

Karel Eringa

From: Karel Eringa [karel@shelterwa.org.au]
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Shelter WA Housing News: 18 June 2004

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1. Social Housing in Perth's Western Suburbs: Do we need it?

Earlier today, Shelter WA's Executive Officer, Karel Eringa spoke about the need for social housing in Perth's western suburbs at the WACOSS Conference. The presentation argues that the level of social housing in the western suburbs should be higher than zero, but lower than the Perth average. It also highlights that:

- * Contrary to public belief, there is a significant amount of social housing in the western suburbs, and the presence of social housing has not reduced price growth.
- * Social benefits mean that the local community in the western suburbs can benefit from social housing.
- * Increased sustainability mean that the Perth community in general benefits from social housing in the western suburbs.
- * A brief economic analysis indicates that it may be 'penny wise but pound foolish' to remove or significantly reduce social housing in the area.

The presentation can be downloaded from www.shelterwa.org.au (housing news).

2. News: CSHA WA Bilateral Agreement signed

After many months of negotiations and uncertainty, the Bilateral Agreement between the WA and Commonwealth Governments has finally been signed by the relevant Ministers. The WA Bilateral Agreement contains the relevant details for Western Australia on the agreements specified in the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement. Shelter WA is currently analysing the WA Bilateral Agreement.

The WA Bilateral can be downloaded from www.shelterwa.org.au (housing news).

3. Call for Funding Applications: Communities for Children

The Commonwealth Department for Family and Community Services is seeking applications from non-government organisations or consortia interested in becoming a facilitating partner in one of 28 selected Communities for Children around Australia, part of the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy. This funding will support up to 35 disadvantaged communities with funding of around \$1 million to \$4 million for local early childhood development initiatives.

In each location, a Facilitating Partner will be engaged through a

competitive selection process to work with local stakeholders to deliver early childhood development programs and services. This includes developing partnerships with leading early childhood experts to ensure the ideas for change are both evidence based and meet local needs. The Facilitating Partner will establish a local committee to advise on preparation of a Community Action Plan. Much of the funding available in each community will be distributed by the Facilitating Partner to local service providers for early childhood initiatives identified in the Community Action Plan.

The selected locations in Western Australia are:

- * Kwinana: \$2 million (encompassing Medina, Orelia, Parmelia, Bertram, Leda, Calista and Wellard)
- * East Kimberley: \$2 million (encompassing the statistical local areas of Wyndham-East Kimberley and Halls Creek.
- * Armadale: \$3.5 million (encompassing Armadale, Brookdale, Forrestdale, Kelmscott, Champion Lakes, Seville Grove and Mount Richon)

In addition, The Smith Family has already been selected as the facilitating partner for Girrawheen, Koondoola, Balga and Mirrabooka (\$3.8 million).

Applications close at 2pm EST on Friday, 30 July 2004. Selection Documents can be obtained from www.facs.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/aboutfacs/programs/sfsc-communities_for_children_invitation.htm

SWA Update gives fortnightly updates on housing issues in Western Australia.

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Shelter WA
33 Moore Street, East Perth WA 6004
Ph: 08 9325 6660, Fax: 08 9325 8113
Mob: 0417 295 896
Email: shelterwa@shelterwa.org.au
Web: www.shelterwa.org.au

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