AOD and mental health issues
- Aboriginal Consumers: best practice, cultural security
- Corrective services and coerced clients: working collaboratively with our partners in the justice system
- Families and children: a family involvement in treatment, interventions for children affected by parental drug use and associated issues.
- Innovations in treatment in Therapeutic Communities.

For more information, please visit the ATCA website at: [www.atca.com.au](http://www.atca.com.au)

**Closing date for the submission of abstracts is 31 Jan 2011.**

**GRANTS - Community Activities - Any Time**

The Community Activity Grants program provides one-off funding grants of up to \$2,500 each to enable community-based organisations to develop projects that meet the Department for Communities' strategic priorities.

Projects must benefit the non-government community sector and the community in general.

**Applications may be submitted at any time.** Please see [Community Activities Grants Program Information](#)

Contact the Grants and Contract Officer, Non-Government Funding Unit, Department for Communities on (08) 6217 8400 to discuss your project idea.

**NOMINATIONS - Now Open for Rural Women's Group - Close 31 January 2011**

Rural Remote and Regional (RRR) Women's Network of WA is a state-wide communications network bringing together women from rural and remote areas of WA. Expressions of interest are being called for the positions of chair and a member of the reference group for a three-year term.

Please contact 9368 3182 or visit [www.rrr.wa.gov.au](http://www.rrr.wa.gov.au) or [Nominations open for rural women's group](#)

**Classification Board and Review Board Vacancies**

*Applications close 5:00pm on Friday 17 December 2010*

The Attorney-General's Department has commenced a recruitment process for the positions of the Director of the Classification Board and the Deputy Convenor of the Classification Review Board.

All applicants **must** first obtain the information pack that contains position requirements, selection criteria, contact details for further information and the address for applications. Information packs may be requested by phone on (02) 6141 2828 or [here](#). For more information on classification, visit the [National Classification Scheme](#) page or visit the [Classification website](#).

**Call for Abstracts: Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) 41st Annual Conference**

PHAA 41st Annual Conference: *Sustainable Population Health*

26 - 28 September 2011, Brisbane Convention Centre, Brisbane

<http://www.phaa.net.au/41stPHAAAnnualConference.php>

For more information, call (02) 6285 2373 or e-mail [conference@phaa.net.au](mailto:conference@phaa.net.au)

- **Tenants Advice Service WA, State Tenancy [Conference](#)** (Perth) 7-8 Dec
- **Youth Homelessness Matters Day: 6 April 2011, *Hide and Seek - the hidden nature of youth homelessness.*** [Website.](#)
- **ACOSS Conference**, 29-30 March 2011, Melbourne, [conference website.](#)

- **The Community Housing Federation of Australia**, National Affordable Housing Exchange, 14-15 April 2011, Sydney, [conference website.](#)
- **Communicable Disease Control [Conference](#) *Science and Public Health: Meeting the Challenges of a New Decade***, (Canberra), 4 - 6 April 2011
- **Homeless Persons Week**: 1-7 August 2011, national
- **7th National Housing Conference**, 20-23 September, 2011, Brisbane.

**Research and Reports**

**Australian Housing & Urban Research Institute (AHURI)** see full list [here](#)

- [Research and Policy Bulletin, Issue 133: Australia's changing patterns of home ownership](#)
- [Final Report, No. 158: Housing, inequality and the role of population mobility](#)
- [Final Report, No. 157: Planning and the characteristics of housing supply in Melbourne](#)
- [Final Report, No. 156: Asset-poverty and older Australians' transitions onto housing assistance programs](#)
- [Final Report, No. 155: Public housing, women and employment: challenges and strategies](#)
- [Report No. 154: The benefits and risks of home ownership for low-moderate income households](#)
- [Report No. 153: Lessons of Defence Housing Australia for affordable housing provision](#)
- [Report No. 152: Environmental sustainability: understanding the attitudes and behaviour of Australian households](#)
- [Issue No. 132: Home ownership reduces the cost of home-based care among old adults](#)
- [Positioning Paper No. 135: Housing, public policy and social inclusion](#)
- **Local Government Urban Planning and Development Summit.** Dr Ian Winter's speech on 20 October 2010 is available from the [downloads.](#)

**Call for Papers — State of Australian Cities National Conference**

The Organising Committee for the 5th State of Australian Cities Conference invites abstract submissions for the Conference to be held 29 November to 2 December 2011. The State of Australian Cities Conference is an A ranked peer reviewed interdisciplinary urban issues conference which intends to bridge the divide between research and policy, with a strong emphasis on training the next generation of researchers.

Abstract submission deadline: Monday 28 February 2011, [information...](#)

**Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)**

For a full list of recent AIHW publications visit [here](#)

- [Young people and children in social housing](#)
- [Shelter: development of a Children's Headline Indicator](#)  
Access to stable, adequate shelter plays a major role in the health and wellbeing of families, and in particular children, by providing a safe environment, the security that allows participation in the social, educational, economic, and community aspects of their lives and the privacy to foster autonomy as an individual and a family unit. This report describes the process of developing a Children's Headline Indicator to measure the multidimensional aspects of shelter. It presents research evidence on the associations between shelter and children's wellbeing; assesses potential indicators and data sources; and recommends an indicator based on households experiencing housing disadvantage.
- [Family social network: development of a Children's Headline Indicator](#)
- [Health of Australians with disability: health status and risk factors](#)
- [Alcohol and other drug treatment services in Australia 2008-09; report on the National Minimum Data Set](#)

**Homelessness Australia Annual Report**

[CLICK HERE](#) for HA's Annual Report for 2009-10. HA welcomes any questions, issues etc so please email Aileen Solowiej [media@homelessnessaustralia.org.au](mailto:media@homelessnessaustralia.org.au)

**Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)**

- [Western Australian Statistical Indicators, 2010 \(Replacement Content\)](#)
- [ABS announces changes to the CPI \(Media Release\), Dec 2010 \(First Issue\)](#)
- [economic growth slows \(Media Release\), Sep 2010](#)
- [Health Survey: Summary of Results, 2007-08 \(Replacement Content\)](#)
- [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, Australia: Summary Booklet, 2008 \(Additional Information\)](#)
- [Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, Oct 2010 \(Replacement Content\)](#)
- [News, Nov 2010](#)
- [Living Cost Indexes for Selected Australian Household Types, Sep 2010](#)

**Federal Government Response to Senate Inquiry into Suicide in Australia**

Minister for Mental Health and Ageing Mark Butler has outlined the Government's response to the Senate Inquiry into Suicide in Australia – *The Hidden Toll: Suicide in Australia* – which was released by the Senate Community Affairs References Committee in June this year.

Read the full media release of 26 November 2010 [here](#)

**Flinders University 2010 Homelessness Research Project**

The Flinders University of South Australia has been funded by the Commonwealth Government to carry out research into the delivery of services to homeless people. In brief, their research aims to identify what assistance works well for which homeless people and why.

**Services to Homeless People – What works, in what circumstances and why?**

The research project seeks to gather information from service evaluation or assessment reports in order to draw out information about what aspects of service provision have worked well for homeless people, in what circumstances and why they are regarded as successful. The qualitative work will be based on information (from the last five years or so) provided to them by organisations assisting homeless people with accommodation and/or social support services. The research project team believe evaluation and similar types of reports may have the capacity to broadly contribute to sector knowledge about service models and approaches to preventing and responding to homelessness.

The research project team is hopeful that accommodation and social support services across Australia will help by providing them with a copy of their recent evaluation reports for inclusion in the project. The research project team are keen to talk with accommodation and support providers across Australia about their project. If you have an evaluation report you can provide to them or know of someone else you think they should talk with please contact [eleanor.button@flinders.edu.au](mailto:eleanor.button@flinders.edu.au) or contact Eleanor by phone on 0438 200 905.

**Homelessness Australia - Policy Paper Input Sought**

Homelessness Australia (HA) has been asked to produce an evidence based policy paper on the topic of preventing exits into homelessness from the following settings:

- Foster, out of home and other statutory care
- Juvenile Justice
- Correctional Facilities
- Primary Health and Mental Health facilities

Homelessness Australia proposed the adoption of a 'No Exits' policy from those settings in its 2007 election platform and it was adopted by the Australian Government in *The Road Home* in December 2008.

Input is being sought from Homelessness Australia members, in particular from those who work with clients who are all too frequently exited from those settings into homelessness. HA needs examples of where efforts to prevent exits into homelessness are working well or of programs that are ensuring that people are not exited into insecure, tenuous accommodation or homelessness. Conversely, examples of clients who are discharged from these settings with either no or insufficient planning for accommodation post-institutionalisation are also needed. Please provide feedback to Travis Gilbert, Policy and Research Officer, Homelessness Australia, [policy@homelessnessaustralia.org.au](mailto:policy@homelessnessaustralia.org.au)

## Shelter WA Affordable Housing Online Survey

What housing issues are you most concerned about? Shelter WA is conducting a survey about affordable housing needs, the impact of housing stress, and recommendations to the government. Click here to fill out the [Affordable Housing Survey](#).

Shelter WA is offering a one year complimentary membership for anyone who completes the survey.

## The Australian Community Sector Survey

Survey closes 17th December 2010

[Community Sector Survey CLICK HERE TO BEGIN](#)

The Australian Community Sector Survey is the only annual national survey collecting data about the community services and welfare sector. The survey provides an important snapshot of how disadvantaged Australians are faring, and is a powerful means of highlighting to government and media the issues facing community services.

The survey should be completed by non-government, non-profit organisations providing services directly to the public.

Questions are designed to gain an insight into the key issues facing service providers, including workforce matters, levels of funding, and areas of growing or unmet service demand.

Reports from previous annual surveys have received extensive media coverage, informing community sector advocacy at both state and territory levels. Findings have supported campaigns to improve levels of pay within the sector, and to highlight key sector issues such as inadequacies in levels of funding.

Every eligible organisation that completes the survey by 5pm, 17th of December 2010, will go into the draw to win a complementary registration and travel costs to the ACOSS 2011 Conference, which is being held in Melbourne on March 29-30

If you would prefer to complete the survey in hard copy please [download the survey in pdf format](#) and either mail it to ACOSS Community Sector Survey, Locked Bag 4777, Strawberry Hills, NSW, 2012 or email it to [corinne.dobson@acoss.org.au](mailto:corinne.dobson@acoss.org.au) or fax it to 02 9310 4822

For more information: contact Corinne at ACOSS on (02) 9310 6202 or [corinne.dobson@acoss.org.au](mailto:corinne.dobson@acoss.org.au)

## Media Statements WA Government

**Bill Marmion, MLA**, Minister for Commerce; Science and Innovation; Housing; Minister Assisting the Treasurer

[Amendola Review released](#)

[State Parliament passes Bill to abolish boards](#)

[Former convent given a new lease of life](#)

[Former Hollywood High School site providing affordable housing](#)

[Review of retirement villages law](#)

[National harmony in occupational licensing](#)

[WA joins the national consumer law evolution](#)

[Completion of Atwell Secondary College moves a step closer](#)

**John Day, MLA**, Minister for Planning, Culture and the Arts

[Draft Greater Geraldton Structure Plan Update 2010 released for comment](#)

[New Planning legislation in effect from 22 November 2010](#)

[Gascoyne Regional Planning Committee appointed](#)

[Planning decision to stimulate growth in City of Stirling](#)

[New multi-unit code to give community greater choice in housing](#)

[State Government prioritises development of activity centres](#)

[Major review of the R-Codes](#)

[Directions plan lays framework for 2031 and beyond](#)

**Robyn McSweeney, MLC**, Minister for Child Protection; Community Services; Seniors and Volunteering; Women's Interests

[Health care planning for children in care: passport to good health rolls out](#)

[Findings show Western Australia's Income Management trial is a success](#)

[West Australian volunteers thanked at Government House celebrations](#)

**Brendon Grylls**, Minister for Regional Development; Lands; Minister Assisting the Minister for State Development; Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport

[plan signals the way forward for Mandurah Junction](#)

[open for rural women's group](#)

[land options open up throughout the Kimberley](#)

[\\$40.5million boost for Busselton Health Campus](#)

**Graham Jacobs** Minister for Water; Mental Health

[Government to provide new support for LifelineWA](#)

[announces new mental health scholarships](#)

[health inpatient services for new children's hospital](#)

[announces new mental health scholarships](#)

[recovery centre for mental health services in Broome](#)

## Media Statements WA Government (continued)

**Simon O'Brien** Minister for Transport; Disability Services

[Clarkson and Rockingham respite facilities on track](#)

[Emergency support for people with disability in dry season affected areas](#)

[Advocate appointed as independent chair of ministerial advisory committee](#)

[\\$400,000 Community Grants Program boosts participation](#)



Kieran Wong Architect (Director CODA), David McLoughlin (Manager Town Planning and Urban Design, Dept Housing) and Shelter WA EO Bronwyn Kitching after the DesignBuild expo seminar 3-5 November 2010 Perth Convention Exhibition Centre.

## Shelter WA Christmas & New Year Closure

Shelter WA will be closed from Wednesday, 22 December 2010 and reopening on Tuesday 4 January 2011.

The Management Committee and Staff wish everyone a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

*Merry Christmas*

*And*

*Happy New Year*

## Shelter WA

Shelter WA is Western Australia's peak independent housing organisation. Shelter represents the views of consumers and community groups on major housing issues.

Shelter WA aims to ensure that every person has access to affordable, appropriate, secure and safe housing that is free from discrimination.

### We do this through:

- coordinating and representing community sector views to government;
  - developing and responding to policy;
- providing education and information; and
- promoting alternative housing models.

### Newsletter Production

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