

## Karel Eringa

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**From:** Karel Eringa [karel@shelterwa.org.au]  
**Sent:** Friday, 1 April 2005 16:55  
**To:** Karel Eringa  
**Subject:** [SWA Update] Shelter WA Housing News: 1 April 2005  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Red

### SWA Update: Shelter WA Housing News - 1 April 2005

1. Shelter WA Newsletter March 2005
2. Community Forums: Underoccupancy in Homeswest Dwellings
3. Workshop: Homelessness in WA

#### 1. Shelter WA Newsletter March 2005

The past few months have been very busy for Shelter WA. We have released two major reports, the first on homelessness and the second on Kalgoorlie-Boulder. In addition, we have:

- prepared a submission to the *Network City* planning strategy,
- visited Port Hedland for initial consultations for a Housing Analysis of the area,
- prepared a discussion paper on under occupancy of Homeswest dwellings,
- organised a pre-election housing forum with WACOSS, and
- distributed the forms for our fifth annual survey of homelessness.

In the middle of all this, we have been subject to an independent organisational review. This review was initiated by the Board of Commissioners of the Department of Housing and Works, conducted by Ernst & Young and also included the Community Housing Coalition. The review covered all aspects of Shelter WA's operations, and focused on the question whether the organisation and its activities provide value for money to its members, the broader community, and the DHW.

The March 2005 edition of Shelter WA's newsletter reflects Shelter WA's activities, and contains articles on most of the issues mentioned above. In addition, there is an overview of the recently released South Australian Housing Plan.

The newsletter can be downloaded at [www.shelterwa.org.au/newsletters.htm](http://www.shelterwa.org.au/newsletters.htm)

#### 2. Community Forums: Underoccupancy in Homeswest Dwellings

Shelter WA is holding two community consultation forums on underoccupancy in Homeswest dwellings. The forums are a key part of an underoccupancy analysis that the Homeswest Operational Standing Committee (HOSC) is currently engaged in. The committee has formed a working party that includes representatives from Shelter WA, Department of Housing and Works, Tenants Advice Service and Department of Employment and Consumer Protection.

The working party has developed a discussion paper, which identifies that underoccupancy is a significant issue in a number of Homeswest regions. The paper recognises that, in principle, underoccupied large dwellings should be made available to larger families, and that there is some scope to introduce incentives for underoccupying tenants to move to smaller premises. However, the issue arises as to what the Department should do in cases where underoccupying tenants cannot be persuaded to move voluntarily.

The discussion paper contains a number of consultation questions, which will be raised at the forum. On the basis of the outcomes of this and a similar forum in Bunbury, the Working Party will develop a report with recommendations on a Homeswest underoccupancy policy.

Wednesday 13 April, 9.30 AM to 11.30 AM  
Claisebrook Lotteries House  
33 Moore Street  
EAST PERTH

Tuesday 19 April, 1 PM to 2.30 PM  
ASWA (Agencies for South West Accommodation)  
40 Charles Street  
BUNBURY

To RSVP or for more information, please contact Karel Eringa or Paul Pendergast at Shelter WA ([shelterwa@shelterwa.org.au](mailto:shelterwa@shelterwa.org.au) / 08 9325 6660).

The Discussion Paper on Homeswest Under Occupancy can be downloaded at [www.shelterwa.org.au/housing\\_news.htm](http://www.shelterwa.org.au/housing_news.htm)

### 3. Workshop: Homelessness in WA

The Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) and Housing and Urban Research Institute of WA (HURIWA) are hosting a workshop on Homelessness in WA: Policy, Practitioner and Research Perspectives. The workshop will be held as follows:

Friday 6 May 2005, 9am - 12.30pm  
Curtin University City Campus  
78 Murray Street, Perth

The workshop is the second in the Workshop in the City series, and includes a panel discussion on homelessness issues, policies and programs, as well as presentations from:

- Paul Flatau, Deputy Director of AHURI WA: *What are the benefits of providing assistance to homeless people and what are the costs of not assisting homeless people*
- Tony Pietropiccolo, CentreCare: *Reflections on the State Homelessness Strategy*
- Paul Pendergast, Shelter WA: *No Place Like Home: Homelessness in Western Australia*
- Robyn Martin and Nola Kunnen, Curtin University: *The provision of consultancy services in relation to SAAP's impact on community capacity and self reliance*

For catering purposes, please RSVP by 2 May 2005 to Terry Gardiner: [T.Gardiner@murdoch.edu.au](mailto:T.Gardiner@murdoch.edu.au) or 08 9360 2292.

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