

LAUNCH OF AUSTRALIANS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING CAMPAIGN

SHELTER WA SUPPORTS THE CAMPAIGN FOR MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING

[Click here for link to media release](#)



- Housing is the biggest cost of living pressure facing Australians.
- The price of homes for rent or sale is rising faster than incomes.
- The median house price is now seven times the average annual income.
- More and more Australians are finding it hard to get a home they can afford, whether they're renting or buying as House prices have been rising faster than incomes.

Australians for Affordable Housing is a coalition of national housing, welfare and community sector organisations, established to highlight the problem of housing affordability in Australia. We believe that all Australians should be able to secure housing that they can afford. Yet currently one in ten Australian households are in housing stress, paying more than 30% of their income in housing costs. Paying too much for housing makes it harder for people to pay for the other basics, like food, clothes, transport and healthcare.

Australians for Affordable Housing is calling on both federal and state governments to make the changes required to make housing more affordable. Australians for Affordable Housing believes that the goal of government housing policy should be to ensure that all Australian households can access affordable housing, and that government action needs to be coordinated to deliver that goal.

To do this we need

- More low cost rental housing
- More opportunities for low income households to get into home ownership
- Better financial assistance for low income renters
- To put housing investment tax arrangements on a fairer footing with other investments
- To make home ownership easier for first home buyers
- A clear national plan to deliver affordable housing to all Australians

We need more low cost housing to rent and buy across Australia!

Find out the housing facts and JOIN THE CAMPAIGN Now!

[Visit the Housing Stressed website here.](#)

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Shelter WA welcomes all members, and those interested in becoming members, to attend its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on **Tuesday, 18 October 2011 from 3:30-5:30pm** at Claisebrook Lotteries House, 33 Moore Street, East Perth.

Shelter WA is an independent community based peak body committed to the principle of accessible, affordable, appropriate and secure housing for every person. Shelter WA focuses on people who have low incomes or who are otherwise disadvantaged in the housing market. This includes people who are homeless or who are at risk of homelessness. The role of Shelter WA is to provide an informed voice on housing policy issues based on sound research and close collaboration and consultation with housing consumers and community based organisations working on housing and related issues. At the AGM, Shelter WA staff will discuss the successes of the past year, upcoming activities, and the development of Shelter's new five year strategic plan.

Shelter WA is seeking nominations from those interested in joining the Management Committee. In particular, Shelter WA is interested in nominations from individuals with skills in media, accounting, marketing, and non-profit governance. You can download a nomination form at www.shelterwa.org.au. In order to nominate to the Management Committee, you must be a member of Shelter WA. To become a member go to www.shelterwa.org.au/membership.html.

Shelter WA Executive Officer Resignation and Search

The Management Committee of Shelter WA wish to advise that Bronwyn Kitching has tendered her resignation from the Executive Officer role.

We would like to acknowledge the dedication and commitment that Bronwyn has given to the Organisation and thank her for her efforts to ensure that the voice of our low income, homeless and otherwise disadvantage people in Perth are heard at all levels of Government and other groups associated with finding affordable housing options. We wish Bronwyn the best in her future endeavours.

During the recruitment and the transition of Bronwyn's replacement we would appreciate your support of our staff (Shae, Stephanie and Corinne) who will continue on with the work that has already commenced and pursue further opportunities for Shelter to actively engage in the sector.

If you would like to get in touch with Shelter WA please do so through Ph: 08) 9325 6660 Fax: 08) 9325 8113 or through our Email: shelterwa@shelterwa.org.au.

We appreciate your continued support whilst we promote secure, affordable and appropriate housing options.

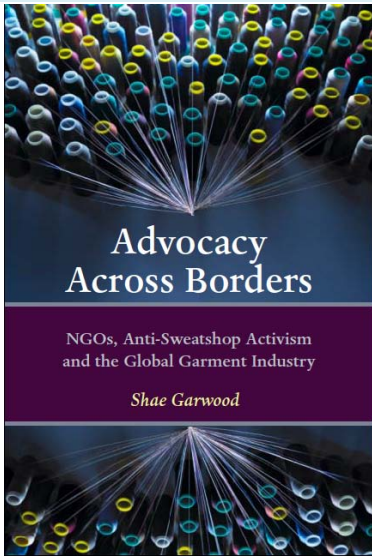
Shelter WA is seeking applicants for the position of Executive Officer

The Executive Officer will assume overall responsibility for planning, operation and performance of Shelter WA. The objectives of this position are to:

- provide organisational leadership and effective management and control of Shelter WA's resources;
- represent Shelter WA's views to Government, the community sector, industry and the media;
- work with the Shelter WA Management Committee in policy and priority setting;
- coordinate strategic planning and funding negotiations;
- promote community awareness of housing and homelessness issues with a focus on low income households and disadvantaged groups;
- promote an increased awareness of the role of Shelter WA and its policy positions;
- advocate to Government in support of Shelter WA's policy objectives;
- liaise with and support the work of National Shelter and other relevant peak national and state-based bodies and organisations;
- coordinate and participate in specific projects and research around housing and homelessness; and
- support, manage and provide direction to all Shelter WA staff and volunteers.

The position is permanent full time, subject to continued funding. Flexible work arrangements will be considered for the right candidate. Employment conditions are in accordance with the 2008 Shelter WA Enterprise Bargaining Agreement.

A written application addressing the selection criteria, including a resume, and contact details for at least two recent referees is to be received by 10 October 2011. A copy of the full job description including selection criteria can be found at www.shelterwa.org.au or by emailing shelterwa@shelterwa.org.au.



In addition to her role as Research Officer at Shelter WA, Shae Garwood is an Honorary Research Fellow at UWA.

Her new book *Advocacy Across Borders: NGOs, anti-sweatshop activism and the global garment industry* is now available in paperback or hardback from www.amazon.com or as an e-book from www.kpbooks.com.

The clothing and textile industry employs nearly 30 million people worldwide, mostly in Asia and Central America. Workers frequently face long hours, inadequate wages, harassment and abuse. While some resist such conditions by joining labor unions, many are prevented from doing so or find it difficult to adjust to transitory manufacturers. Because of these challenges, garment workers have reached out to allies across political borders in order to apply more pressure on garment manufacturers.

Advocacy Across Borders reveals the relationships that Northern-based NGOs forge in order to exert influence on powerful actors in the industry. Garwood's study points the way forward for civil society actors reaching across borders to advocate for a better world.

Perth Metropolitan Homeless Response Workshop

On 3 August 2011, over 100 representatives of relevant government agencies and non-government organisations, elected members, and other key stakeholders participated in the Perth Metropolitan Homeless Response Workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to encourage collaboration amongst key stakeholders towards delivering appropriate support and accommodation outcomes for Indigenous peoples and others who are experiencing primary homelessness (rough sleeping) in parks and inner city areas of the City of Perth and the City of Vincent.

Participants investigated options to address the long term homelessness of people frequenting the parks and homelessness among people who move to the city from remote locations.

The Perth Homeless Response Workshop was instigated and arranged by the City of Vincent's Parks People Project Working Group (PPPWG) and adopted as a project by the Central Regional Managers Human Services Forum (CRMHSF). Financial support was provided by the City of Perth, City of Vincent and the Department of Indigenous Affairs.

Shelter WA was contracted to prepare background materials, invite interested stakeholder participants, facilitate the workshop, and prepare a final report. Click [here](#) to download the background paper and final report.

Manna Corporate Cook-off

Corporate Cook-Off Fundraiser 11 October 2011

11 October 2011

12noon - 3pm

<http://mannacookoff.eventbrite.com/>

This will be a fun afternoon, filled with delicious food, will raise funds for Manna Inc and will provide the meals to nourish Perth homeless people that night.

Send your best team to our Corporate Cook-off Fundraiser & support Manna Inc.

This is not your average team building exercise!

Book your group in - limited tickets available.

\$125 per ticket Osborne Park location

For further information contact Tasha Broomhall on (08) 6401 3499 or 0447 619 506

WA Residential Tenancies Act 2011 Amendment Bill Update

The WA Residential Tenancies Amendment Bill 2011 was tabled in Parliament on 18 May 2011. The Bill proposes to introduce legislative amendments to 'provide greater balance between the rights and obligations of tenants and lessors and enhance the clarity and effectiveness of the legislation'. This legislation will impact a wide population – nearly a third of WA households are renters. For further details on the progress of the Bill [click here](#).

Shelter WA Affordable Housing Survey

If you would like to take part in Shelter WA's affordable housing survey, go to [Affordable Housing Survey](#)

Message from Care Services

SH Services Group

The (SH) Services Group was established to respond to a need that exists for an efficient facilitator to enable housing projects to become a realisation. We are experienced on a national and international level for achieving what others are unable to deliver.

If you are a government agency, including a local council, and you have housing issues, the SH Services Group can assist with strategic solutions. If you need assistance for a special project, and you are a part of a large company needing extra funding, we can help you deliver! **We will find and secure the finances you need for your special project whatever it is.**

How We Do It (Housing)

The strategy we use is unique to the SH Services Group and it's enabled us to successfully deliver on this process. We find the land and prove its acquisition is feasible and viable.

We navigate the local legislative process.

We initiate the development application and building application requirements.

We partner with a suitable developer to design modern and innovative housing that perfectly suits its intended purpose with a view to it being quickly 'consumed' upon completion.

We source and secure the finance to suit the site and the circumstances.

We oversee construction, and upon completion, hand over the key.

Care Services

The Care Services is a non-profit organisation that facilitates the development of affordable housing nationally and internationally. We liaise with governments of all levels, including local councils, and provide much needed assistance to establish a range of housing developments suited to the needs of the local areas in which we work.

The demand for housing is growing worldwide, and in some regions that demand is growing faster than governments, charitable organisations and developers can accommodate.

The specialised Care Services takes the lead and achieves what others can't thanks to our unique process and philanthropic approach. Our team's background lies in the human services industry, and in particular, in housing people. The construction of a site without the community perspective and the implemented infrastructures proving support to their community is viewed as unsustainable in our perception.

In response to this the Care Services becomes a lead agency by way of dealing with local and national governments and implementing community friendly infrastructures that benefit all parties. The philanthropic view enables a long term outcome of self sustainability benefiting the demographic growth for current people groups and future generations.

Special Services

We have funding available for all special services, constructions, engineering, developments. Whatever your need our services will be able to provide you with the capital.

Contact Alexandra to discuss your unique housing development, needs and circumstances.

Email Alexandra at alexandrabekiar@gmail.com or phone on mobile 0432 068 324.



Grants and Funding Opportunities

Government funding gives people with disability international representation

People with disability and their representatives will share in \$300,000 in Australian Government funding over three years to attend key international forums on human rights.

The Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Carers, Senator Jan McLucas, announced that grants will be available to successful applicants to attend conferences in an effort to ensure people with disability and the organisations representing them would have their say on the international stage.

“This funding, under our National Disability Strategy, will support delegations representing peak disability and advocacy organisations to better represent the needs of people with disability internationally,” Senator McLucas said.

Disability Discrimination Commissioner, Graeme Innes said, he was pleased to join in announcing the commencement of the funding program to support participation by people with disability in Australia and their organisations in key international processes and events on human rights.

“The process of developing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities showed how much could be achieved by governments and organisations representing people with disability from around the world working together in genuine partnership,” Commissioner Innes said.

“I’m proud that Australia took the lead in involving people with disability in negotiating the Convention, and I warmly welcome this initiative to take that same level of involvement and partnership forward in making human rights a reality for people with disability here and around the world.”

Senator McLucas said the grants, to be administered by the Australian Human Rights Commission, would give disability advocates the opportunity to use their experience and expertise to help inform and shape policies and programs affecting people with disability, their families and carers throughout the world.

Applications are now open for those wishing to apply for funding to attend the Disabled Peoples’ International Eighth World Assembly to be held in Durban, South Africa from 10 to 13 October 2011. Further details can be found at:

<http://www.dpi2011.co.za/>

Details on this new initiative including eligibility can be found on the Australian Human Rights Commission's website at

http://www.humanrights.gov.au/disability_rights/index.html

Discussion Papers, Submissions, Issues Papers and Surveys

Call for Submissions on the Draft National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security

The Minister for the Status of Women, Kate Ellis, recently launched the 'Draft Australian National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security'. The national plan is intended to give women and girls greater protection in conflict, and a more prominent role in preventing and resolving conflict.

The Australian Government is seeking input from across Australia about the content of the National Action Plan. The views and ideas offered by the Australian community during the consultation process will help to inform the development of the final National Action Plan. The National Action Plan will improve the ability of Government agencies to integrate gender equality in all peace and security efforts, as well as support work to eliminate violence against women in situations of armed conflict.

For more information about the National Plan and how to submit a submission please go to [-click here](#)

Written submissions via email or post are to be received by 18 October 2011.

Call for Submissions for Affordable Housing and Social Housing

The State's new Affordable Housing Strategy will tackle the shortage of affordable and social housing in WA by creating more affordable housing entry points and pathways for people on low to moderate incomes who might be at various stages of the housing continuum, be it, social rental, private rental, or home ownership.

An electronic copy of the Call for Submissions' guidelines is available by emailing your full contact details (name, title, organisation, contact number) to AffordableHousingEOI@housing.wa.gov.au or calling 9440 2228.

Closing Date for submissions is **30 May 2012** (or earlier at the absolute discretion of the Department of Housing).

Respondents must follow the detailed instructions regarding Submissions which can be found in the Call for Submissions' Guidelines. Submissions received after the closing date may not be considered.



New guidelines to enhance planning efficiency

Planning Minister John Day today released open for public comment new draft guidelines to address structure planning of land use and urban development issues.

Mr Day said the new guidelines would ensure a consistent approach to structure planning for residential, commercial and recreational land uses across the State.

- State-wide guidelines will ensure consistent approach to planning
- Residential, commercial and recreational land use planning improved
- Changes to benefit community and industry

“These new guidelines will enhance efficiency and effectiveness of the planning system to the benefit of both the community and industry,” he said.

“The State Government, the development industry and planning profession have recognised inconsistencies within the existing use and implementation of structure plans and these proposals will help plan more efficiently for cohesive communities.”

The State Government had been working cross-agency to put these new plans together so as to ensure information provided within structure plans is appropriate to the scale and level of the plan and provide clarity as to the type of information that is generally not to be included in structure plans.

“The guidelines will establish consistency in the format and content of structure plans and provide more clarity and consistency on statutory and non-statutory elements of structure plans,” the Minister said.

“Applicants, local government and the Western Australian Planning Commission will be provided with better guidance on the preparation of structure plans and assistance will be given to decision-making authorities in assessing whether a structure plan has provided the required information.”

Submissions are invited by through the Department of Planning via structureplanguidelines@planning.wa.gov.au or Structure Plan Preparation Guidelines, Department of Planning, Locked Bag 2506, Perth WA 6001

The closing date for submission is 5pm, November 16

Minister's office - 9213 6600 [Link to Minister's media release](#)

Research, Resources, Reports and Publications

National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS) Progress Report

The Federal Government has published a comprehensive report on the progress of the National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS). Much of the information is broken down to a State and Territory level and gives an excellent picture of the progress of the scheme in WA and nationally. [CLICK HERE](#) for the full report.

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)

www.abs.gov.au

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Discussion Paper: Methodological Review of Counting the Homeless

Shelter WA is working with Homelessness Australia and other key stakeholders to respond to the Australian Bureau of Statistics Discussion Paper *Methodological Review of Counting the Homeless*. Shae Garwood, Shelter WA's Research Officer, attended a consultation workshop in Sydney on May 24th, to present Shelter WA's concerns with changes in the enumeration methodology that may significantly reduce the numbers of secondary homeless (i.e. couch surfing) young people and overcrowded Aboriginal households identified as homeless in the Australian Census of Population and Housing conducted on 9 August 2011.

On 5 August 2011 the ABS released the second and final version of the Position Paper on the methodological review of Counting the Homeless 2006 which was conducted between October 2009 and March 2011. The ABS has embarked on a consultation process with Homelessness Australia and practitioners from the homelessness sector over the past six months. Some of the findings from the consultation and submissions process are documented in the [Paper - ABS Review of Counting the Homeless Methodology, Aug 2011](#)

A copy of the ABS discussion paper is available [here](#) and the Homelessness Australia Sector Briefing Paper can be found [here](#)



[Production of Selected Construction Materials, Aug 2011](#)

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

[Demography News, Aug 2011](#)

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

[Building Approvals, Australia, Jul 2011 \(Additional Information\)](#)

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

[Household Expenditure Survey, Australia: Summary of Results, 2009-10](#)

[No change in average household incomes compared to 2007-08 \(Media Release\), 2009-10](#)

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

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)

www.aihw.gov.au

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2010: detailed analyses

This report contains detailed analyses underlying the summary data presented in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2010. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework (HPF) is designed to provide the basis to monitor the impact of the National Strategic Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (NSFATSIH) and inform policy analyses, planning and program implementation. The HPF consists of 71 measures covering the tiers: health status and outcomes; determinants of health; and health systems performance. AIHW catalogue number (IHW53). Available from the internet only. Click on the link to view the [media release](#) and [report](#).

Aged care packages in the community 2009-10: a statistical overview

This report describes the key characteristics of services and recipients and also looks at the distribution of services relative to the needs of the population. At 30 June 2010 there were around 47,700 recipients of care packages. Around 1,150 providers delivered low-care packages, 370 providers delivered high-care packages and 240 providers delivered high-care specialised dementia packages. AIHW catalogue number (AGE65). Click on the link to view the [media release](#) and [report](#).

Residential aged care in Australia 2009-10: a statistical overview

Residential aged care in Australia 2009-10 provides comprehensive statistical information on residential aged care facilities, their residents, admissions and separations, and residents' dependency levels. At 30 June 2010, there were nearly 183,000 residential aged care places, an increase of almost 3% compared with 30 June 2009. Over 83,500 permanent residents (52%) had a recorded diagnosis of dementia at 30 June 2010. Other recorded health conditions included circulatory diseases (40,000 residents) and diseases of the musculoskeletal and connective tissue (27,500 residents). AIHW catalogue number (AGE66). Click on the link to view the [media release](#) and [report](#).

AIHW painting a clearer picture of homelessness in Australia

A new collection to assist in measuring homelessness in Australia has been launched by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). Click on the link to view the [media release](#).

Pathways in aged care: do people follow recommendations?

Eligibility for key aged care programs is assessed by Aged Care Assessment Teams (ACATs). These teams also make recommendations on the preferred long-term setting for receiving care; that is, in the person's home or in a residential care facility. Analysis shows that there was considerable variation in care pathways within recommendation group. Rates of transition into permanent residential care varied with the use of community care and residential respite care. One-quarter of ACAT clients-including some recommended to live in residential care-did not use aged care services in the 2 years after their first assessment. AIHW catalogue number (AUS137). Click on the link to view the [media release](#) and [report](#).

Housing assistance in Australia 2011

Housing assistance in Australia 2011 is a compendium style publication which provides readers with information about housing assistance in each segment of the housing sector: government, not-for-profit and the private sector. Key issues including allocation and waiting lists for social housing, overcrowding, and affordability are examined as well as changes over recent years. Housing assistance provided to special needs groups such as Indigenous Australians, the young and old, and to those with a disability are also examined. AIHW catalogue number (HOU236). Click on the link to view the [media release](#) and [report](#).

People turned away from government-funded specialist homelessness accommodation 2009-10

This report presents data on the people turned away from government-funded specialist homelessness accommodation in 2009-10. The data indicate that government-funded specialist homelessness agencies are operating to capacity and are unable to completely meet the demand for their accommodation. Some groups, such as families, experience more difficulty than others in obtaining accommodation. When new requests for accommodation are considered on any given day, 58% of all people who sought immediate accommodation were turned away. New requests, however, comprise only 4% of the total demand for accommodation. When new requests plus all people currently in accommodation are considered, 2% of all people who sought immediate accommodation were newly accommodated on any given day and 2% were turned away. The rate of turn-away was similar to that reported in recent years.

AIHW catalogue number (HOU248). Available from the internet only. Click on the link to view the [media release](#) and [report](#).

[Research Synthesis Report: No. 059 Evidence for improving access to homelessness services](#)

The synthesis report, authored by Christine Black and Dr Hellene Gronda for the [AHURI Research Synthesis Service](#), was commissioned by Queensland Department of Communities to inform the development of their specialist homelessness service system. [More information...](#)

[Final Report No. 175: The impacts of the Henry Review recommendations on the private rental market - Savings income discount and rent assistance](#)[Report No. 174: Age-specific housing and care for low to moderate income older people](#)[Final Report No. 173: The health impacts of housing: toward a policy-relevant research agenda](#)

[Final Report: No. 172 Urban social housing for Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders: respecting culture and adapting services](#) This project builds on a previous AHURI study [Social housing diversity and integration](#).

[Final Report No. 171: Towards a new development model for housing regeneration in greyfield residential precincts](#)[Final Report No. 170: Secure occupancy in rental housing: conceptual foundations and comparative perspectives](#)[Final Report: No. 169: Investigative Panel on a socially sustainable housing system for Australia](#)[Final Report: No. 168: Australia's private rental market: the supply of, and demand for, affordable dwellings](#)[Final Report: No.167: Remote Indigenous housing procurement: a comparative study](#)[Final Report: No.162: Improving housing responses to Indigenous patterns of temporary mobility](#)[Positioning Paper No. 141: Modelling crowding in Aboriginal Australia](#)

[Positioning Paper: No. 140: Homelessness prevention for women and children who have experienced domestic and family violence: innovations in policy and practice](#)

[Positioning Paper: No. 139: The residual income approach to housing affordability: the theory and the practice](#)

[Positioning Paper No. 138: Bridging the divide: the experiences of low-income households excluded from the private rental sector in Australia](#)

[Research and Policy Bulletin Issue 144: How great is the shortage of affordable housing in Australia's private rental market?](#)

[Research and Policy Bulletin: Issue 143 How does living in public housing affect women's employment?](#)[Research and Policy Bulletin: Issue 141: Stakeholder perspectives on the regulation of affordable housing providers](#)

[Research and Policy Bulletin: Issue 140: Sustainability decisions in Australian households](#)[Research and Policy Bulletin: Issue 139: Asset poverty and older Australians' transitions into housing assistance programs](#)

[Improving the energy efficiency of homes in Moreland](#)

[Migration, labour demand, housing markets and the drought in regional Australia](#)

[The housing needs of women leaving prison](#)

['Permanent discharge': deaths of people under 50 years of age in residential aged care in Victoria](#)

[What matters most? Housing preferences across the Australian population](#)

[A profile of homelessness for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people](#)

[Ageing in what place? The experience of housing crisis and homelessness for older Victorians](#)

[Needs of residents in unlicensed boarding houses](#)

[Census of Population and Housing](#)

[Long-term homelessness: Understanding the challenge](#)

Conferences, Events and Workshops 2011

[World Homeless Day](#) (International) 10 October

[Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting CHOGM](#) (Perth) 28-30 October

[International Housing Summit](#) (Rotterdam, Netherlands) 1-2 November

[The Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs \(APSAD\) Conference](#) (Hobart) 13–16 November.

[Social Inclusion Week](#) (National) 19-27 November [Website](#)

Yfoundations [End Youth Homelessness Conference 2011](#) (Sydney) 22-24 November

Australian Institute of Health & Welfare (AIHW) [Australia's Welfare 2011 Conference](#) (Canberra) 24 November

Media Releases

New online tool gives the facts about land and housing supply

[Media Release](#) Tue 23 August, 2011 John Day, Minister for Planning; Culture and the Arts; Science and Innovation

Planning Minister John Day today launched a new online application which is a one-stop shop for land and housing supply statistics.

Mr Day said the new Urban Development Program Online: State of Land and Housing Supply combined information from industry and government to provide a clear picture of the planning and development pipeline that any individual organisation could not produce in isolation.

"It is important that people have access to the correct and latest information so they can make the most informed decision before they buy a residential lot or a house," he said.

"The facts about land and housing supply are now online in the form of maps, charts and summary tables to communicate trends at a glance.

"The State of Land and Housing Supply reports on the key demand drivers of population, labour force and incomes in addition to the supply status of zoned land, planning approvals, land development, vacant lots, lot listing, building approvals, total dwelling stocks and property listings.

"By making this information available online, a major step forward has been achieved in the convenience and ease of access to time-series trends and the latest status of the state of supply.

"The data is updated quarterly, helping to alleviate the confusion and misinformation often associated with this topic."

Many of the statistics can be downloaded from the site in spreadsheets. Users can view data for individual local governments or show summaries at sub-region and region scales and easily compare two or more areas.

The Minister said this was the first of a series of releases from the new Urban Development Program.

“This first edition covers the Perth metropolitan, Mandurah and Murray local government areas, but it is planned that future releases will cover the rest of the State as well as include industrial and commercial land supply,” Mr Day said.

The application has been produced by the Department of Planning and the Western Australian Planning Commission with the co-operation of the Real Estate Institute of Western Australia, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Landgate, Water Corporation and the Department of Education, Employment and Work Place Relations.

The State of Land and Housing Supply and the Urban Development Program can be accessed online at <http://www.planning.wa.gov.au>

Seniors groups praise new help centre – Seniors’ Housing Centre

[Ministerial Media Statement](#) *Fri 23 September, 2011* Simon O'Brien, Minister for Finance; Commerce; Small Business Housing and living arrangements advice for those approaching retirement. Independent, free advice available

Commerce Minister Simon O'Brien today officially opened the new Seniors' Housing Centre, which will provide vital, free advice to West Australians looking to change their living arrangements as they move towards retirement and beyond.

Mr O'Brien said Consumer Protection had responded to feedback from people who said they had nowhere to go for independent advice when thinking about moving into retirement villages or residential parks.

“As people get older, many look to change their housing arrangements to better suit their lifestyle. Such decisions can prove stressful and this centre is intended to furnish people with the facts they need to make informed decisions,” he said.

Chairman of the National Policy Advisory Group at National Seniors Australia David Carvosso applauded the move and said the centre would assist seniors contemplating a change in their housing situations by giving them the necessary information to make an informed decision.

“We are also supportive of the buyer beware message because retirement village residents are often nervous about the future should their retirement village ownership change. The Seniors' Housing Centre will allay this fear,” he said.

Consumer Protection staff will be on hand at the Seniors' Housing Centre to provide independent, free information - either face-to-face in Perth's CBD, over the phone or by email. An outreach program will cover consumers in the Perth suburbs and regional Western Australia. Additional services will also be provided through a non-government partner organisation.

As Minister for Commerce, I am delighted to launch this new initiative – Seniors' Housing Centre. This centre is part of the Barnett Government's on-going support for seniors in Western Australia.

As we get older many of us will look to change our housing arrangements to better suit our lifestyle, particularly as children leave home and full-time work commitments change. While making a change to where and how you live can be exciting, it can also be a bit daunting! If the change is going to be a positive one, it is important to choose the right option for your needs.

That is where this new centre should really assist in providing free and independent information on the range of housing options open to Western Australians over 55. The centre is intended to give you access, in one service, to information regarding the many housing options available, from modifying or re-developing existing homes, to moving into strata titled community housing, to renting, to moving into a residential park or a retirement village. Additionally, information will be provided about higher care options.

The Seniors' Housing Centre is located at the Ground Floor of 219 St George's Terrace, Perth and you can visit without an appointment during normal business hours to discuss any of the matters covered in this publication. Alternatively, you can contact the staff of the Centre on 1300 367 057 or send an email to seniorshousing@commerce.wa.gov.au. If you are thinking of exploring some new housing options, then I would urge you to take advantage of the excellent service now available through the Seniors' Housing Centre.

While having well informed consumers is very important, as Minister for Commerce, I am also committed to ensuring that our legislative framework meets the needs of our community. To this end, the Government will in the near future embark on a two stage major reform of retirement village laws aimed at protecting the rights of village residents and improving regulation for the industry.



The Seniors' Housing Centre is at ground floor, 219 St Georges Terrace, Perth

Centre staff contact: 1300 367 057

Dedicated publication and other information is on the department's [website](#)

WA Government Media Releases

[More Broome land for homebuyers and investors](#)

[Free assistance to save water](#)

[Environmental offsets policy released](#)

[Response to rangelands tenure options feedback](#)

[New homeless accommodation in Northbridge](#)

[Perth City Link development forges ahead as land sales begin](#)

[New measures introduced to help minimise property fraud](#)

[Government decision paves the way for new Bunbury Waterfront](#)

[Latest round of Royalties for Regions funding to provide improved infrastructure and services for WA's regional communities](#)

[Makeover makes Building Commission more user friendly](#)

[Affordable NGO housing to benefit North-West communities](#)

[Local government members appointed to Development Assessment Panels](#)

[First sod turned for building of Australia's first Foyer model](#)

[Land released for affordable housing at Wungong Reach](#)

[New waterfront hotel and residential project set to transform Pilbara's port city](#)

[Kariyarra people benefit from land agreement in Hedland](#)

[Lotterywest supports the State's homeless](#)

[\\$5.4million to build and maintain new centre for Perth's homeless men](#)

[Independent audit into tenancy management of Mr Robert Roll](#)

[New funding for homeless choir](#)

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

WA Government (Liberal Party): <http://wa.gov.au/>

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

Australian Labour Party: <http://www.alp.org.au/>

Australian Federal Government: <http://australia.gov.au/>

[International Honour for Aged Care Provider Welcomed by Government](#)

[Productivity Commission final report on aged care](#)

[Government provides funding to help Ladder program mentor young homeless](#)

Useful links

Homelessness Australia [Newsletter](#)

[Homeless Information 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 \(REIWA\)](#)

Shelter WA 2011 Newsletter & Update Publications

Shelter WA publishes a quarterly newsletter and monthly updates and welcomes your input. We accept articles, reports, new housing related and support services, and are happy to promote events, training etc.

The deadline for contributions for Shelter WA's October Update is 24 October 2011

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 focuses on people who have 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 made 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 and special needs housing consumers.

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