

## Karel Eringa

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**From:** Karel Eringa [karel@shelterwa.org.au]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 29 July 2004 16:42  
**To:** Karel Eringa  
**Subject:** [SWA Update] Shelter WA Housing News: 29 July 2004

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Shelter WA Housing News: 29 July 2004

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1. Discussion Paper: Kalgoorlie Housing Forum, 3 August 2004

The Discussion Paper for Shelter WA's community consultation forum on housing issues in Kalgoorlie-Boulder is now available. The forum is a key part of a housing needs analysis and aims to identify key issues and potential solutions with regard to housing in Kalgoorlie-Boulder. The forum will be held as follows:

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

To RSVP, contact Corinne Mercer on 08 9325 6660 or [corinne@shelterwa.org.au](mailto:corinne@shelterwa.org.au) by Wednesday 28 July. See the open invitation on our website for more details on the forum.

Go to [www.shelterwa.org.au](http://www.shelterwa.org.au) (Housing News) to download the Discussion Paper for the Forum.

2. News: Homeless - in the City?

The Department for Community Development recently released Counting the Homeless 2001: Western Australia. The report, written by Chris Chamberlain and David MacKenzie, reveals that on Census night 2001, there were 99,900 homeless people in Australia and 11.7% (11,697) lived in Western Australia. While Perth has a very significant population of homeless people, the Report shows that homelessness is also a major issue outside the metropolitan area. The Report also confirms a distinctive pattern identified by Shelter WA at the recent Housing Indigenous People in Regional WA Forum, namely that the rate of homelessness increases with remoteness from Perth.

Counting the Homeless 2001: Western Australia shows that a significant proportion of the state's population is denied the basic human right of housing. The SAAP is currently being redesigned to make it responsive to the needs of homeless population, and clearly it needs to increase focus on early intervention and to address the geographic inequities of the program. However, SAAP alone cannot resolve homelessness. Significant investment in social housing is also required, so that the people experiencing homelessness can establish themselves in independent housing before cross the line into chronic homelessness.

Go to [www.shelterwa.org.au](http://www.shelterwa.org.au) (Housing News) to download Shelter WA's analysis of the Report, Homeless: In the City? A brief overview of Counting the Homeless 2001 - Western Australia.

### 3. News: SAAP to be renewed

Shelter WA welcomes the announcement by Commonwealth and State Community Services Ministers to maintain the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP), which was due to expire in June 2005. In WA, SAAP is a \$29 million per year program jointly funded by the Commonwealth and State Governments. SAAP funds 129 services providing supported accommodation, counselling, advocacy, outreach, links to housing, health, education and employment and other services. A recent evaluation showed that homeless services can achieve positive results but are facing increasing demand for services and are hamstrung by a lack of affordable accommodation options for people leaving the services.

Despite the program, there are still 12,000 homeless people in Western Australia, a third of whom are children under the age of 14. As services have to turn away dozens of people each night because of a lack of resources, maintaining funding until 2010 is a welcome announcement, but won't be sufficient to solve WA's homelessness problem. Shelter WA believes that this can only be achieved by a substantial increase in SAAP funding, accompanied by an increase in funding for social housing. The latter would ensure that homeless people have exit points after leaving SAAP services instead of being left on a waiting list.

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