



Shelter WA Newsletter

February 2012

Editorial: Shelter WA Executive Officer, Chantal Roberts

Welcome to 2012 and Shelter WA's first newsletter for the year. 2012 is well and truly here and looking to be fast, hectic and very exciting, with new initiatives and programs arising everywhere for the housing and homelessness sector.

Significantly, **2012** is also the *United Nations International Year of Co-operatives* and Shelter WA would like to encourage its members to visit the Federation of Housing Collectives, www.fohcol.org.au, and read the latest research paper by Dr Elizabeth Cheong, "Unlocking Housing Co-operatives: An Exploratory Study of Financial, Incorporation and Ownership Issues Influencing the Development of Housing Co-operatives in Western Australia." Dr Cheong recently launched her very interesting research paper at the Grove Centre in Mosman Park, and offered those present some thought provoking ideas about possibilities for co-operative housing in Western Australia. Contrary to popular belief, co-operative living is not akin to living in a kibbutz or commune, and is certainly not the domain of hippies.

One very pertinent and noteworthy consideration which many may have overlooked, but which could present significant opportunities for affordable housing, is for groups of seniors to form their own co-operatives. Like-minded seniors (or others), with similar values, philosophies and interests, may band together to purchase a large block of land with separate titles, build individual dwellings, and all contribute to shared dwellings (such as a laundry, communal kitchen, and other communal rooms). Choosing a co-operative way of living can assist groups of people to share major expenses associated with household and property management and purchase. It is certainly an option worth serious consideration.

For more information on co-operatives and how these can work for you, please contact the Federation of Housing Collectives, tel: (08) 9336 5045, e-mail: admin@fohcol.org.au, or check out the website www.fohcol.org.au for all available options and relevant information.

Shelter WA has recently ratified our Strategic Plan for the next five years, and has made a commitment to explore all options within the affordable housing continuum. Within that, we commit to advocate for changes to the housing system to facilitate the development of diverse alternatives which will provide affordable housing opportunities for people in Western Australia. A copy the new Shelter WA Strategic Plan 2011-2016 will be available on our website in the near future.

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 in that forum.

The AHNWA 2012 meeting dates are as follows:

Friday 16 March 2012 – see invitation following Shelter WA Projects & Submissions

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.

DCP Specialist Homelessness Services Conference: Leading the road home

Abstracts due 7 March 2012

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.

This is the final call for abstracts for paper presentations and workshops. **ALL ABSTRACTS ARE DUE 7 MARCH 2012.**

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

7th National Homelessness Conference Call for Abstracts – deadline 16 March 2012

Homelessness Australia is pleased to announce the Call for Abstracts for presentation at the 7th National Homelessness Conference. You **MUST** complete the abstract template, which will assist you in formatting, structuring and naming your abstract correctly through our [online submission process](#).

Closing date for abstract submissions **Friday 16 March 2012**. Unfortunately no assistance is available for presenter travel, registration or accommodation expenses. All presenters will be required to register and pay for the Conference.

For more information:

InSync PR & Events, PO Box 94, DICKSON ACT 2602 P: 02 6162 0345 F: 02 6100 9274

W: <http://nhc.in-sync.com.au/> or <http://nhc.in-sync.com.au/index.php/call-for-abstracts>

Youth Affairs Council WA Fairground 2012 – call for abstracts

The Youth Affairs Council Fairground Youth Sector Conference 2012 will be held in Perth on 19-20 July.

Deadline for abstracts is 23 March 2012 and can be submitted online. For more information visit [the YACWA website](#)

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 us with our work 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

What is Legal Aid's Social Inclusion Program?

The Social Inclusion Program is a newly introduced program to Legal Aid's Civil Law Division. Although the Social Inclusion Program is based in Perth our service is state-wide. The Social Inclusion Program is a free, confidential, legal advice service provided by Legal Aid Western Australia to people who are on a low income, experiencing disadvantage and who have a civil law problem.

Why is the Social Inclusion Program unique?

A small team of dedicated lawyers are on hand to provide legal advice services to people in a holistic way with a person-centred approach. By this we aim to be flexible in our approach to solving each person's legal problem. This can be done by providing outreach to people unable to attend our office or a phone appointment to anywhere in the state. We will also seek to address urgent social issues affecting the legal problem. This will be done by providing seamless referrals to the appropriate social service.

Generally access to Legal Aid's in-house legal advice services are based on a comprehensive means and merit test which concentrates on law or matter type. In contrast the main eligibility criteria for assistance from the Social Inclusion Program are the identification of social exclusion factors. Additionally, the means and merit tests can be flexibly applied if circumstances warrant.

The Social Inclusion Program works closely with other service providers to obtain the best outcomes. The Social Inclusion Program welcomes any opportunity to provide joined-up services with any organisation wishing to partner to ensure legal service to disadvantaged people are delivered in a socially inclusive way.

Who can obtain help from the Social Inclusion Program?

The Social Inclusion Program seeks to assist people who are vulnerable and at risk of social exclusion and who have a civil law problem.

People can be vulnerable or socially excluded if they:

- Have difficulty understanding or engaging with the legal system.
- Have a disability
- Have limited English language skills
- Have difficulty with reading and writing
- Live in a rural, regional or remote area
- Are sole parents, elderly or identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders

A person may be eligible for assistance from the Social Inclusion Program:

- If they are experiencing predatory, exploitative or unconscionable behaviour from another person
- If the problem is not resolved they are at an increased risk of social exclusion or disadvantage.

How can the Social Inclusion Program help?

The Social Inclusion Program offers:

- Legal advice
- Minor assistance: by drafting letters or completing forms
- Advocacy/Negotiation: with the other party or agency
- Information
- Referral
- Community legal education

In areas such as:

- Consumer/trader disputes
- Debt
- Discrimination
- Employment
- Elder law
- Guardianship and administration
- Mortgage stress and repossession
- Social security
- Tenancy
- Restraining Orders – Misconduct and Violence

How do we help tenants?

Legal Aid's Social Inclusion Program has begun to receive requests for assistance from people being evicted from their tenancies. We will try to negotiate on behalf of the tenant to remain in the property. If it is too late to save the tenancy and all legal avenues have been exhausted, we try to match people with other community services that may be able to assist in providing accommodation.

The Social Inclusion Program is currently piloting a duty lawyer service at the Armadale Magistrates' Court, Residential Tenancies List. Every fortnight a lawyer is on hand at the court to provide advice to tenants.

Often tenants present with more than one civil law problem. For example, along with rent arrears they may have other debts they need legal advice on. An advantage of the Social Inclusion Program is that we are in a position to try to resolve a multitude of civil law problems arising for tenants, therefore reducing the risk of people ending up on the referral merry-go-round.

How to can you contact us?

Where you believe a client meets the eligibility requirements and would benefit from the Social Inclusion Program's services, I invite you to contact the co-ordinator of the program, Isabel Gonsalves on (08) 9261 6567. Alternatively, the client can contact the **Legal Aid Infoline on 1300 650 579**.

National Shelter Update

Shelter WA sits on the council of National Shelter along with representatives of each of the Shelter offices in other states, Homelessness Australia, National Association of Tenants Organisations, and the Community Housing Federation of Australia. National Shelter has revised its Policy Platform. The Policy Platform is based around four key housing challenges. These are:

- Making housing more affordable across the board
- Reforming the rental market to make it suitable for long-term residents
- Revitalising the social housing system
- Combating homelessness

The **National Shelter Policy Platform** will be available on the National Shelter website www.shelter.org.au soon.

Housing Australia Affordably, here: [download full version](#) (pdf ~640 kb), [download summary version](#) (pdf ~300 kb).

'Towards NAHA Mark II: National Shelter dialogue ahead of the next National Affordable Housing Agreement and associated National Partnership Agreements' is available here [download](#) (pdf ~740 kb).

Shelter WA will be attending the next National Shelter meeting in Sydney from 24-25 March 2012.

Australians For Affordable Housing Campaign Update

Community and Industry come together to demand this year's Budget deliver for those in housing stress.

Australians for Affordable Housing (AAH) and the **Property Council of Australia's Residential Development Council** have called for a long term strategy to improve housing affordability at the launch of the Australians for Affordable Housing budget statement in Canberra.

The AAH plan calls for over 100,000 new affordable homes, an increase in rent assistance to relieve housing stress for up to 100,000 Australians, and an immediate stimulus payment of \$2.5 billion in the 2012-13 Budget to boost the capacity of the social housing sector, pave the way for future reform and help to prevent a downturn in building activity.

"Housing stress figures commissioned from NATSEM by Australians for Affordable Housing show that rates of housing stress for renters are more than double those with a mortgage. Rental housing is where any plan to address affordability problems needs to start, said Australians for Affordable Housing Campaign Manager Sarah Toohey.

"What we need to see from the new Housing Minister is a National Housing Plan to ensure all Australians can get housing they can afford, and the 2012-13 Budget is the right time for a down payment on that plan."

The Australians for Affordable Housing Budget Statement includes:

- An initial down payment of \$2.5 billion in the 2012-13 Budget to provide for 8,300 new homes for low income households
- An Affordable Housing Growth Fund, with an annual allocation of \$2.5 billion a year from the 2013-14 Budget to provide 100,000 affordable homes over five years
- An immediate boost to Commonwealth Rent Assistance of between \$16 to \$25 per week to lift 100,000 private renters out of housing stress

"As housing industry commentators speculate on another interest rate cut today, we are calling for Government action to actually deliver the affordable homes people need. Renters are struggling most under the burden of housing stress, and interest rates make little difference to their housing costs.

"We understand that the Government has a commitment to a surplus in 2013, but one in ten households in housing stress are struggling to keep their daily budget in surplus. Easing that stress needs to be the Government's number one priority."

Australians for Affordable Housing is a coalition of national housing, welfare and community sector organisations to highlight the problem of housing affordability in Australia.

For more information visit www.housingstressed.org.au

Spokesperson: Sarah Toohey, 0402 677 566

Media enquiries: Stephanie De Campo, 0432 828 004

Follow AAH on Facebook and Twitter: @housingstressed

Shelter WA Projects, Submissions and Forums

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

Boarders & Lodgers Working Group Meeting, 2 April 2012

Shelter WA and the Tenants Advice Service have 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 consumer protection 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.

Shelter WA Submission to the City of Swan Urban Housing Strategy

Shelter WA is currently writing a submission to the City of Swan in response to their Urban Housing Strategy.

You can find out more about the City of Swan Urban Housing Strategy, and make your own submission, from http://www.swan.wa.gov.au/Our_City/Have_Your_Say/Urban_Housing_Strategy.

If you're making a submission please consider sharing a draft with us as early as possible so we can reflect your views in our submission.

If you're not making a submission, but have views that you would like us to include in our submission, please contact Chantal Roberts, Executive Officer on 9325 6660 or email eo@shelterwa.org.au before **Friday, 2 March 2012**.

SWA Submission to the Department of Housing - Tenant Support Services Discussion Paper

Shelter WA has submitted a response to the Department of Housing's Tenant Support Services Discussion Paper. Shelter thanks all of those organisations and individuals who contributed to the final draft, a copy of the submission is available [here](#).

SWA Submission to Homelessness Australia

In January 2012 Shelter WA was asked to submit feedback to Homelessness Australia on the roll out of the White Paper, to be presented to FaHCSIA at the end of the month.

Shelter asked for your feedback and answers to the following questions:

- 1 What have been the positives flowing from the White Paper in Western Australia?
- 2 What have been the negatives?
- 3 What is your overall assessment of the White paper and its effectiveness?

We received several responses and prepared a response for Homelessness Australia.

The final report is available [here](#).

For more information on the national response please visit [Homelessness Australia](#)

Shelter WA Surveys

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](#)





INVITATION

Affordable Housing Network WA Meeting

Friday, 16 March 2012

9.30am – 12:30pm

Conference Room, Claisebrook Lotteries House, 33 Moore St, East Perth

Guest Speaker

Tarna Bulman

Solicitor, Social Inclusion Team, Civil Division, Legal Aid WA

Tarna will be speaking about the Social Inclusion Team, Mortgage Stress and Civil Law Tenancy Issues

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 will 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).

For more information or to RSVP please contact Stephanie at Shelter WA on cdpo@shelterwa.org.au or 9325 6660



Awards, Grants, Tenders and Funding Opportunities

Nominations Close 2nd March 2012 - Community Services Excellence Awards

Don't miss out on the chance to win your organisation \$5000, **get your nominations in before the 2nd March 2012.**

WACOSS encourage you to be part of the 2012 Community Services Excellence Awards by nominating an outstanding community service organisation or individual. The Awards recognise individuals and agencies that are making a positive difference to people, families or communities through innovative and creative ways of working. For a nomination kit and more information visit www.wacoss.org.au/csea2012.aspx

Interpreting and translating services encouraged to apply for Government Common Use Arrangement

The Western Australian Department of Finance has developed a whole-of- Government Common Use Arrangement (CUA) for the provision of interpreting and translating services.

The development process has included feedback from many public sector agencies to ensure the CUA works well for agencies and interpreting and translating services.

The Request for CUA ITS 2012 Interpreting and Translating Services has now been advertised on Tenders WA. The request will be open for **four weeks** and will close on **Friday 16 March**.

Following evaluation of applications, commencement of the CUA is planned for early to mid April.

For more information please go to <https://www.tenders.wa.gov.au/watenders/home.do>

Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN) Grants Scheme

The 2012 Round of the ACCAN Grants Scheme is now open. **The deadline for applications is 2 April 2012.**

Communications technologies are increasingly essential for participation in society and ACCAN's vision is for available, accessible and affordable communications for all. The ACCAN Grants Scheme funds projects that work towards this goal, focusing on creating versatile resources for consumers and a strong evidence base for consumer advocacy activities.

The Scheme carries an annual budget of \$250,000 and accepts applications during one round per year. Applicants are encouraged to apply for funding amounts appropriate to their project to a maximum of \$60,000.

For more information visit the [ACCAN Website](#)

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.

Global Voices Australian Youth Delegations to G20 & Rio+20

[Global Voices](#) is calling for applications from young people aged 18 to 25 years to attend the G8 & G20 Youth Summit in the United States and the Rio+20 Earth Summit in Brazil. Global Voices is a non-profit organisation that aims to promote understanding of and participation in international diplomacy by young Australians. While the majority of places are allocated to partner universities there is one position open nationally for any young person to apply. A strong focus is placed on selecting National Scholarship recipients from minority groups and / or disadvantaged backgrounds.

Applications close at midnight 4 March (eastern daylight savings time). More information about Global Voices and how to apply for the scholarship can be found at: <http://www.globalvoices.org.au/2012/02/applications-now-open-for-g20-rio20-delegations/>

Call to apply for environmental grants

Environment Minister Bill Marmion called for applications for the fourth funding round of the State Government's \$6million Environmental Community Grants program.

"There are eight categories of grants, including biodiversity conservation; sustainable catchment management; interpretation; and sustainable recreation in natural areas, regional parks and Bush Forever sites.

"Funding will be available for voluntary wildlife rehabilitators, and projects which rehabilitate, conserve, enhance or restore natural areas or values, as well as for activities that raise public awareness for nature conservation at a local level.

"Other types of projects the Government will fund include those aimed at protecting threatened species and their habitats; revegetating or rehabilitating natural vegetation and waterways; weed and pest control in remnant bushland; establishing recreational facilities to reduce pressures on natural areas; and environmental information and education activities.

"Priority will be given to projects sponsored by community and not-for-profit organisations and local governments will also be eligible to apply for funding under the program."

Application forms can be downloaded from <http://www.dec.wa.gov.au> and must be submitted by April 2, 2012

Minister's office - 9220 5000 [click here for link to full media statement](#)

Hardship Utility Grants now easier to access

West Australians experiencing financial hardship will now be able to access State Government grants faster after changes were made to the Hardship Utility Grants Scheme (HUGS).

The Government has made instrumental changes to the HUGS application process that requires people to see a financial counsellor before accessing the grants. Those in hardship can now access the grants without going through financial counselling, with the need for counselling triggered after multiple applications.

The changes make it easier for families and individuals, who are finding it difficult to pay utility accounts, to maintain their connection to essential services including electricity, water and gas.

Child Protection Minister Robyn McSweeney said statements by the Opposition that 23 financial counsellors would lose their jobs were incorrect.

Mrs McSweeney said supplementary funding given to the Department for Child Protection in 2010 to hire more financial counsellors to help process HUGS applications was only ever for a limited period.

"The extra funding for more financial counsellors was always going to end this year," she said.

"These were supplementary counsellors and the department has been clear from day one that these were only ever temporary contracts."

Two non-recurrent funded financial counsellor positions will cease on March 30 and 10 more positions will cease at the end of June.

The Minister said financial counselling services were important to help people better manage their household budgets and the department would continue to provide funding for about 70 financial counsellor positions across WA.

[Click here for link full media statement](#) Minister's office - 9222 8950

Building Community Resilience Grants Program

The Building Community Resilience (BCR) Grants Program aims to support community projects across Australia that build resilience to violent extremism.

The program offers two categories of grants funding - from \$5,000 to \$20,000 and from \$20,001 to \$100,000 (excluding GST). The 2012-13 round of the BCR Grants program is now open to all eligible not-for-profit and local government organisations.

The focus of the 2012-13 BCR Grants round is to encourage and empower the Australian community through education and capacity building to resist the influence of extremism.

Applications close at 5.00pm on Friday, 16 March 2012. Late applications will not be accepted.

We strongly advise organisations considering applying for funding under the program to read the Guidelines prior to submitting an application.

For more information visit [the website](#)

Discussion Papers, Submissions, Issues Papers and Surveys

TASWA Submission to the Department of Housing: Tenant Support Program Discussion Paper

Tenants Advice Service WA (TAS) has submitted a response to the Department of Housing's Tenant Support Program Discussion Paper. A copy of the submission is available [here](#) or on their website www.taswa.org.

Community Housing Federation Australia (CHFA) Submission on the National Regulation of Community Housing

CHFA has made a submission on the draft legislation and Regulatory Impact Statement for development of a National Regulatory System for community housing providers. CHFA's submission is available from [their website](#).

Australian Youth Affairs Coalition Political Mapping Survey

The Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC) is developing resources and strategies to make political lobbying and campaigning around youth issues more effective.

To help inform this work, AYAC has developed the attached survey to collect information on elected officials and what issues they care about.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PoliticalMappingSurvey>. The survey closes on 26 March.

Research, Resources, Reports and Publications

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](#).

Australian Homelessness Clearing House

<http://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

[Construction Work Done, Australia, Preliminary, Dec 2011](#)

[Venture Capital and Later Stage Private Equity, Australia, 2010-11](#)

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

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

[Tourist Accommodation, Western Australia, Sep 2011](#)

[Building Approvals, Australia \(Media Release\), Nov 2011](#)

[Housing Finance, Australia, Dec 2011](#)

[Lending Finance, Australia, Dec 2011](#)

[House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities, Dec 2011](#)

[Demography News, Jan 2012](#)

Government-funded specialist homelessness services: SAAP National Data Collection annual reports 2010-11

Government-funded specialist homelessness services: SAAP National Data Collection annual report 2010-11: Australia presents the 2010-11 data on the use of government-funded specialist homelessness services.

In 2010-11, an estimated 230,500 people (equivalent to 1 in 97 Australians) used specialist homelessness services. Young people, families and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continued to be significant users of services. The most common reasons why people sought support were interpersonal relationship issues (such as domestic or family violence); accommodation-related issues (such as being evicted); and financial issues (such as having insufficient money to pay for accommodation, food, bills or other essentials).

This national report is accompanied by eight state and territory supplementary reports, which include data specific to each state and territory and a summary of key results and a separate appendix.

Click to view the [media release](#) and follow the links below to view the individual reports.

[National report \(HOU 250\)](#)

[Appendix \(HOU 251\)](#)

[Western Australia \(HOU 255\)](#)

[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: Alcohol and other drug treatment services in Western Australia 2009-10](#)

8th Annual Demographia International Housing Affordability Survey 2012

The 8th Annual Demographia International Housing Affordability Survey has been released, it provides data on housing affordability in 325 major housing markets around the world.

The full report can be downloaded from [the demographia website](#).

Overcoming NIMBY Opposition to Developing New Affordable Housing

This is the fourth in a series of white papers by Dr. Tony Gilmour, commissioned by Kintetic Information Systems. This paper provides an introduction as to why people oppose new affordable housing developments, giving insights based on approaches used in Australia and other countries. It aims to be practical, finishing with a checklist of key areas to consider when planning a consultation process. Although NIMBY opposition can appear daunting, it is a common problem around the world and there are various free resources that can make like easier.

The white paper can be downloaded from [the Kinetic website](#).

Australian Government National Housing Supply Council Key findings of the 2011 State of Supply Report

The Council was established by the Australian Government in May 2008 to monitor housing demand, supply and affordability in Australia, and to highlight current and potential gaps between housing supply and demand from households. It is an independent group that operates at arm's length from government and reports to the Minister for Housing and Homelessness.

The Council's [Terms of Reference](#) include producing an annual [State of Supply Report](#) that aggregates and assesses information on land supply and demand for housing from all levels of government and the private sector.

A copy of the *National Housing Supply Council Key findings of the 2011 State of Supply Report* is available [here](#) or for further information visit their website www.nhsc.org.au

Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission Website Launched

The Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) Implementation Taskforce has launched its website to advise the public of its role in the not-for-profit reform agenda.

The ACNC Implementation Taskforce also has a [YouTube channel](#) that contains messages from the Minister for Social Inclusion, the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, Susan Pascoe, the Interim Commissioner of the ACNC Taskforce and other government representatives involved in not-for-profit reform. [Visit the new ACNC Website for more information](#)

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

[Self-build: alternative housing procurement in remote Indigenous communities](#) Javier Ayora, Sonja Peter | Centre for Appropriate Technology. This paper is a preliminary study of the motivations and conditions for Indigenous self-build housing in Australia.

[Life around here: community, work and family life in three Australian communities](#) Kelly Hand | Australian Institute of Family Studies. | This study provides information about the factors that influence the participation of families in paid employment and their communities more broadly.

[2010-11 report on the operation of the Aged Care Act 1997](#) Recent reviews of the Aged Care Act of 1997 have led to increases in government funding in particular, aged care facilities and the services they provide to indigenous communities.

[Social justice report 2011](#) This report covers the developments in the human rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for the 2010/2011 period.

[Child protection Australia 2010-11](#) This report contains comprehensive information on state and territory child protection and support services, and the characteristics of Australian children within the child protection system.

[Self-build: alternative housing procurement in remote Indigenous communities](#) This paper is a preliminary study of the motivations and conditions for Indigenous self-build housing in Australia. It is a contribution towards understanding the status and possibility of self-build housing as a viable means of housing delivery to overcome or bridge the housing shortage in remote Indigenous communities.

[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 \(Essay\)](#)

[Final Report: No. 179: The role of assertive outreach in ending 'rough sleeping'](#)

[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](#)

[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?](#)

[Research and Policy Bulletin: Issue 148 Planning and the characteristics of housing supply in Melbourne](#)

[AHURI Board Appointments](#)

AHURI are pleased to confirm the following new appointments:

- Professor Edwina Cornish, *Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor and Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research), Monash University*
- Dr Jeff Harmer AO, *former Secretary, Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs*
- Professor Wayne McKenna, *Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic and Research University of Western Sydney*
- Mr Grahame Searle, *Director General, Department of Housing Western Australia.*

[Conference Report - Beyond the Current NAHA](#) AHURI hosted the conference 'Beyond the current NAHA: what next for national housing policy?' in order to make a contribution to the review and reform process associated with developing a new national housing policy. The conference was held 27 and 28 October 2011 in Melbourne. Conference rapporteur, Dr Jeff Harmer, tracked the main themes arising from the discussions during the second day of the conference. He then distilled the key conclusions during the closing session. This report includes an edited version of his observations.

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

Conferences, Events and Workshops 2012

[International Year of Housing Cooperatives 2012](#)

Green Cities 2012 [Conference](#) (Sydney) 4-7 March

ACOSS National [Conference](#) "Sharing the Wealth of the Lucky Country" (Sydney) 29-20 March

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

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

DCP Specialist Homelessness Services [Conference](#) (Perth) 28-29 May (*abstracts due by 7 March*)

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

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

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

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

7th National Homelessness [Conference](#) (Melbourne) 5-7 September (*abstracts due by 16 March*)

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

2012 Big Issue Street Football Festival & Community Street Soccer Program WA

The Big Issue's Street Football Festival is back again this year and will be taking over Cockle Bay at Darling Harbour with an inflatable pitch on 11-22 April, 2012. Sixty men and women from Street Soccer programs around the country will be selected to represent their state on what is sure to be an exciting event on the football calendar.

Check out some highlights from last year on [Youtube](#).

The Community Street Soccer Program runs at the same time every week, 52 weeks a year.

Community Street Soccer Program uses sport as a mechanism to engage homeless, marginalised and disadvantaged people and reconnect them with the community. We focus on "linking" our participants to opportunities in Sport, Employment, Housing & Health.

If you work in the fields of Sport, Education/Employment, Housing or Health and are interested in giving us information that might help our participants, email Chris -

soccerwa@bigissue.org.au.



Perth Street Soccer with Centrelink

PERTH Tuesdays, 3:30 - 5:30pm, Wellington Square, Cnr Wellington & Hill, East Perth

BUNBURY Tuesdays, 3:30 - 5:30pm, Bunbury Senior High School, Haig Crescent, Bunbury

WA Government Media Releases

[Revised worker accommodation proposal](#)

[Hardship utility grants now easier to access](#)

[Fighting to retain building industry regulation](#)

[‘Community shop’ to deliver social services](#)

[Government plans for faster population growth](#)

[Fighting homelessness across the State](#)

[Key worker housing under way in Hedland](#)

[Multiple land releases on the way for Karratha](#)

[Lotterywest grant for Kelmscott families](#)

[Cockburn transformation closer to a shore thing](#)

[Prime land transferred to Traditional Owners](#)

[Builder’s Northam move a catalyst for growth](#)

[Newman town centre revitalisation progresses](#)

[Newman’s growth continues](#)

[Click here for a full list of WA Government media statements](#)

New redevelopment authority to transform Perth

The commencement of the Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority (MRA) on January 1, 2012 marks a new era of Perth’s urban renewal and revitalisation.

Planning Minister John Day said that by building on the successes of the four existing redevelopment authorities, the MRA would oversee delivery of some of the State Government’s most important projects.

“The MRA has been established with a very clear vision for the further redevelopment of Perth,” Mr Day said.

“In partnership with Government, industry and the people of Perth, the MRA will continue to redefine our city through projects such as Perth Waterfront, Perth City Link, Perth Cultural Centre and Riverside.

“In addition, the new MRA will take responsibility for completing key revitalisation projects across the metropolitan area, including the award-winning redevelopment of Subiaco, Midland and Armadale.”

“The MRA will increase project flexibility, continue to attract millions of dollars in private sector investment and create places where people want to live, work and visit.”

MRA will replace the existing redevelopment authorities in Armadale, East Perth, Midland and Subiaco

Tony Morgan, current CEO of EPRA and the Subiaco Redevelopment Authority, has been appointed acting CEO of the MRA

A website for the new authority was available from January 1, 2012 - <http://www.mra.wa.gov.au>

Minister’s office - 9213 6600 [click here for link to full media statement](#)

See also [Local committees to plan Perth’s renewal](#)

For a full list of recent Media Releases, please click on the links below:

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

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>

Greens Stand Up for Tenant's Rights: Lynn MacLaren MLC Member for the South Metropolitan Region 22 November 2011

The Greens in Parliament will act to strengthen tenant's rights during this week's debate on the Residential Tenancies Amendment Bill 2011 (RTA Bill) by moving to scrap the Government's controversial proposed eviction powers, abolish option fees and place new time limits on keeping details about minors on tenant databases.

Hon Lynn MacLaren MLC, the Greens spokesperson for housing said the Government's plan to have the courts rule on 'objectionable behaviour' is "heavy-handed, untested, and may lead to higher rates of homelessness in an extremely tight rental housing market."

"Nearly 90 percent of Perth's real estate is now out of reach for key and essential workers including police officers, teachers and nurses (1). More and more people rely on rental accommodation, making it all the more important that tenants' rights are properly protected," said Ms MacLaren.

"On the whole, the RTA Bill makes an important step forward in protecting the rights of tenants by prescribing the form of tenancy agreements, regulating residential tenancy databases, and a raft of other measures. However, new laws to enable lessors to evict tenants for 'objectionable behaviour' were introduced into the Bill without consultation with the community service sector, which is united in its opposition to this provision." she added.

In August this year a range of stakeholders including the Western Australian Council of Social Services, the Tenants Advice Service, the Community Housing Coalition of WA and Shelter WA wrote to all MPs urging them to oppose the clause (2). Ms MacLaren will move to delete the clause from the Bill.

"While the Bill places restrictions on the information recorded in tenancy databases, I believe young people should be given more opportunities to improve their chances of maintaining a tenancy. I have moved to amend the Bill so records of people who are under 18 years of age should be cleared after one year."

"I will also ask Parliament to remove the ability of lessors to charge an option fee, which is prohibited in the ACT and the NT. There is currently no time limit on how long a lessor can take to exercise an option or return the fee to unsuccessful applicants. If I can't have the fees discontinued, then I will move to set a limit of 7 days to make a decision, and 7 days to return the fee."

Media Contacts: Louise Sales, Research Officer 0428 207 007 & Lynn MacLaren MLC 0403 721 951 (in Parliament House)

(1) [Wetzstein, S. \(2011\) Managing Boomtown Perth: Policy Challenges for Adequate Housing Provision, Committee for Perth FACTBase Bulletin 23, October 2011](#)

(2) The letter can be viewed here: <http://www.taswa.org/policy/pdf/2011-rta-letter-amendment-bill.pdf>

Australian Federal Government:

[Finalists announced in inaugural Homelessness Services Awards](#)

[Australians in need gaining greater access to affordable loans](#)

[Additional Funding for HACC Services in Western Australia](#)

[Men's Shed Funding Boosts Support for Blokes](#)

[Improved services for children with disability in regional and remote Australia](#)

[Over 9,000 New Aged Care Places Allocated - But There is More to be Done](#)

[A New Ten Year Plan for Mental Health](#)

[Review of legal assistance services](#)

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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 2011 Newsletters & Update 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 organisation that is committed to the principle of safe, secure, appropriate and affordable housing for all people. Shelter WA has operated in Western Australia since 1979 and advocates on behalf of community groups and housing consumers. Shelter WA's focus is on people with low incomes or who are otherwise disadvantaged in the housing market. This includes people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Shelter's role is to give an informed voice on housing policy issues based on sound research, collaboration, consultation, representation and research with housing consumers and community based organisations working with housing and related issues.

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.

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.

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, disadvantaged and special needs housing consumers.

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

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