

## 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: 20 May 2004

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### 1. Federal Budget 2004-05: Housing for Some

The Federal Budget handed down on Tuesday 11 May 2004 will continue the decline of social housing in Australia that began in 1996. While there is some growth in funding to the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement over the next 4 years, this will be at a rate less than half the expected rate of inflation (around 2.5% p.a.). This means reduced funding for social housing in real terms and will leave Australia's 200,000 plus social housing applicants wondering if they will ever get an affordable place to live.

Overall the Budget continues the gradual decline of social housing in Australia, further entrenching the disadvantage faced by low income households and favours those on middle to high incomes. In terms of providing affordable housing for all Australians, this budget rates at best 4 out of 10. The CSHA continues in line with funding agreements but decline in real terms. This will translate into social housing continuing the proportional decline began in 1996. Services to the homeless have fared better in terms of the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program but the effectiveness of this program will be limited by reduced access to social housing. The budget has delivered housing for some has ignored the growing number of low income Australians in housing crisis.

Go to [www.shelterwa.org.au](http://www.shelterwa.org.au) (housing news) to download a complete analysis of the Commonwealth Budget as it relates to housing.

### 2. WA State Budget: Housing Budget Alright for Some

Shelter WA and WACOSS have welcomed the additional commitment of \$11.8 million for the construction and refurbishment of public housing made in WA State Government's recent Budget. In addition, Shelter WA and WACOSS welcome the announcement to abolish stamp duty for first homeowners for properties below \$220,000.

For the first time since the early 1990s, public housing will not decrease as a proportion of total housing stock in WA, currently just under 5%. However, Shelter WA and WACOSS have consistently argued for the need to increase public housing to the national average of approximately 6% of total housing stock. In order to achieve this, modelling by Shelter WA has shown that the Government's commitment is more than 500 dwellings short of what would be required to provide appropriate accommodation for all West Australians.

Download the full media release from [www.shelterwa.org.au](http://www.shelterwa.org.au) (housing news).

### 3. Social Housing Position - City of Subiaco

The City of Subiaco is seeking to contract a person with appropriate knowledge and skills to act as its 'Social Housing Development Officer' between 19 July and 3 September 2004, inclusive. The City's contracted officer is on leave during this period. The City will consider secondment from another agency. The position is for 18 hours/week for the seven week period. Hours will be worked during the normal working week, but times will be flexible and negotiable.

The incumbent will be required to progress social and affordable housing initiatives presently underway - initial orientation will be given. Applicants must be adaptable; have excellent writing skills; be able to use their initiative, to problem solve and to work with minimal supervision. An attractive working environment and remuneration is offered. The City of Subiaco pro-actively leads local government in Western Australia in this field.

For further information or to register an interest, contact Bob Tomlins on 9237 9216 or 9380 6878.

### 4. Reminder: Forum on Women and Adequate Housing on 1 June 2004

The United Nations Commission on Human Rights has appointed a Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing. The Rapporteur is undertaking an investigation in response to UNCHR resolution 2002/49 which "recognises that women face discrimination and violations of their right to housing and land around the world and that there needs to be action at the international and national level".

Shelter WA and the Tenants Advice Service are jointly hosting a forum to discuss how women fare with regard to adequate housing in Perth. The Forum will build on an earlier consultation held in Bunbury. The Bunbury consultation heard that there is a lack of access to adequate housing for women and in particular Indigenous women and women on low incomes.

In addition, the outcomes from the day will be incorporated into a Western Australian Report that will form part of both National Shelter's and the National Non Government submissions to the Rapporteur. Guest speakers will provide forum participants with the opportunity to further develop their knowledge of how to work within a human rights framework. The guest speakers include:

- \* Professor Jim Ife from Curtin University of Technology; and
- \* Kathryn Choules, Murdoch University

The Forum will be held at Claisebrook Lotteries House, 33 Moore Street, East Perth, 1.30pm to 4.30pm, Tuesday 1 June 2004.

Go to [www.shelterwa.org.au](http://www.shelterwa.org.au) (new on this site) to download a flyer with further information.

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