

Housing stays in Cabinet where it belongs

National Shelter Media Release 02 March 2012

Housing Peak National Shelter and Shelter WA would like to welcome the Honourable Brendan O'Connor MP as the new Minister for Small Business and the Minister for Housing and Homelessness.

Chairperson of National Shelter, Adrian Pisarski, welcomed the retention of a Minister for Housing in the Cabinet.

'We are pleased that Housing and Homelessness has been retained in Cabinet as the issues require a high level government focus.'

'It is encouraging to see that National Shelter's long-held position, which is that housing belongs in the Cabinet, is also the view of the federal government.'

'We look forward to working with Minister O'Connor to tackle Australia's affordable housing and homelessness challenges.'

National Shelter www.shelter.org.au

Adrian Pisarski, Chairperson: tel: (07) 3831 5900, 0417 975 270; email: eo@gshelter.asn.au

Joanna Carson, Communications Officer: 0418 718 584: email: comms@gshelter.asn.au

Mitsubishi Australia Donation to Shelter WA



Shelter WA staff & Mitsubishi Australia

Shelter WA is greatly appreciative of the donation from Mitsubishi Australia which will help us to fund events for Homeless Connect and Homeless Persons' Week later in the year.



Shelter WA Chair Richard Sheridan & Mr Yasuo Yamanaka Mitsubishi Australia General Manager

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](#)

Australians for Affordable Housing welcomed the launch of the Property Council's *Make my city work* campaign, saying that the Property Council's nationwide *My City: The People's Verdict* report is further evidence of the need for State and Federal Governments to immediately act to improve housing affordability.

The survey of over 5,200 Australians asked respondents to judge their cities performance in 17 areas, including housing affordability.

AAH Campaign Manager, Sarah Toohey said the report's results were a wakeup call to State and Federal Governments who have to date, failed to fix this worsening crisis.

"The Property Council's research shows that nationwide, over 65 per cent of respondents believe that their city doesn't have a good range of quality affordable housing.

"When asked a series of 17 questions on liveability, respondents ranked 'there is a good range of quality affordable housing' as the lowest, with just over one third of respondents agreeing to the statement.

"The situation is dire across the country, but particularly in Darwin, Sydney and Canberra where more than three quarters of respondents think that their city doesn't have a good range of quality affordable housing and the fact is, they're right. These are 3 of Australia's most expensive places to buy or rent.

"Housing affordability will not improve unless there is serious Government action. We need a National Housing Plan that includes all levels of government, and everything they can throw at it.

"In this Budget the Federal Government can start by establishing an Affordable Housing Growth Fund, with an annual allocation of \$2.5 billion a year to provide 100,000 affordable homes over five years.

"Every day Australians hear about the lack of affordable housing. The Government needs to get started on a solution," Ms Toohey said.

Australians for Affordable Housing is a coalition of national housing, welfare and community sector organisations working to highlight the problem of housing affordability in Australia. For more information visit www.housingstressed.org.au

[Click here for the media release](#) or visit the website www.housingstressed.org.au

Spokesperson: Sarah Toohey, 0427 563 989

Media enquiries: Stephanie De Campo, 0432 828 004

Follow AAH on Facebook and Twitter: [@housingstressed](https://twitter.com/housingstressed)

Make My City Work - Your Invitation to Join the Campaign

If you believe it's time for politicians to get serious about our cities, please click on www.makemycitywork.org.au and sign-up for action.

Australians love their cities, but are also frustrated by them. We curse transport congestion and delays, low housing affordability, and long waiting lists for vital community services such as child and aged care places or hospital beds.

Above all, we condemn the absence of long-term vision and bold thinking about cities. Across the country, there is a growing feeling that our cities just don't work as well as they should.

The Property Council of Australia is launching a national campaign to mobilise the political will to forge a better deal for our cities. To do this we first need to muster public support to prove there is a powerful mandate for action.

The campaign – Make My City Work – was launched at a televised address on 28 March at the National Press Club in Canberra.

We invite you and your colleagues to support this campaign by:

1. Signing up as a campaign supporter.
2. Encouraging your friends and colleagues to do the same.
3. Making your voice heard by participating in campaign activities.

It takes only moments to sign-up – simply visit www.makemycitywork.org.au.

By doing so, you show politicians and policy makers that cities are critically important and that you want action.

You will hear much more about this campaign in the coming weeks and months.

Please stand-up for our cities by signing-up for action today.

First Meeting of Minister's Cities Forum

Australia's first Urban Policy Forum held its inaugural meeting in Canberra on 15 March 2012. This gathering of individuals with extensive experience and expertise in all facets of urban policy marks the beginning of the next stage in the Government's efforts to make our cities and large regional centres more productive, sustainable and liveable.

It was also announced that the Department's Major Cities Unit along with *Infrastructure Australia* will partner with the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) to host a conference series showcasing high-quality research for decision makers and professionals involved in urban policy and planning. The first of these conferences will be held in Sydney early next year.

Making our cities work better is about more than just a better quality of life for those Australians who live in them. We are one of the most urbanised societies on the planet and our continuing economic prosperity will largely depend on how successful we are at this task. Forum members will use the meeting to outline their priorities and begin discussing ideas for turning the principles and goals set out in our National Urban Policy—*Our Cities, Our Future*—into a plan of action. They will also review our highly successful *State of Australian Cities* report and suggest improvements which could be incorporated into its next editions.

The Urban Policy Forum is expected to meet again later this year. A full list of Forum members is [available here](#).

For further information on the Forum visit the [Department of Infrastructure and Transport website](#)

Shelter WA Submissions and Projects

Shelter WA is currently involved in the following submissions. If you have any issues or concerns you would like us to consider when preparing our submissions contact Stephanie at cdpo@shelterwa.org.au or phone 9325 6660.

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 that need to be addressed.

These issues help to inform Shelter's policy position in pending submissions and at a variety of 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.

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.

Boarders & Lodgers Working Group Meeting, 2 April 2012

Shelter WA and the Tenants Advice Service has been concerned by the lack of legal protection offered to boarders and lodgers and those in marginal tenures in Western Australia. As a result the Boarders and Lodgers Working Group came together in 2010 to begin a campaign that aims to improve rights for boarders and lodgers in WA.

The Boarders & Lodgers Working Group will be meeting on **Monday, 2 April 2012**, from 10am – 12.30pm. A representative from the Department of Commerce will be attending the meeting to provide an update on their discussion paper.

If you would like further information or would like to attend please contact Stephanie on cdpo@shelterwa.org.au or phone 9325 6660.

For more information on Shelter WA projects visit our website www.shelterwa.org.au

Awards, Grants, Tenders and Funding Opportunities

Calling all young artists!

As a part of National Youth Week, Feast Your Eyes and Fat Shans Records are having a huge celebration. This will include an amazing outdoor gallery showcasing local youth artists.

Do you want to get involved and exhibit your own work? To make a submission, send an image of your work, with your name, age, brief art history and the medium you used.

Also, make sure you include the answers to these questions:

- What is your favourite place to hang out?
- What is your favourite late night snack?
- What is your favourite tune at the moment?
- Who is your favourite youth artist?

Make sure you submit by Friday, 6 April 2012, and then come down for a fun night from 3.00pm, Sunday, 15 April 2012 in Kings Square, Fremantle. For more information, contact feastyoureyesevents@gmail.com

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.

Department for Communities WA Grants for Women Program

The Department for Communities is currently seeking applications for the Grants for Women Program 2012.

The Department for Communities is providing one-off grants of up to \$5,000 to eligible community groups and organisations for projects that strengthen the health and wellbeing of women, encourage women's economic independence, encourage women's leadership and sense of safety in the home or community.

Please [click here](#) for a copy of the application form and [click here](#) for a copy of the guidelines.

Applications close at 5:00pm on Thursday 5 April 2012.

If you require further information about the WA Grants for Women Program 2012 or assistance in completing an application form, please contact the Community Funding Unit on (08) 6551 8700.

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.

AHI Awards Presentations will be held in each Australian Jurisdiction and New Zealand during 2012 with the Australasian Awards presented during the Australian National Housing Conference in November.

[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 for 2011-2012 Awards Cycle are accepted during the year and must be submitted by the closing date.

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



Discussion Papers, Submissions, Issues Papers and Surveys

SACOSS & Flinders University Homelessness Research Survey

How do managers of homelessness programs 'know' when a service is successful or effective? How do they judge if it is underperforming?

This research is trying to identify and document the different, sometimes 'informal' criteria used in making these assessments, in order to contribute to the dialogue about 'service performance' that occurs between funders and service managers. The research is a collaboration between Flinders University and the South Australian Council of Social Service, funded by FaHCSIA under the National Homelessness Partnership.

We are particularly interested in the experience of specific services or programs rather than organisations as a whole. If your organisation provides multiple services please distribute the survey link to appropriate personnel and/or other contacts that may be interested.

The research needs honest, frank input from service managers in the Homelessness sector. Your answers will remain anonymous.

The survey link is: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/homeless-service-research>

Please help by:

- Completing this short anonymous survey and/or
- forwarding the survey link through contacts/networks
- Attending a focus group

The focus groups will draw from survey findings to discuss these issues in more depth and will be held in each state and territory between March and May 2012. For more information about the research or to register your interest in attending a focus group, please email eleonor.button@flinders.edu.au

Please note: This research project has been approved by the Flinders University Social and Behavioral Research Ethics Committee (Project Number 5485). For more information regarding ethical approval of the project, the Executive Officer of the Committee can be contacted by telephone on 8201 3116, by fax on 8201 2035 or human.researchethics@flinders.edu.au

Youth Off The Streets National Scholarship Program

Youth Off The Streets is a non-denominational community organisation working for young people aged 12-21 who are facing challenges of homelessness, drug and alcohol dependency, exclusion from school, neglect and abuse. We provide a range of services to support these young people as they work to turn their lives around. It is our goal that these young people will leave our care drug free, with a high school education, living skills and a full or part time job in hand.

It is our belief that education is key to breaking the cycle of disadvantage and poverty that traps so many of the young people we work with. Our Scholarship program is a way in which we offer young people in Australia an opportunity to achieve their best.

The Youth Off The Streets National Scholarship Program celebrates the gifts and strengths of young people from the Australian community who exhibit extraordinary promise but who lack the personal support networks and resources that will allow them to fulfil that potential. The initiative developed by Father Chris Riley, CEO and founder of Youth Off The Streets, provides financial and personal support for young people to pursue their dreams in any field, including (but not limited to): visual or performing arts; sport; trade skills; and music.

This year, over 20 young people from throughout Australia will be awarded scholarships. Scholarship recipients will receive mentoring and funding of up to \$5000 for 2 years to help them with their education and training. Each recipient and their guest will be flown to Sydney to attend a special award ceremony in September 2012.

Nominations can be made by the young person themselves, or on their behalf by a teacher, Youth Worker or other party involved in the young person's life.

The closing date for nominations is **5pm on 6 April 2012**.

If you are aware of any young people who access your service and may benefit from a Youth Off The Streets Scholarship, we welcome your nominations. The nomination forms can be downloaded from our website or you can complete the form online: www.youthoffthestreets.com.au

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](#)

Property Council release Development Assessment Report Card 2012

The Property Council of Australia have just released their Development Assessment Report Card 2012. The Report Card uses 10 Leading Practice Principles to score the progress on development assessment reform in each state and territory. These principles, established by the Development Assessment Forum (DAF), were designed to improve and simplify the development assessment process.

The Report Card reveals that despite recent reforms, Australia is still not delivering efficient, fair and consistent planning and development assessment systems. It recommends seven practical reforms to deliver greater certainty and ensure a targeted approach to planning reform:

1. Deliver on the COAG agreement to establish nationally harmonised codes to assess houses, apartments and commercial developments.
2. Agree to a timetable for the majority of applications to be considered under the exempt, self-assessable or code-assessable tracks.
3. Deliver on the COAG agreement to provide annual reporting on the number, type and length of development assessments across all jurisdictions and local councils.
4. Commit to electronic lodgement (e-DA) for all development assessment applications by 2014.
5. Commit to e-planning and a timetable for the delivery of a single entry point for all planning applications.
6. Re-commit Commonwealth funding and ongoing staffing to support the work of DAF.
7. Establish a Council under COAG that will develop a planning reform agenda and support its delivery across all jurisdictions.

A copy of the report can be downloaded from the [Property Council of Australia's website](#).

Virgin Unite End Youth Homelessness Petition

Virgin Unite is the not-for-profit foundation of the Virgin Group. They unite people to tackle tough social and environmental problems with an entrepreneurial approach. Their aim is to help revolutionise the way businesses and the social sector work together – driving business as a force for good. This is based on the belief that this is the only way we can address the scale and urgency of the challenges facing the world today. Virgin Unite also works on behalf of vulnerable young people across the globe.

Virgin Unite's Vision in Australia is to transform the lives of young people doing it tough and they believe that 32,000 homeless young people in our backyard is unacceptable. They're determined to see this trend reversed. Virgin Unite want to touch the lives of young people, give them a voice and allow them the opportunity to reconnect with society and realise their dreams.

They have currently partnered with a few organisations in Australia; OASIS Youth Support Network, Inspire, Brisbane Youth Services, NYCH, YFoundations and the Redfern Community Centre and have instigated several innovative programs with each of them including this campaign.

Sign the Petition <http://endyouthhomelessness.com.au/>

24 - 25 October 2012, All Seasons Hotel, Northbridge

Network Meetings: Tuesday 23 October 2012

Conference: Wednesday 24 - Thursday 25 October 2012

Conference Dinner: Wednesday 24 October 2012

Have an idea for an exciting, innovative and interactive presentation? Then apply now.

The aim of the 2012 Conference is to engage registrants with thought provoking and creative ideas around ways we can work to create a “Just Future” for those members of our communities who are the most vulnerable. The registrants will be actively involved in the sessions, benefit from the collective experiences of everyone present and leave the conference with clear directions for future actions in their own workplaces.

The Conference Planning Committee wants to provide the opportunity for registrants to attend all sessions of relevance – by reducing the number of concurrent sessions and repeating sessions wherever possible over the course of the day.

Day One: “Creating a Just Future from Within”

This will be run as an internal day specifically for those working in the Community Legal Centres across WA. The day will commence with a keynote address followed by a series of concurrent sessions in the morning. Where possible these same sessions will be repeated as an “ENCORE SESSION” in the afternoon.

Day Two: “Creating a Just Future Together”

This will run as an external day where we hope external stakeholders will attend. The day will commence with a Keynote address followed by concurrent sessions in the morning. The afternoon session will include a Free Governance Stream for all CLC Board members to attend and participate in.

The conference will culminate in a stimulating Q and A session open to internal and external stakeholders: “Smart Justice” are prisons the answer to managing crime? – reflecting on the WA system “

Workshops that engage and promote interaction as well as inform and challenge participants will be given priority consideration. CLCA is quality assured and solicitors could obtain CPD points from relevant sessions.

What to do?

Please provide a short biography and 200 words abstract to submit a proposal for a paper or a workshop. Prospective speakers will need to be aware that there is an expectation that their presentation may be repeated in an afternoon “encore” session.

The conference will not be able to accommodate all proposals so your biography and short description are essential. The State Conference Committee will make the final decisions regarding the conference program.

Please submit your proposals to the State Conference Committee, through Lee Collis at sectordevelopment@communitylaw.net **no later than 13 April 2012.**

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/>



Shelter NSW Research Paper - 'Mixed Communities'

Shelter NSW has released a research paper on 'mixed communities' prepared by Dr Tony Gilmour from Elton Consulting. The research paper looks at how social inclusion could be promoted through provision of affordable housing in locations where market forces would not be providing it. The paper discusses the various ways that governments' urban policies, and in particular those on land-use planning, have been used to try and achieve socially fair outcomes.

The research paper gives examples of regeneration initiatives, by Commonwealth, state and local governments, that have sought to address the housing dimension of social exclusion. The full research paper can be downloaded from [the Shelter NSW website](#).

Announcing a new resource for Women's Shelters/Refuges across Australia

"Refuge for Babies in Crisis": How crisis accommodation services and workers can assist infants and their mothers affected by family violence. Wendy Bunston and Robyn Sketchly

Crisis accommodation workers are often the first point of contact or "first aid" for mothers and their infants seeking refuge from family violence. While shelters provide the physical safety, workers within them have an opportunity to provide the much needed emotional safety for these infants and their mothers, beginning with acknowledging that infants are affected by family violence.

This educational resource for refuge/crisis accommodation workers consists of a comprehensive workbook and DVD. The package promotes working with infants who have been traumatized by their experience of family violence, while strengthening attachment relationships between the mothers and babies who seek refuge accommodation. This informative resource will change the way workers "see" babies and infants within their services and will have a lasting impact on the incredibly important work that they do. The project is funded by the Australian Government.

Hard copies of this booklet, DVD and accompanying posters and pamphlets can be ordered from Claire Coxon ccoxon@mcauleycsw.org.au, Fax (03) 9261 2050. Numbers of these are limited and crisis accommodation services are prioritised.

Electronic copies of the booklet, pamphlet and posters are available from http://www.rch.org.au/mhs/services/index.cfm?doc_id=9924 or [McAuley Community Services for Women](#)

Australian Homelessness Clearing House

homelessnessclearinghouse.govspace.gov.au

[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 \(UK\)](#)

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)

www.abs.gov.au

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

[Building Approvals, Australia \(Media Release\), January 2012](#)

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

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

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

[Australian Social Trends, March Quarter 2012](#)

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)

www.aihw.gov.au

[AIHW Report: People turned away from government funded specialist homelessness accommodation 2010-11](#)

[AIHW National Social Housing Survey : a summary of national results .](#)

[AIHW Report: Risk factors contributing to chronic disease](#)

[The shape of the sector in 2012](#) | According to the Centre for Social Impact's Gina Anderson, 2012 looks to be a defining year for the not-for-profit, social enterprise and philanthropic sector.

[Preparing for a better future: creating a sustainable system of aged care services for Australia](#) Business Council of Australia | In this paper, the Business Council of Australia sets out its response to the Productivity Commission's Final Inquiry Report on aged care services, Caring for Older Australians.

[Social Cities](#) Jane-Frances Kelly | Grattan Institute | Humans are social animals: relationships are critical to our wellbeing. Indeed, a lack of face-to-face contact can put our health at risk.

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

Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI)

www.ahuri.edu.au

[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](#)

[Final Report: No. 183: Developing sustainable affordable housing: a project level analysis](#)

[Final Report: No. 182 The spatial and distributional impacts of the Henry Review recommendations on stamp duty and land tax](#)

[Final Report: No. 181: Multi-generation households in Australian cities](#)

[Final Report: No. 180 Exploring the use of residual measures of housing affordability as an alternative to the ratio approach \(Essay\)](#)

[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](#)

[Positioning Paper: No. 144 The role of informal community resources in supporting independent housing for young people recovering from mental illness](#)

[Positioning Paper No. 143: Australian suburban house building: industry organisation, practices and constraints](#)

[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](#)

[Research and Policy Bulletin Issue 150: How do we regenerate middle suburban 'greyfield' areas?](#)

[Research and Policy Bulletin Issue 149: What are the benefits and risks of home ownership for low-moderate income households?](#)

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

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/>

Conferences, Events and Workshops 2012

[International Year of Housing Cooperatives 2012](#)

[WA Federation of Housing Collectives \(FoHCOL\)](#)

2nd Annual National Sustainable Food [Summit](#) (Sydney) 2-4 April

National Youth Week [WA Events Calendar](#) 13-22 April

Youth Homelessness Matters [Day](#) (National) 18 April

Homelessness Research [Conference](#) hosted by AHURI & RMIT (Melbourne) 19-20 April

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

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

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

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

Building an Evidence Base to End Homelessness [Conference](#) (Sydney) 29-30 May

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

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

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

Australian Government Community Consultations on the Building and Construction Industry

The Australian Government is undertaking consultations about the key issues and challenges which face people of culturally diverse backgrounds who work in the building and construction industry.

If you work in this industry, or have a story about it, please come to this important meeting.

When: 6.00 – 8.00pm Monday 16th April 2012. Where: City West Reception, 45 Plaistowe Mews, West Perth

Register by 12 April to Paula Masselos at paula@culturalpartners.com.au or call 02 8752 7688.

For more information about the building and construction industry go to www.abcc.gov.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!* to 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](#)

Activist Campaign Tools - Seminars

There are two **new** single-day **ACT training seminars**, which are designed for community organisations and interested individuals and are **heavily subsidised**.

Law for Activists: 22 April, 2012

An accessible and jargon-free community legal seminar for anyone working for change. (Half day)

Consensus Decision Making: 16 June 2012

An experiential look at this alternative decision making model, with workshops to suit all levels of experience. (four optional workshops)

If you, or someone you know, is interested in these seminars but facing financial difficulties we also offer **FREE scholarships**, so feel free to e-mail Katrina for details.

For more details and bookings, please see: www.activistcampaigntools.org or call Katrina on 042 532 7454 or email katrina73@inet.net.au

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

Media Releases

WA Government Media Releases

[Milestone for building industry](#)

[1,000 extra affordable rentals for WA](#)

[Barrack Square transformation gets green light](#)

[New reporting model for local govt misconduct](#)

[Homeless centre reaps \\$630,000](#)

[Committed disability sector workers recognised](#)

[Group to advise on northern suburbs transport](#)

[New respite facility officially opened in Albany](#)

[New way forward for State Heritage](#)

[Proposals to improve Stirling Highway released](#)

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

The 46th National Labor Party Conference concluded in December 2011 providing Labor with a new National Platform. [You can view or download it in full here.](#)

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

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

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

Australian Federal Government:

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[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.

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