

Karel Eringa

From: Karel Eringa [karel@shelterwa.org.au]
Sent: Thursday, 17 November 2005 14:05
To: Karel Eringa
Subject: [SWA Update] Shelter WA Housing News - 17 November 2005
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SWA Update: Shelter WA Housing News – 17 November 2005

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1. Paper: Financial Workforce Disincentives in Public Housing in WA and NSW

At the recent National Housing Conference, Shelter WA's Executive Officer, Karel Eringa, delivered a paper on workforce disincentives for public housing tenants. This paper presents an overview of rent to income and eligibility policies in the eight Australian States and Territories, focusing on Western Australia and New South Wales. The paper's key findings include:

- Financial workforce disincentives are caused primarily by the rapid loss of Centrelink benefits as salaries rise.
- Nevertheless, in the majority of situations public housing tenants face greater financial workforce disincentives than people in other tenures. However, there are a number of situations household types and income ranges in which private sector tenants are in the worst position with regard to workforce incentives.
- The proposed changes to the NSW public housing system will produce financial workforce disincentives that are far greater than those produced by the WA public housing system, even if differences in rent levels between the two states are ignored.
- The main causal factor of higher financial workforce disincentives faced by public housing tenants is not, as is commonly assumed, related to the rent to income policy. Instead, the threat of losing eligibility for public housing and the associated drop in the level of housing subsidy received appears to be the main determining factor.

The full paper includes 15 key findings and six implications for policy direction. It is available from www.shelterwa.org.au/housing_news.htm.

2. Representatives for Aboriginal Housing and Infrastructure Council

The Minister for Housing and Works seeks applications from Aboriginal women and men with experience in Aboriginal Housing issues and who are interested in serving on the Aboriginal Housing and Infrastructure Council (pending signing of the new Indigenous Housing Agreement). There are four State wide representative positions available.

The appointment will be for a term of three years. Sitting fees are payable to members. Applications must include statements addressing the selection criteria, along with your resume. Please note that Aboriginality is an occupational requirement for these positions under Section 50(d) of the Equal Opportunity Act 1984.

Full details of the Aboriginal Housing and Infrastructure Council, along with the statement of duties and selection criteria for the position, can be obtained from Denika Taylor on (08) 9222 4781, or email

denika.taylor@dhw.wa.gov.au.

It is strongly recommended that you obtain this information prior to lodging an application. Applications close at 5:00pm, Wednesday 30 November 2005 and can be lodged by email to denika.taylor@dhw.wa.gov.au or by post to:

Miss Denika Taylor
Private & Confidential
AHID - DHW
Locked Bag 22
East Perth WA 6892

3. Recent Additions to www.shelterwa.org.au

The September edition of Shelter WA's newsletter and the 2004/05 Annual Report have recently been added to Shelter WA's website. The theme of the September newsletter is the worsening situation around housing affordability. In addition, the newsletter contains articles on the Homeswest Good Neighbour Policy, WA's State Housing Strategy, and updates on Shelter WA's Boarders and Lodgers Project, Community Consultations in Port Hedland and the implementation of the Equal Opportunity Commission's report on public housing for Aboriginal people.

Both the newsletter and the annual report can be accessed at www.shelterwa.org.au/whats_new.htm.

4. National Homelessness Conference

The Australian Federation of Homelessness Organisations is hosting the 4th National Homelessness Conference. Entitled 'The Great Australian Dream? Waking up to Homelessness' the Conference will be held at the Sydney Convention Centre from 1-3 March 2006. The Conference will focus on continued development of a strategic response to homelessness in Australia including:

- strategies to prevent homelessness
- homelessness service system development
- improved responses from other service systems to Australians experiencing homelessness

Further details regarding the Conference, including a program and registration form, are available at www.afho.org.au/conference/.

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.

To remove yourself from this list, please send a blank email with Subject "UNSUBSCRIBE" to listserv@shelterwa.org.au

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

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