



Shelter WA Update

January 2009

WA Minister Convenes Social Housing Taskforce

The WA Treasurer and Minister for Housing, Mr. Troy Buswell, has convened a Taskforce to provide advice on how to expand the supply of social housing. The Taskforce is chaired by Ian Carter CEO of Anglicare WA, receives secretariat support from DHW and includes representation from WACOSS, Community Housing Coalition, REIWA, UDIA, Local Govt Association and National Australia Bank. Shelter WA welcomes this initiative which is required to report by 30 June 2009. For more information on the Taskforce and to access the background papers contact the Shelter WA office on 08) 9325 6660.

St Patricks Gimme Shelter Concert February 21st Fremantle Arts Centre Lawn

Gimme Shelter the annual fundraiser for St Patricks Community Support Centre is taking place on 21st February on the beautiful south lawn of the Fremantle Arts Centre. The line-up features a number of WA's other most talented performers including John Butler (solo), The DomNick's and Mo Wilson and the Drivers. In addition the eternally popular Kavisha Mazzella is coming home from Melbourne to play at the event. Tickets are now on sale for \$30 +bf in advance from heatseeker.com.au the Arts Centre and usual outlets. \$35 on the door. Children under 15 \$10 and children under 6 free. For further information please contact Phoebe Corke on 0407606696 or phoebe@corke.org

The Road Home – Homelessness White Paper

FaHCSIA has released the report following Australia wide consultations held between May and August 2008 considering Homelessness, Homeless Services and the adequacy of the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program – Australia's funding vehicle for crisis and emergency accommodation and homeless services. The White Paper lays out an ambitious agenda for improving peoples' access to and response from mainstream agencies with a specific target of 'no exits into homelessness from statutory, custodial care, health, mental health and drug and alcohol services'. Whilst this is a noble target, the White Paper and related National Affordable Housing Agreement fail to quantify and detail accurate extent of need or to commit adequate resources to the amelioration of this need, and NAHA funding for public housing remains only a fraction of what is required to significantly reduce public rental housing waiting lists around the country. For a copy of the White Paper and to participate in the online discussion go to http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/housing/white_paper_on_homelessness.htm

Council to Homeless Persons Seeks Articles for March and April Parity edition

Noel Murray, editor of Parity magazine is calling for submissions to the next two editions. The March 09 edition is around the theme of 'Early Intervention and Prevention' and the special April edition will explore 'Renting and Homelessness'. Noel is seeking articles from people and agencies with experience and opinions to contribute. For the guide to contributions and to discuss your ideas email Noel at: parity@chp.org.au

Legislative Framework for Community Housing

With National and State social housing policy seeming to favour a move to outsource social housing provision to community housing providers through stock transfers, regulation and funding, the Department of Housing and Works has undertaken consultation of a proposed legislative framework. Shelter WA held a Forum on 15th January, report notes to be available on the Shelter WA website http://www.shelterwa.org.au/papers_reports.html

Augusta Margaret River Affordable Housing Summit 17th February

The Shire of Augusta Margaret River is hosting a summit to ascertain the level of unmet demand, raise awareness, foster relationships between stakeholders, identify successful models, explore constraints and opportunities and establish priorities to develop an Affordable Housing Strategy. For more information or to express an interest in attending the summit call Donna Wolter at the Shire on 08) 9780 5200.

National Human Rights Consultations

A consultation on the need or otherwise for legislation on Australian Human Rights is underway. The closing date for submissions is 29 May 2009. Check out the website: <http://www.humanrightsconsultation.gov.au/> and think about giving your suggestions in light of the International Covenant of Human Rights and the Australian environment and treatment of our own indigenous people, people who are homeless, refugees and humanitarian entrants. Australia could do a lot better to be a fair, inclusive and just society for all.

