

## Karel Eringa

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**From:** Karel Eringa [karel@shelterwa.org.au]  
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**To:** Karel Eringa  
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Shelter WA Housing News: 7 April 2004

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### 1. Shelter WA Information Sheet: The Department of Housing and Works

The Department of Housing and Works (DHW) is a Department of the WA State Government that represents its housing and works functions. The Department was established in July 2001, when it was created out of the Ministry of Housing and Works as a result of the Machinery of Government Taskforce's recommendation on the proposal to reduce the number of Government agencies.

Shelter WA Information Sheet #23 gives an overview of the Department and a description of the following areas:

- \* Homeswest
- \* Keystart
- \* Government Employees Housing Authority
- \* Country Housing Authority
- \* Aboriginal Housing & Infrastructure
- \* Landstart
- \* Office of Policy and Planning
- \* Project Services
- \* Public Works Strategy
- \* Major Projects

Go to [www.shelterwa.org.au](http://www.shelterwa.org.au) (new on this site) to download the Information Sheet.

### 2. Tenants Rights Manual: 3rd edition

Tenants Advice Service WA (TAS) has just published its 3rd edition of the Tenants Rights Manual: A Resource for Understanding Tenancy Law in WA. The 2004 3rd edition has been considerably revised, updated and expanded.

First published in 1993, TAS' Tenants Rights Manual is still the only comprehensive guide to tenants' rights and obligations in WA. The Manual aims to be a comprehensive resource for use by community workers helping a private residential tenant with a problem. The Manual contains over 50 cross-referenced chapters. Also included are sample court forms, tenancy agreements and letters to agent/owner. Workers are encouraged to make copies of relevant chapters to give direct to tenants.

You can order the Manual direct from TAS' website [www.taswa.org](http://www.taswa.org). The Manual costs \$50 for members and \$70 for non-members. If you already have a 1st or 2nd edition Manual, you will need to replace it (ie, not just add to it).

### 3. Industry Plan Update

Since July 2003, the State Government and non government sector of Western Australia have been working on an Industry Plan, which will bring together industry policies in three important areas:

- \* the relationship between the State Government and the Non-Government sector (ie. a proposed Partnership Policy);
- \* the financial viability and sustainability of non-Government human services (the Funding and Purchasing Community Services Policy, and the proposed WA Government Indexation Policy for the Non-Government Human Services Sector); and
- \* the capacity of Non-Government organisations in relation to service delivery, policy, governance and human resource management.

In December 2003 the joint Government and Non-Government Working Party established to steer the development of the Industry Plan endorsed a draft Industry Plan for consultation with the Government and Non-Government sectors and a proposed WA Government Indexation Policy for the Non-Government Human Services Sector.

A revised Industry Plan will be circulated to the Non-Government sector, and an information session on the Industry Plan will be held in April. Meetings of peak Non-Government organisations and the joint Government and Non-Government Working Party will be called to give final sign-off to the Plan. The Plan will then be presented to the Cabinet Standing Committee on Social Policy and, following that, to Cabinet.

The Indexation Policy was submitted to the State Budget process in December 2003. Budget deliberations are currently underway, and the outcome will be known in May of this year.

For further information on the Industry Plan and the Indexation Policy, contact Leanne Barron, Principal Policy Officer, Social Policy Unit, Department of the Premier and Cabinet on 08 9222 9654 or [lbarron@dpc.wa.gov.au](mailto:lbarron@dpc.wa.gov.au).

### 4. Queensland State Housing Conference

Australia's housing system has a foundation in home ownership. 70% of us live in this tenure. However in the current property boom too many Queenslanders cannot dream the dream of home ownership. 25,000 people on any given night are homeless and at least 167,000 are in housing stress. The front pages of our newspapers cover spiralling house and land values but the real story is about those who miss out. Queensland Shelter members, housing services and professionals know what a struggle it is to put a roof over people's heads.

This conference looks at the Australian Housing System to see how we can improve it. From all angles, but particularly how we can assist the people who miss out.

Queensland Shelter is organising the Queensland State Housing Conference 2004. The theme of the conference is 'Housing – Covering all the Angles', and it will be held at the Gold Coast International Hotel from 15-17 June. The June 2004 Conference will be a great opportunity for the housing sector to get together – tenants, community and housing workers, people from public and private sectors, researchers and policy-makers from all levels of government.

To find out more, go to [www.qshelter.asn.au](http://www.qshelter.asn.au).