

## Karel Eringa

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**From:** Karel Eringa [karel@shelterwa.org.au]  
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**To:** Karel Eringa  
**Subject:** [SWA Update] Shelter WA Housing News: 4 March 2005

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Shelter WA Housing News: 4 March 2005

1. Homelessness Survey
2. National Housing Conference
3. New AIHW Reports on the CSHA
4. State of Australian Cities Conference
5. Position Vacant: Sector Development Officer, Shelter SA

### 1. Homelessness Survey

Shelter WA is currently conducting a follow-up survey on homelessness in Western Australia. The survey is part of a project that aims to monitor changes in the composition of homeless households in WA over time, and to measure the impact of the Government's response to the 2002 Report of the State Homelessness Taskforce. In addition, Shelter WA will use the research to continue to develop its knowledge of homelessness, inform its policy development work and provide a resource to agencies concerned about homelessness in WA.

Shelter WA previously conducted surveys in June 2001, March 2002, September 2002, March 2003 and March 2004. The full report on those surveys is available at [www.shelterwa.org.au/publications.htm](http://www.shelterwa.org.au/publications.htm), but key findings included:

- \* Children aged 14 years and below have represented around one third of homeless people in all five surveys conducted since 2001.
- \* Over half of the Indigenous households were single parents with children;
- \* Nearly 80% of non-Indigenous households were single persons.
- \* Households that stayed with friends or relatives on a temporary basis were predominately Indigenous, whilst households that stayed alone were mainly non-Indigenous.
- \* Low income is a principal feature of the homeless population, with around 90% on incomes less than \$400 per week.

Full findings of all five surveys are available from the Shelter WA website ([www.shelterwa.org.au/publications.htm](http://www.shelterwa.org.au/publications.htm)).

If your agency wishes to participate in the survey, please complete one survey form per household requesting accommodation assistance on Tuesday 8 March 2005. The completed survey form should be returned to Shelter WA by fax or post by Tuesday 22nd March 2004.

To help us with collating the information gathered from the survey forms, it is important to:

The survey form can be downloaded from [www.shelterwa.org.au/housing\\_news.htm](http://www.shelterwa.org.au/housing_news.htm).

### 2. National Housing Conference

Shelter WA is part of the steering group for the National Housing Conference. The Conference, entitled Building for Diversity, will be held at the Perth Convention Centre from 26-28 October. At this stage, it looks like there will be four themes:

1. Planning and Design for Diversity

2. Meeting Diverse Housing and Social Needs for Indigenous People
3. New Challenges for Public and Community Housing
4. Market and Policy Responses to changing Demographics

Possible speakers include:

- \* Adam Sampson from Shelter UK,
- \* Prof Brian Howe, ex Commonwealth Minister for Housing,
- \* Leilana Farha from Canada's National Working Group on Women and Housing, and
- \* Tom Carter from the University of Winnipeg.

Shelter WA is preparing a submission to LotteryWest to fund a limited number of WA housing consumers and reps from rural and remote locations to attend the conference. For more information, or if you have ideas for speakers or presentations, please contact Paul Pendergast (paul@shelterwa.org.au or 08 9325 6660).

### 3. New AIHW Reports on the CSHA

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has released three new reports on the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement. The reports cover the Crisis Accommodation Program, Home Purchase Assistance and Private Rent Assistance. These are the first reports under the 2003 CSHA, and report on the "summary and performance indicator data collected for reporting against the CSHA national performance indicator framework".

The reports find that "Annual state and territory government spending on assistance with home purchase and private renting through the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement (CSHA) programs is up by 33%, even though the number of households receiving assistance has remained about the same ... Approximately 191,000 households received assistance totalling \$909 million for home purchase and private renting in 2003-04, up from \$686 million in 2002-03 for the same number of households." It should be noted, however, that these figures don't include data on public and community housing.

All three reports are available from the AIHW website at [www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm](http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm)

### 4. State of Australian Cities Conference

The Australian Sustainable Cities and Regions Network has announced that it will convene the 2nd State of Australian Cities conference in Brisbane. The conference will be hosted by the Urban Research Program (URP) at Griffith University. Conference registration details will soon be available. Links, information & updates will be provided at the URP's website: [www.griffith.edu.au/centre/urp](http://www.griffith.edu.au/centre/urp)

The Conference will focus on the contemporary form and structure of Australian cities. The conference aims to provide a focus for new urban scholarship and will bring together the most prominent academics working in this area in Australia, together with new researchers and others - policy makers and practitioners - who are interested in the Australian city.

A call for papers has been released, with abstract due on 31 May and draft papers on 30 September. Registration of interest in presenting a Conference paper should be sent in the first instance to Professor Patrick Troy (patrick.troy@anu.edu.au) or post to: Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies Building 43, Australian National University, ACT 0200.

### 5. Position Vacant: Sector Development Officer, Shelter SA

Shelter SA, the peak housing organisation in South Australia, is looking for a Sector Development Officer (0.6 to 0.75 FTE at SACS Level 5). Reporting to the Executive Director, this position is dedicated to generating direct consumer engagement in housing policy development, consultation and planning processes, and in building a

series of branches of Shelter SA across the State.

A job description (including selection criteria is available from [www.sheltersa.asn.au](http://www.sheltersa.asn.au) or by contacting the office on 08 8221 6488 or [sheltersa@sheltersa.asn.au](mailto:sheltersa@sheltersa.asn.au). Deadline for applications is 5pm on Monday 14 March 2005.

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