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To: Karel Eringa
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SWA Update: Shelter WA Housing News - 24 August 2005

1. Discussion Paper: Community Forums on Hedland's Housing Needs
2. Australasian Residential Tenancies Conference

1. Discussion Paper: Community Forums on Hedland's Housing Needs

Shelter WA is holding two forums on housing needs in Hedland on **Tuesday 30 August** at the **South Hedland Lotteries House**, 2 Leake Street. Refreshments will be provided, and the forums will be held at the following times:

- Homeswest tenants: 1.00 – 3.00 pm
- All residents: 7.00 - 9.30pm

Every year Shelter WA organises Regional Housing Forums to discuss the housing needs of people throughout Western Australia. The aim is to discuss the local housing needs of residents with input from the community. Strategies will then be developed to respond to those needs. This year the Regional Forums will be held in Port Hedland.

The discussion paper prepared for the forums identifies Port Hedland as a unique area. It has a high proportion of people who are fly-in, fly-out, close proximity to industrial sites, high rental and housing prices. One of the most important issues facing Hedland is a severe shortage of housing stock that is affordable to people earning low to middle incomes. This shortage affects people who earn too much to be eligible for Homeswest housing, but who earn too little to be able to afford to purchase or rent a house in the private market. As a direct result of this, the town is having difficulties attracting key workers, such as dentists, doctors, opticians, shopkeepers and maintenance contractors, to live in the area.

A discussion paper for the forums can be downloaded from www.shelterwa.org.au/housing_news.htm.

2. Australasian Residential Tenancies Conference

The NSW Consumer, Trader & Tenancy Tribunal (CTTT) is hosting the 6th Australasian Residential Tenancies Conference on 20th and 21st October 2005 at the Crowne Plaza Darling Harbour, Sydney.

The Conference theme, *New Landscapes – rethinking residential tenancies*, refers to a forward looking perspective with which the organisers hope to prepare the sector for its future role. The Conference will focus on four main streams: Does One Size Fit All; Innovation and Change; Education and Information Strategies; and Dispute Resolution. The Conference website, including a registration form and program, can be viewed at www.restenconf.com – follow the links to 'registration'.

Keynote speakers include Dr Ian Winter, Executive Director of the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, Ms Linda Burney MP, Member for Canterbury, Professor Julian Disney, Director of the Social Justice Project at the University of NSW and Ms Elizabeth Dangar, CEO Dangar Research. There is also a selection of workshops included in the program.

SWA Update is Shelter WA's housing email list. SWA Update is available to associate and full members of Shelter WA and appears roughly fortnightly. Go to www.shelterwa.org.au/subscribe.htm to become an associate member (currently free of charge).

Shelter WA also has an Urgent Response Network, which is restricted to financial members. If you are a financial member of Shelter WA and wish to join the Urgent Response Network, please email karel@shelterwa.org.au.

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Please email karel@shelterwa.org.au with any other queries.

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