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To: Karel Eringa
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Shelter WA Housing News: 24 November 2004

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1. Final Report: Regional Housing Analysis Kalgoorlie-Boulder

Earlier this year, Shelter WA conducted a series of consultations and a community forum on housing issues in Kalgoorlie-Boulder. Shelter WA has now released its final report on housing in Kalgoorlie-Boulder based on these consultations and subsequent statistical research.

The Report finds that "Kalgoorlie-Boulder's housing market can be described as somewhere between the mature housing markets of state capitals such as Perth and the immature, volatile markets of small mining towns." The report's key finding is that there is a mismatch between housing stock and the requirements of residents, resulting in high levels of both overcrowding and underoccupancy. For instance, "while 52.9% of households in Kalgoorlie-Boulder only contain one or two people, only 19.9% of its dwellings have two or fewer bedrooms."

Other findings include:

- * Significant swings in real estate and rental prices,
- * Homelessness and overcrowding are concentrated among Indigenous people
- * Poor standards and maintenance in the private rental sector
- * Lack of access to affordable private rental housing for certain groups, including young people and Indigenous people
- * A shortage of land suitable for development
- * A shortage of both small (1/2 bedroom) and large (5+ bedroom) dwellings

The report's 20 recommendations focus on addressing the current mismatch between Kalgoorlie-Boulder's housing stock and requirements, making optimal use of available land, and providing practical support to tenants with high needs.

Go to www.shelterwa.org.au (Publications) to download the Regional Housing Analysis Kalgoorlie-Boulder

2. More than a Bed: SAAP Campaign

Australia's homeless service system is funded by the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP). Every five years, SAAP funding levels and priorities are renegotiated. On 26 November, Commonwealth, State and Territory Community Service Ministers are scheduled to meet to agree on SAAP funding levels and priorities. As these agreements are signed once every five years, now is the only time the homeless service system and the community can lobby for increased Federal SAAP funding to provide extra

resources to assist homeless Australians.

A coalition of community groups has started a campaign to increase SAAP funding called "More than a Bed: a Campaign for Better Services for Homeless People". They are asking concerned organisations and individuals to write or fax letters to the Commonwealth and State Community Services Ministers, and to write to local MPs regarding the issue. Form letters are available from www.afho.org.au. More information regarding the campaign is available at www.morethanabed.org.

3. Community Housing State Conference

The community housing sector is holding its State Conference on Wednesday 8 December. The Conference will "focus on the successes achieved by our sector" and be followed by the Inaugural WA Community Housing Awards Dinner. The Conference will be held at the Broadwater Pagoda Resort Hotel and the Awards Dinner at Frenchy's Restaurant, both in Como.

The Minister for Housing and Works, the Hon Nick Griffiths MLC, will open the Conference and present the Awards. The Conference website, www.communityhousing.com.au/conference, has details on the venue and accommodation, as well as an up to date program. For further questions or a Conference registration form contact Conference Coordinator Pauline Farrell on 08 9221 7933 or conference@communityhousing.com.au.

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