

Editorial: Executive Officer, Chantal Roberts

Shelter WA is proud to announce we have a fresh new look. We have a new logo, which was developed with the considerate contribution of Bruce Reynolds from Crush Creative Design and Print. The innovative staff at Crush provided their creative input into our logo and brochures.

We would like to sincerely thank Bruce and all the staff at Crush for their valuable contribution and support.



Shelter WA commends the Western Australian Government's Premier, Hon Colin Barnett, for deciding to exclude the one-off clean energy advance payment to pensioners and eligible Centrelink recipients when calculating rental payments for those living in Department of Housing tenancies.

The current rent calculation formula for public housing tenants is 25 per cent of the tenants' income. Shelter WA and other community organisations raised concerns that the WA government may include this one-off payment in public housing tenants' rental calculations. However the Western Australian government has confirmed this will not be the case, given that the advance will be additional to normal Centrelink payments. Before the regular supplement comes into effect in 2013, Shelter WA will be advocating on behalf of public tenants to the Department of Human Services to ensure the supplement will not be paid in a way which will penalise certain Centrelink recipients in the calculation of public tenants' rental payments.

For further information about the Department of Human Services Clean Energy Advance Payment and Clean Energy Future Household Assistance Package [click here](#)

Shelter WA Tenant Forums

Shelter WA is running a series of tenant information forums in May 2012 to provide an opportunity for tenants to voice their concerns about the housing situation in Perth. The forums will also provide tenants in the community with information about affordable housing options and support services that are available. (Service information brochures will be made available for participants).

The forums are free and are open to the general public and will be held in May in various areas around the metropolitan region. (Click on link below for a copy of the flyer)

[Rockingham, Wednesday, 2 May 2012, 3pm – 5pm](#)

[Perth metro, Friday, 4 May 2012, 10am – 12pm](#)

[Armadale, Tuesday, 8 May 2012, 2pm – 4pm](#)

[Clarkson, Friday, 11 May 2012, 10am – 12pm](#)

The community forums are interactive and will provide information on affordable housing options and an opportunity for community members to discuss the issues they are facing as tenants or in trying to access affordable housing.

These forums are run as part of Shelter WA's Community Consultation and Engagement Strategy and are open to all residents/tenants in the community (the general public).

Shelter WA's role is to give an informed voice on housing policy issues based on research and consultation with housing consumers and community based organisations working with housing and related issues. We promote housing options for people on low incomes, including social housing (public housing and community housing), affordable housing provided through the private sector and affordable home ownership.

A snapshot of the Western Australian rental market by Anglicare WA has revealed the state of housing security for low income earners in Western Australia remains desperate.



Anglicare WA analysed print and online advertisements for 3828 private rentals across the state and found that only 29 properties were affordable for people on benefits or pensions; less than 1 percent of the market. The majority of affordable properties were located in the South of WA.

For the first time the capacity of minimum wage earners to pay market rents was included in the review. It was discovered that less than 2 per cent of the market was affordable for families on a minimum wage in Perth. These results demonstrate that the issue of rental affordability extends beyond just those on benefits and is a serious problem for minimum wage earners too.

Anglicare WA CEO Ian Carter said "This is our first look at the rental market from the perspective of minimum wage earners and the results are bleak. These are self sufficient individuals and families who work for a living, but the market is climbing too steeply for them to keep up."

In the north of the State not a single property was found to be affordable to families – including those with two earners on the minimum wage. The average weekly rent across the Pilbara and Kimberley was a staggering \$1374 per week.

Anglicare WA's CEO Ian Carter said "Anglicare WA's financial counsellors are in greater demand than ever before by families and individuals looking for a place to call home."

Mr Carter noted that "The current lack of affordable accommodation is having adverse social and economic effects on many low income earners. Some are being forced into homelessness. It is essential that we address this issue now, not only to provide immediate relief, but as a preventative measure for the wider impact on individuals and families."

Mr Carter stated "The impact of the lack of affordable housing has spread beyond those on benefits or allowances. It is becoming clearer and clearer that rental accommodation is moving into very exclusive socio-economic territory. This is something both the State and Federal Government should be concerned about."

Mr Carter had this advice for the State Government "The State Government has done the research and the consultation, and understands the solutions that will combat the shortage of affordable housing. It is now time to invest heavily in those strategies and start getting more social housing into the ground. The community cannot wait any longer."

On a national scale, Anglicare WA believes that the Federal Government should review the level of benefits and supplements they provide to help people pay their housing costs. Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA) is the primary federal supplement designed to address issues with private rental affordability. Anglicare WA believes the demonstrated decline in the affordability of the rental market is proof that CRA requires increased funding.

Mr Carter stated "While the cost of renting has continued to rise, the funding provided to CRA has not been increased. CRA will remain ineffective until the appropriate level of funding is provided."

The affordable housing situation in Western Australia is at a critical point. Multiple interventions are required at both State and Federal government levels to ease the pressure. The two major priorities must be to increase the levels of benefits and income supplements; and to accelerate social and affordable housing building programs.

Organisations like Anglicare WA will continue to provide the services required to assist families in housing, financial and relationship stress caused by the cost of maintaining a roof over their heads. Secure funding is required for all of these services to be maintained.

- A copy of the WA Rental Affordability Snapshot Report is available [here](#)
- The national results will be available online at [http://www.anglicare.asn.au/userfiles/file/Rental Affordability Snapshot 2012 Report.pdf](http://www.anglicare.asn.au/userfiles/file/Rental%20Affordability%20Snapshot%202012%20Report.pdf).
- This is part of an Australia-wide snapshot coordinated by Anglicare Australia
- Twitter hash tag for the Snapshot is #rentalsnapshot
- Affordability was calculated at 30% of a household's available income. To compare, the Department of Housing uses up to 25% of a person's income to define affordable public housing.

For more information visit www.anglicarewa.org.au

Shelter WA Submissions and Projects

Shelter WA is currently working on the following submissions and projects. If you have any issues or concerns you would like us to consider when preparing our submissions or you wish to attend a forum contact Stephanie at cdpo@shelterwa.org.au or phone 9325 6660.

Consultation Paper - Residential Tenancies Regulations Dept. Commerce

Shelter WA is currently compiling a response to the Department of Commerce Consultation Paper, *Proposed amendments to the Residential Tenancies Regulations 1989*. If you have any comments or key issues you would like included in our response please contact the Executive Officer Chantal Roberts at eo@shelterwa.org.au or call 9325 6660 by Friday, 11 May. A copy of the draft Shelter WA paper will be circulated for feedback prior to submission. Deadline for submissions is 17 May 2012.

[A copy of the RTA Regulations consultation paper can be found here](#)

Shelter WA Affordable Housing Network WA Meetings 2012

The Shelter WA Affordable Housing Network WA (AHNWA) meetings provide information and the latest news on Affordable Housing both nationally and in WA including upcoming submissions and discussion papers, etc.

Please join us for the opportunity to meet other individuals, service providers and organisations to discuss affordable housing issues which need to be addressed.

These issues help to inform Shelter's policy position in pending submissions and at various meetings and committees such as the Department of Housing, Housing Advisory Roundtable (HART). All meetings are scheduled prior to the HART meetings so issues discussed at AHNWA meetings can be raised in that forum.

The AHNWA 2012 meeting dates are as follows:

Thursday 26 July 2012

Thursday 18 October 2012

All meetings are held from 9:30am – 12:30pm in the Conference Room at Claisebrook Lotteries House, 33 Moore St, East Perth.

For more information or to **RSVP** please contact Stephanie on cdpo@shelterwa.org.au or phone 9325 6660.

WA Labor Party – Discussion Paper

Shelter WA is currently preparing a response to the WA Labor Party's Discussion paper *WA Labor's Plan for Infrastructure*. Under this policy WA Labor will create a 20-year State Infrastructure Strategy which sets out priorities for infrastructure planning and investment across WA.

If you have any comments or key issues you would like included in our response please contact the Executive Officer Chantal Roberts at eo@shelterwa.org.au or call 9325 6660 by Friday 4 May. A copy of the draft Shelter WA paper will be circulated for feedback prior to submission.

The deadline for submissions to the WA Labor Party is 11 May 2012. A copy of the paper can be found at <http://walabor.org.au/> or [here](#).

Shelter WA Forum

Young People, Housing and Homelessness

Thursday, 14 June 2012

Agenda

Session 1: What are the key issues in housing and homelessness for young people under 16yrs?

Session 2: What are the key issues in housing and homelessness for young people 16 - 25yrs?

More information about the forum including guest speakers and an invitation will be available soon.

Contact Stephanie at Shelter WA on cdpo@shelterwa.org.au or 9325 6660 if you are interested or would like further details.

Discussion Papers, Submissions, Issues Papers and Surveys

WA Labor Party Discussion Paper *Violence in Our Homes: Protecting the Vulnerable*

This discussion paper considers domestic and family violence in Western Australia and looks at ways of achieving a real and sustained reduction in levels of domestic and family violence. This is not a policy paper; it is a paper calling for public comment as WA Labor considers its policies for the next Western Australian State election.

WA Labor welcomes comment and feedback on this discussion paper. Please address all comments and feedback to the author of this paper by no later than **4 May 2012**. Dr Tony Buti MLA, Member for Armadale, Unit 11, 2756 Albany Highway, Kelmscott WA 6111 or tony.but@mp.wa.gov.au.

[Violence in the Homes - Protecting our Vulnerable Discussion Paper](#)

[Click here for more information](#)

FREO Street Doctor - Clinic for Young People

FREO Street Doctor has commenced a new clinic to focus on young people each Thursday night from 6pm - 9pm. The session is held at City of Melville Amphitheatre (Next to Garden City Shopping Centre, behind Hoyt's, and adjacent to the City of Melville Library). Each Thursday night clinic is staffed with a General Practitioner, Nurse, Fremantle headspace Youth Engagement Worker and an outreach worker.

The FREO Street Doctor is a flexible mobile health clinic that works with marginalised, at-risk and disadvantaged people in our community. The service provides a FREE, confidential, culturally appropriate and non-judgemental service to anybody needing a Doctor.

We offer a no-appointment system: First Come; First Serve. All people are bulk-billed at Freo Street Doctor. You will need a Medicare card for this (or if you have a number, but not the physical card on you we can confirm with Medicare with your permission!) The FREO Street Doctor offers a comprehensive health service encompassing Mental Health, Sexual Health, Social and Physical needs. Some things that the FREO Street Doctor can help you with include:

- Vaccines/Immunisations
- Skin issues
- Sexually Transmitted Infection tests/screening
- Mental Health issues
- Physical Health concerns
- Alcohol and Drug related problems
- Pap Smears
- General Health check ups

While we encourage young people to attend this session, anyone can see the Doctor for a (non-emergency) medical reason.

If you have any questions, please contact Lisa at the FREO Street Doctor at 9319 0555. FREO Street Doctor is able to send you flyers and information to your workplace/school if requested.

If you would like to take part in any of Shelter WA's surveys, please click on the links below:

[Affordable Housing Survey](#)

[Renting in WA](#)

Awards, Grants, Tenders and Funding Opportunities

Healthier WA Awards 2012

Do you know an organisation that has made an outstanding contribution to building a healthier WA?

Nominate them now and they could win a \$10 000 grant. You can nominate any project or venture. It could be a school, community or sporting group, a business or non-profit organisation.

For more details and nomination forms, visit <http://healthierwa.amawa.com.au/>

Nominations close on 25 May 2012.

Child Aware Approaches - one-off grants open

Approximately \$5 million has been allocated for the Child Aware Approaches initiative one-off grants in 2011-2012. Grants of up to \$200,000 will be made to eligible not-for-profit organisations.

Applications close at 2.00pm AEST on 18 May 2012. It is anticipated that applicants will be notified of the outcome in June 2012, and that projects will be completed during 2012.

Email childawareapproaches@fahcsia.gov.au

Applicants must complete the application form for Child Aware Approaches. Application forms and guidelines are available from this website. [Application forms and guidelines are available from the FaHCSIA website.](#)

Questions regarding the application form and assessment process will be accepted through an email to childawareapproaches@fahcsia.gov.au. The Department will **only** respond to requests for information that seek clarification of issues to allow a better understanding of the requirements of the Application Form and Program Guidelines.

Social Enterprise Fund grants program launched

A grants program to develop and support social enterprises in the not-for-profit sector was launched on the 3 April 2012 by Community Services Minister Robyn McSweeney. Social enterprise is the next frontier in delivering social aims by sustainable means. Social enterprises are organisations that:

- are led by an economic, social, cultural or environmental mission consistent with a public or community benefit
- trade to fulfil their mission
- derive a substantial portion of their income from trade
- reinvest the majority of their profit/surplus into the fulfilment of their mission.

“Funding will be available through two streams: one for investment-ready enterprises with a sound business plan in place; there will also be seed funding for organisations whose enterprise idea requires further development and support.”

“Other types of social enterprises to be supported are enterprises that create social value through trading, such as community employment. The Big Issue is a good example of this.”

Social Ventures Australia is leading a consortium of partners to provide specialist support to potential applicants and build the entrepreneurial capacity in the WA not-for-profit sector.

The members of the consortium are: Social Ventures Australia; Social Traders; Social Innovation in Western Australia (SiWA); Centre for Social Impact (UWA); and the Western Australian Council of Social Service (WACOSS).

- Application forms available from Department for Communities website
- All WA not-for-profit organisations eligible to apply, at any time during the year
- **Applications for first round of grants open until May 31, 2012**
- First round of successful applicants announced later this year

Minister's office - 6552 6500 [Click here for link to full media statement](#)

Australasian Housing Institute - Professional Excellence in Housing Awards

The Australasian Housing Institute Awards provide an opportunity to showcase social housing success stories. The Awards formally recognise and reward excellence in professional practice, from the grass roots to the most senior levels. They promote to our colleagues and the community at large the difference that social housing professionals make to people's lives.

[Download](#) Excellence in Housing Awards brochure (PDF - 2537kb)

[Download](#) the entry form (PDF - 294kb)

[Download](#) brochure for sponsors (PDF - 1652kb)

Awards will go to housing professionals who are judged to have made a significant and lasting difference: to tenants or service users, to their community, to their colleagues and to their profession.

Further information: <http://www.housinginstitute.org/news/awards/index.php>

Nominations close for Western Australia on Friday, 25 May 2012.

Comment period now open, closing Friday May 11, 2012

Regional Development Minister Brendon Grylls has released the Western Australian Regional Development Trust's review of the Country Local Government Fund (CLGF).

Mr Grylls said the trust had recommended significant changes to the CLGF and it was important that interested parties were able to provide feedback before the State Government responded to the review.

The CLGF was one of three funds under the State Government's Royalties for Regions program, and its purpose was to provide and renew infrastructure and support capacity-building across regional WA.

The trust has made 26 recommendations against the review's terms of reference, addressing:

- The purpose of the CLGF
- What should be funded under the CLGF
- How much should be available through the CLGF
- Who should receive CLGF funding
- How CLGF funding should be received
- Who makes the decision about successful CLGF projects and on what basis
- What will deliver the best outcomes
- Capacity-building in the country local government sector.

Written submissions should be emailed to clgfreview@rdl.wa.gov.au by Friday May 11, 2012

Minister's office - 6552 5500 [Click here for link to full media statement](#)

Department of Immigration & Citizenship (DIAC) Settlement Grants Program

The Edmund Rice Centre's Specialist Housing Program and Mercy Care's Ready Rental Course are funded by DIAC's Settlement Grants Program (SGP). DIAC's Real Estate Pilot has been expanded, real estate agents currently participating in the pilot have been nominated by current providers of the Department's settlement programs (Humanitarian Settlement Services (HSS) and the Settlement Grants Program) in areas of high settlement need. Further details are provided in the following link:

<http://www.minister.immi.gov.au/parlsec/media/kl/2011/kl181139.htm>

A study of the impacts for low-income households of rising energy prices.

Survey of household energy use and affordability

This study is investigating the impacts for **low-income households** from paying higher energy prices. Why? There is no Australian research which presents a comprehensive picture of the pressures and circumstances of **low-income households** following the substantial increases in electricity and gas prices in recent years.

The findings of this study will be used to recommend policies to improve the circumstances of low-income Australian households.

The study is being undertaken by [Dr Lynne Chester](#), a researcher from The University of Sydney.

The first phase in the study is a survey of **low-income household** energy use and affordability.

Australian household energy use has increased substantially in the last 10 years. Electricity and gas prices have also increased substantially in recent years. Further increases in energy prices are forecast.

The [survey](#) is seeking information about the circumstances of **low-income households** as they pay rising electricity and gas bills, the amounts of income needed to pay energy bills, and the relationship between energy use and housing conditions. Go to the [survey](#) for more details.

The survey asks about:

- the characteristics of your household (such as where you live, how many people, how many children);
- the size and type of your housing (such as how many rooms, what is home made from);
- your household energy use (such as household appliances, if you are able to reduce energy use); and
- your energy bills and their impact (such as the cost, any payment difficulties, the impact on spending for other essentials).

<http://www.householdenergyuse.com/survey.php>

Research, Resources, Reports and Publications

Final Report: Public Consultations on the National Regulatory System for Community Housing

In June 2011, Housing Ministers across Australia agreed to a blueprint for a National Regulatory System for community housing providers. The proposed system seeks to introduce nationally consistent regulatory arrangements to promote the growth of the community housing sector nationally.

The new system will aim to:

- Improve tenant outcomes and protect vulnerable tenants
- Protect government funding and equity in the sector
- Enhance investor and partner confidence.

Public consultation on the proposed system was held in November and December 2011, the public submission period closed on 20 January 2012.

The [Report of the Public Consultation](#) for the proposed National Regulatory System for community housing and a [letter to stakeholders](#) is now available.

The new system is expected to begin in 2013.

More information is available on the website <http://www.nrsch.gov.au/>

Australian Homelessness Clearinghouse

[A National Quality Framework for the Provision of Services to People who are Homeless or at Risk of Homelessness – Stage 2 Report](#)

[The State of Homelessness in America 2012: A Research Report on Homelessness](#)

[Homelessness: A silent killer \(UK\)](#)

[The Geelong Study: A Review of Victorian Education Initiatives Relating to Youth Homelessness](#)

[Design Considerations for an Integrated Homelessness Services System – Place Based Network Analysis](#)

[Developing an Effective Homelessness Workforce](#)

[Open Family Australia Mobile Youth Outreach](#)

[Shelter NSW and YFoundations States of being: Exploring the links between homelessness, mental illness and psychological distress](#)

[Click here for more from the Australian Homelessness Clearing House](#)

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)

www.abs.gov.au

[Dwelling approvals fall in February \(Media Release\), February 2012](#)

[Building Approvals, Australia, February 2012](#)

[Housing Finance, Australia, Feb 2012](#)

[Building Activity, Australia, Dec 2011](#)

[Construction Activity: Chain Volume Measures, Australia, Dec 2011](#)

[Lending Finance, Australia, Feb 2012](#)

[Mining industry remains WA's biggest economic contributor \(Media Release\), 2012](#)

[Western Australia at a Glance, 2012](#)

[Dwelling Unit Commencements, Australia, Preliminary, Dec 2011](#)

[Demography News, April 2012 \(Final Issue\)](#)

[Information Paper: Changes to Average Weekly Earnings, Australia, Apr 2012 \(Replacement Content\)](#)

[Production of Selected Construction Materials, Mar 2012](#)

[Population growth surges in the outer suburbs - WA \(Media Release\), 2010-11](#)

[Lending Finance, Australia, Jan 2012](#)

[Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2010-11](#)

Specialist Homelessness Services Collection: first results

Each year many Australians experience homelessness or find themselves in circumstances of risk of becoming homeless. This report presents the first quarterly results of the new Specialist Homelessness Services Collection. This collection replaces the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program National Data Collection which collected data on homelessness service provision by Australian governments since 1996. Click on the link to view the [media release](#) and [report](#).

Younger people with disability in residential aged care 2010-11

This bulletin presents data on the Younger People with Disability in Residential Aged Care (YPIRAC) initiative, which aims to reduce the number of people with disability aged under 65 who live in residential aged care. Between 2005-06 and 2010-11, an estimated 1,432 people have been helped, including 250 who have been moved out of residential aged care and into accommodation that better suits their situation, 244 who were successfully diverted away from entering residential aged care, and 456 who were provided with enhanced services while in residential aged care. Click on the link to view the [media release](#) and [report](#).

[Mental health in Australia: Mental health workforce section Report](#) and [media release](#).

[Social and emotional wellbeing: development of a children's headline indicator Report](#)

[Standing Council on Health Health Workforce 2025](#)

[Standing Council on Health Communique 27 April 2012](#)

Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI)www.ahuri.edu.au

[Final Report: No. 187: Sustaining home ownership in the 21st century: emerging policy concerns](#)

[Final Report: No. 185: Community Land Trusts and Indigenous housing options](#)

[Final Report: No. 184: Policy shift of program drift? Implementing Housing First in Australia](#)

[Positioning Paper: No. 147: The role of community housing organisations in meeting the housing and support needs of people who are homeless](#)

[Positioning Paper No. 146: Social inclusion and housing: towards a household and local area analysis](#)

[Positioning Paper: No. 145: Resident third party objections and appeals against planning applications: implications for higher density and social housing](#)

[Research and Policy Bulletin: Issue 153: What does the residual income method tell us about housing affordability in Australia?](#)

[Research and Policy Bulletin Issue 152: Building new housing in remote Indigenous communities](#)

[Research and Policy Bulletin Issue 151: Addressing the stigmatisation of social housing](#)

[The spatial and distributional impacts of the Henry Review recommendations on stamp duty and land tax](#) Rachel Ong | Modelling two recommendations made in the Henry Review of Taxation (2010), this study considers the impact of the recommendations on rents, rental supply and housing affordability.

[Developing sustainable affordable housing: a project level analysis](#) Vivienne Milligan | Considering eight case studies, this project examines the sustainability outcomes of new affordable housing projects and showed how limited public funding was used to leverage desirable financial, environmental and social outcomes.

[Policy shift or program drift? Implementing Housing First in Australia](#) Guy Johnson | This essay critically analysed how the Housing First approach could be successfully applied to the system of supported housing in Australia.

[The role of community housing organisations in meeting the housing and support needs of people who are homeless](#) Tony Eardley, Saul Flaxman | This study examines the role of the community housing sector in addressing homelessness, in the context of an expansion of the Community Housing sector more generally.

[Click here for the latest AHURI publications and news](#)

[The politics of housing](#) Sarah Toohey | Insight | Sarah Toohey from Australians for Affordable Housing on how and why we need to shift the agenda on housing.

[Family violence and homelessness: removing the perpetrator from the home](#) Domestic Violence Resource Centre, Victoria | Women and children who are subjected to family violence are vulnerable to homelessness.

[The state of Western Australia's children and young people](#) Commissioner for Children and Young People WA | This study reports encouraging trends for WA children, overall, but also confirms the ongoing disadvantage of Aboriginal children and young people across a range of wellbeing measures.

[The state of the world's children 2012: children in an urban world](#) UNICEF | Almost half the world's children now live in urban areas; the report calls for greater emphasis on identifying and meeting their needs.

[Are unemployment benefits adequate in Australia?](#) Richard Denniss, David Baker | Australian Institute | The unemployment rate in Australia was 5.2 per cent in March 2012 which is low by historic and international standards. However, a substantial number of people who are looking for work cannot find it with the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) reporting that the number of people unemployed in March 2012 was 626,800.

[Critiquing government regional development policies](#) John Daley | Committee for Economic Development in Australia | Australian governments are under constant pressure to intervene to support the economies of particular regions, particularly those that grow more slowly.

[Demographic change and local development: shrinkage, regeneration and social dynamics](#) OECD Local Economic and Employment Development. | This report cases from 20 countries divided under the following sections: community shrinkage and sustainability, regeneration strategies for communities, and the social dynamics of demographic change.

[Who is missing out? Material deprivation and income support payments](#) Australian Council of Social Service | This report presents findings from a new study conducted by Saunders and Wong from the Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC), that measured material deprivation in Australia by asking a random sample of Australian adults in 2010 what goods and services they regarded as essential (for example, a 'decent and secure home'), whether they had those items, and if not whether this was because they could not afford them.

[Sharing the wealth of the lucky country](#) Australian Council for Social Services | The Australian Council of Social Service annual conference is a major event for social services and the community sector. Papers from the conference examine our country from the perspective of low income Australians.

[A greater Australia: population, policies and governance](#) Jonathan Pincus, Graeme Hugo | Committee for Economic Development in Australia | The population of Australia was estimated at 22.8 million in February 2012, making it the 51st most populous country in the world. With a settlement pattern dominated by six major cities, Australia is one of the most heavily urbanised countries in the world.

[Access to public housing](#) Victorian Auditor-General's Office | Public housing is an important way that government assists those in housing need. Safe, secure housing is essential for good health, employment, education and community wellbeing.

[Making it home: refugee housing in Melbourne's west](#) Laura Berta | Footscray Community Legal Centre | Refugees in Melbourne suburbs are being exploited and living in dingy conditions according to this report which details the disadvantage refugees face due to language and cultural barriers.

[Helping people overcome poverty: investing in community solutions](#) Australian Council for International Development | This submission to the 2012-13 Federal Budget contains 26 recommendations gathered from the knowledge and input of ACFID Member Agencies.

[Click here for the latest from Australian Policy Online](#)

Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC) latest publications

[Locked Out Position Paper on Homelessness of Asylum Seekers Living in the Community](#)

Housing is one of the greatest challenges facing asylum seekers in Australia. Asylum seekers who have applied for protection can live for years in the community without stable accommodation and without access to any mainstream Housing Services. In 2007/08, 97.3% of the 4750 asylum seeker applications submitted in Australia came from people who arrived by plane and now live in the Australian community (UNHCR, 2009)

[Welfare paper Destitute and Uncertain: the reality of seeking asylum in Australia](#)

The purpose of this paper is to educate, advocate and work constructively towards better practices and processes regarding the welfare needs of asylum seekers. It highlights key recommendations to ease the uncertainty and destitution facing many asylum seekers living in our community. The paper outlines a best practice model for responding to the welfare needs of asylum seekers.

For more information go the ARSC website <http://www.asrc.org.au/publications/publications/>

New Website - Communities and Families Clearinghouse Australia

On 30 March three AIFS Clearinghouses amalgamated, and the Child Family Community Australia (CFCA) information exchange was born. The [new website](#) is live, and has hit the ground running! You will be pleased to hear that we've been busily assembling and disseminating the latest news, research, reports and events to assist professionals protect children, support families and strengthen communities.

We invite you to [subscribe to the new CFCA alert](#). The CFCA alert will be sent out fortnightly, and will provide a snapshot of the sector, direct to your inbox.

We also invite you to peruse our new website, engage us and your peers in conversation and spread the word to your colleagues who aren't in-the-know - [the CFCA has arrived](#).

Two CFCA publications are already online: [Safe and supportive families and communities for children: A synopsis and critique of Australian research](#); and [Is resilience still a useful concept when working with children and young people?](#)

The conversation is in full swing on [CFCA Connect](#): a dynamic, interactive source of information where you can engage in discussion with your peers, comment on our content, find short articles on current issues, read summaries of important research and reports, and discover what's new in the field. Our new [Twitter](#) and [Facebook page](#) are also active.

Queensland Shelter Report – What Does it Take to House a Young Person?

Queensland Shelter today launched a report outlining ways to address homelessness and housing stress issues for young people.

The launch of “What Does it Take to House a Young Person?” comes during Youth Week and in the wake of Youth Homelessness Matters Day, which was themed around being part of the solution.

[Click here to see the full report, including list of recommendations](#)

Conferences, Events and Workshops 2012

WACOSS 2012 Conference The Big Picture

8-10 May 2012, Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, Western Australia

The WACOSS 2012 Conference Registration Brochure is now available online. The brochure and program can be downloaded from the Conference website www.wacoss.org.au/WACOSSConference2012

The WACOSS 2012 Conference THE BIG PICTURE will focus on the Big Issues for community services, the sector and civil society at large. The conference will explore four key themes; Community, Culture, Creativity and Collaboration which will help us to set priorities and make an impact, lead innovation and empowerment, drive cultural change and organisation excellence and work strategically to effect change.

Please contact the Conference Secretariat, EECW Pty Ltd, Events Meetings, Australia for more information.

T: (08) 9389 1488 F: (08) 9389 1499 E: eecw@eecw.com.au

DCP Specialist Homelessness Services Conference: Leading the road home

In partnership with the Western Australian Council on Homelessness, the Department for Child Protection is pleased to host the 2012 Specialist Homelessness Services Conference, *Leading the road home!*

The conference will be held at the Perth Exhibition and Convention Centre on 28 & 29 May 2012.

Relevant information can also be accessed on the Departments website on: <http://www.dcp.wa.gov.au/servicescommunity/Pages/Homelessness.aspx>

Registrations Open National Affordable Housing Exchange 2012

The *Community Housing Federation Australia* (CHFA) **3rd National Affordable Housing Exchange** is to be held on **26 and 27 July 2012** at Australia Technology Park in Sydney.

Registrations are now open for our National Affordable Housing Exchange. The event promises to offer delegates with a huge opportunity for learning, networking and information on issues that affect affordable housing in Australia. The event will be of interest to housing providers, developers, service providers, suppliers, academics and representatives from government.

For further information on the event and to register please visit the [event website](#) or the [CHFA website](#)

AHURI Housing Research Seminar Perth *Measuring house stress and its consequences*

This AHURI Housing Research Seminar will present the findings from three new AHURI research projects - *Essay: Exploring the use of residual measures of housing affordability as an alternative to the ratio approach* by [Associate Professor Paul Henman](#) (AHURI Queensland Research Centre), *Housing stress and household wellbeing in Australia* by [Dr Steven Rowley](#) (AHURI Western Australia Research Centre) and *Residual incomes in Australia: analysis and implications* by [Professor Terry Burke](#) (AHURI Swinburne-Monash Research Centre).

Following the research presentations, [Mr Grahame Searle](#) (Director General, Department of Housing, Western Australia) will comment on the policy and practice implications of the new findings.

The seminar will close with a group discussion and Q&A facilitated by [Dr Anne Badenhorst](#) (Director Research, Housing, AHURI Limited).

Wednesday, 16 May, 2012 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM, Citigate Hotel, 707 Wellington Street, Perth [View seminar agenda](#)

7th Australian Women's Health Conference, 7 - 10 May 2013, Sydney

The 7th Australian Women's Conference *Gender Matters: Determining Women's Health* will continue Australia's focus on showcasing cutting edge research and best practice approaches in women's health policy and practice locally, across Australia and internationally. The conference is relevant to: service providers, policy makers, managers, researchers, women's health, mental health, community health, social and community services, Aboriginal controlled services, migrant and refugee services, reproductive services, legal services, universities, disability services, allied health care, public health, educators, academics, local councils, Local Health Districts, Medicare Locals, Government, non-government and private sectors, volunteers and students.

Abstract Submission Deadline 30 September 2012 To download the Call for Abstracts Brochure, access: [click here](#). Submit your abstract as early as possible in order to avoid online submission congestion. Enquiries regarding abstracts for AWHN 7th Australian Women's Health Conference 2013 should be emailed to abstracts@womenshealth2013.org.au

Registration for AWHN 7th Australian Women's Health Conference 2013 is now open. Early bird registration closes 15 February 2013. To register, access: <https://secure.icmsaust.com.au/ei/getdemo.ei?id=595&s=33G0UE2QP>

For further information contact the AWHN 7th Australian Women's Health Conference 2013 Secretariat: ICMS Australasia, GPO Box 3270, Sydney NSW 2001, T: +61 2 9254 5000, F: +61 2 9251 3552

Conferences, Events and Workshops 2012

[International Year of Housing Cooperatives 2012](#) [WA Federation of Housing Collectives \(FoHCOL\)](#)

Connecting Up [Conference: Unleashing the Power of Your Non-Profit](#) (Sydney) 1-3 May

WACOSS [Conference: The Big Picture](#) (Perth) 8-10 May

Positive Schools 2012 [Conference Mental Health & Wellbeing](#) (Fremantle) 24-25 May

Leaders with A Life [Conference](#) (Adelaide) 21-22 May

DCP Specialist Homelessness Services [Conference](#) (Perth) 28-29 May

Richmond Fellowship Asia Pacific [Conference on Mental Health](#) (Perth) 11-13 June

AIHW Australia's Health [Conference 2012](#) (Canberra) 21 June

12th Australian Institute of Family Studies [Conference Family Transitions & Trajectories](#) (Melbourne) 25-27 July

NAIDOC [Week](#) (National) 1-8 July

3rd CHFA National Affordable Housing [Exchange](#) (Sydney) 26-27 July

Western Australian Drug and Alcohol [Conference](#) (Perth) 6-8 August

Homeless Persons' [Week](#) (National) 6-12 August

7th National Homelessness [Conference](#) (Melbourne) 5-7 September

Anti-Poverty [Week](#) (National) 16-22 October

PropertyOz Property [Congress 2012](#) (Sydney) 31 October–2 November

7th National Housing [Conference](#) (Brisbane) 30 October – 2 November

Media Releases

WA Government Media Releases

[SuperTowns on show](#)

[State Government reaffirms commitment to national disability reform](#)

[Funding on offer to help preserve WA's coast](#)

[Next stage of works commence for Riverside](#)

[Construction work begins at Perth Waterfront](#)

[Country pensioners benefit from Fuel Card](#)

[Kimberley Development Commission appointments](#)

[Kimberley's biggest display village opens in Broome](#)

[Perth Waterfront design guide revealed](#)

[COAG recognises WA planning achievements](#)

[Design concept developed for new coastal estate at Karratha](#)

[Paving the way for Cottesloe's renewal](#)

[New land strategy to help grow jobs and business](#)

[Major expansion for key Pilbara port town](#)

[Royalties for Regions funding Pilbara CUF](#)

[Expanded facilities for Harvest Lakes' residents](#)

[Premier opens \\$11million autism facility](#)

[Aged Care and Community Health on the agenda](#)

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Australian Federal Government

[Student accommodation the hot topic at national conference](#)

[Gillard Government to establish National Children's Commissioner](#)

[More Choice, Easier Access and Better Care for Older Australians](#)

[Young people celebrate National Youth Week](#)

[COAG takes important step to progress not-for-profit reforms | Prime Minister of Australia](#)

[Council of Australian Governments Meeting Communiqué](#)

[Building Innovative Accommodation for People with Disability - Senator the Hon Jan McLucas](#)

[Getting on with the next steps to develop a national disability insurance scheme | Prime Minister of Australia](#)

[Gillard Government offers \\$200M for better mental health services | Prime Minister of Australia](#)

[Australia's Human Rights Framework is making our nation greater](#)

[A Conversation on Social Inclusion | Social Inclusion](#)

[Working Together to Break the Cycle of Hospitalisation and Homelessness \(NSW\)](#)

[Mental Health Matters - An Update on Reform from the Minister for Mental Health - April 2012](#)

[More local support for people with mental illness](#)

[2012 Australian Smart Infrastructure Awards](#)

[Speech to launch the Salvation Army 2012 Red Shield Appeal | Prime Minister of Australia](#)

[Click here for the latest Australian Government Media Releases](#)

Labor Party WA: <http://www.wa.alp.org.au/news/rss>

National Party WA: <http://www.nationalswa.com/>

Liberal Party Australia: <http://www.liberal.org.au/Latest-News.aspx>

Greens Party WA: <http://greens.org.au/>

Media Release Australian Greens Senator Rachel Siewart : *How would you live on \$17 a day?*

Imagine that you've just lost your job. Last week I met David, who lost his job as a chef after 24 years working for one company. David didn't think it could happen to him, but it can happen to anyone.

How would you find work again if you couldn't afford a train ticket, a decent meal or a phone call?

Newstart is Australia's unemployment benefit. It's supposed to be a safety net to catch all of us when we find ourselves out of a job – but Newstart has fallen so low that it's begun to trap people in poverty.

After paying their rent, people on Newstart are forced to live on \$17 a day. **That's just \$17 a day for everything, from power and water bills, to food and transport.** With rents rising, many live on even less than that. Newstart is \$133 a week lower than the aged and disability pensions – and we all know they're too low.

Living on so little takes its toll. You go into debt to pay a bill, your phone gets cut off, and sometimes you can't afford to eat well – so you eat plain rice or pasta, just to feel full. Imagine looking for work, hungry.

The stress of living on Newstart actually makes it harder to find work, which is one reason why the Greens and the social services sector have backed an increase to Newstart for years – and why the Business Council of Australia's Chief Executive, Jennifer Westacott, supports an increase as well.

Just one week ago, this issue was barely on the government's radar. **That's why I've just [lived on Newstart for a week – on that same \\$17 a day – to get the word out.](#)** From Today Tonight to Radio National, people are now talking about why Newstart needs to be increased.

During the week, I met people on Newstart, like David, and the people who work most closely with them: community centres, church groups, financial counsellors, interview trainers and more.

They all had one message for me: Newstart is too low, and it needs to be increased now.

That decision is in the hands of Government Ministers like Bill Shorten. So far, he's refused point-blank to even consider increasing Newstart; cutting services to fund a Budget surplus is more important. Any surplus in the Budget is a fake surplus if we are condemning Australians to live in poverty. Only the Greens are responsible enough to plan to raise money for our measures without cutting vital services.

[Have you lived on Newstart? Do you know someone who has? Please, tell us your story – we'll compile them and deliver them to Minister Shorten to convince him to increase Newstart this year.](#)

Glenda, a wonderful woman I met on Tuesday, wants to start her own small business – but her mobile phone has just been disconnected. Her landline is long gone. How can she get back into work without a connection to the outside world?

You can read many, many more stories just like Glenda's on my [Facebook page](#). My week on Newstart was just a week, but over 500,000 people like her live on it every day. That's over 500,000 people living \$130 a week below the poverty line.

[This situation can't be allowed to last. Every Australian can help. Will you write to Minister Shorten and tell him why Newstart needs to be increased?](#)

Yours sincerely,

Rachel Siewert

P.S. Joe Hockey has just revealed that he wants to cut social security across the board – but Newstart is already far too little to live on. [Tell Minister Shorten to defy the Coalition and get this system fixed.](#)

Useful links

[Homelessness Australia Newsletter](#)

[Homelessness Clearing House](#)

[Community Housing Federation Australia](#)

[Community Housing Coalition WA \(CHCWA\)](#)

[Tenants Advice Service WA](#)

[WACOSS](#)

[Housing Industry Association Ltd](#)

[Australasian Housing Institute](#)

[Real Estate Institute of Australia \(REIA\)](#)

[Real Estate Institute of WA \(REIWA\)](#)

[Communities and Families Clearing House](#)

[Council to Homeless Persons](#)

Shelter WA 2012 Newsletters Publications

Shelter WA publishes a monthly newsletter and welcomes your input.

We accept articles, reports, new housing related and support services, and are happy to promote events, training etc.

If you have any questions or require further information contact Stephanie on 9325 6660 or email cdpo@shelterwa.org.au

For copies of Shelter WA's previous publications click on the following links to access [Updates](#) and [Newsletters](#)

About Shelter WA

Shelter WA is an independent community based peak body committed to accessible, affordable, appropriate and secure housing in Western Australia. Shelter WA focuses on supporting positive housing outcomes for people on low incomes or who are otherwise disadvantaged in the housing market. This includes people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Shelter WA promotes and advocates housing options along the whole housing continuum, including social housing (public and community housing), affordable housing provided through the private sector, and affordable home ownership. The work of Shelter WA is directed towards influencing government and community policy leading to the elimination of homelessness and housing related poverty. Shelter WA believes housing is a human right, and every person should have appropriate and affordable housing, and security of tenure.

Shelter WA provides an informed voice on housing policy and issues based on sound research and analysis, strong collaboration with the housing sector and wide consultation with the community. Through our research and consultation, we identify housing needs and gaps, from which we develop and promote effective housing policy.

We do this by: holding regular forums and consultations, conducting questionnaires and surveys in response to housing policy and practice issues; actively participating in government and community sector committees; by responding to queries and requests from the public; and, by informing and educating through the electronic circulation of regular newsletters, reports and fact sheets which are also available on our website.

Shelter WA is committed to the presence and extension of choice in the articulation of Government housing policy and therefore to the availability of a range of housing options for low income and special needs housing consumers.

If you wish to receive Shelter WA's Newsletters and Updates please click [Subscribe](#)

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