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To: Karel Eringa
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Shelter WA Housing News: 15 July 2004

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1. Report: Women and Adequate Housing Forum

On 1 June 2004, Shelter WA and the Tenants Advice Service jointly conducted a community consultation forum to discuss how women fare with regard to adequate housing in Perth, attended by 17 women. It was held in response to an investigation by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights into 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".

The forum built on an earlier consultation held by the Tenants Advice Service in Bunbury, and was followed by another consultation in Geraldton. The subsequent report was used to inform both National Shelter's and the National Non Government submissions to the UNCHR Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing.

Go to www.shelterwa.org.au (publications) to download the report on the Shelter WA / TAS Forum on Women and Adequate Housing.

2. Upcoming: Kalgoorlie Housing Forum

Shelter WA is holding a community consultation forum on housing issues in Kalgoorlie-Boulder. The forum is a key part of a housing needs analysis that Shelter WA is currently conducting.

The aim of the forum is to identify key issues and potential solutions with regard to housing in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, on the basis of a Discussion Paper. Based on the issues and discussion arising at the Forum, Shelter WA will develop a report and an Action Plan on housing in the area. This Plan will be presented to the Minister for Housing and the Housing Advisory Committee, as well as other relevant government bodies and politicians. In addition, if there are any other actions the focus group decide are necessary, such as making presentations to local government, Shelter WA will endeavour to undertake these actions.

The details of the forum are as follows:

9.30am – 1.30pm, Tuesday 3 August
The Seminar Room, Curtin University of Technology
55 MacDonald Street, Kalgoorlie

To RSVP and register for a copy of the Discussion Paper, contact Corinne Mercer on 08 9325 6660 or corinne@shelterwa.org.au by Wednesday 28 July. The Discussion Paper will be available at www.shelterwa.org.au from mid July.

Go to www.shelterwa.org.au (publications) to download an open invitation to the forum with more details.

3. News: National Housing Summit Call for Action

As reported in the previous issue of SWA Update, a National Housing Summit was held in Canberra in late June. The Summit issued a Call for Action, expressing "the joint views of our organisations, which came together in an unprecedented coalition to address what we see as an unprecedented problem. It is based on the experience and expertise of our many member organisations and of other groups that were represented at the Summit."

The Call for Action contains 10 key objectives for improving housing affordability in Australia, as well as 6 priorities for action:

- A new Ministry and Ministerial Council
- A National Housing Plan
- A National Affordable Housing Agreement
- Increased Public Investment
- A National Tax Reform Package
- A National Strategy for Land and Infrastructure Planning

The Call for Action is available from the National Housing Summit website, www.housingsummit.org.au .

4. News: ALP Housing Policy

The Australian Labor Party released its Housing Policy late last month. The Policy included a commitment to increase spending under the CSHA boost funds by "\$325 million over the first three years of a new four year agreement." In addition, the Policy allocates \$75 million New Housing Partnerships, which "will support major demonstration projects involving governments, the private sector and the community sector."

National Shelter welcomed the ALP's commitment to appoint a Housing Minister and implement a National Affordable Housing Strategy, if elected. However, it commented that while the \$400 million was a good start, it fell well short of National Shelter's recommendations.

Go to www.shelterwa.org.au (housing news) to download National Shelter's response.

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