



# Shelter WA October Newsletter

October 2013

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## Conferences

Men's Shed (WA)

*2013 WA Men's Shed Seminar (14 October)*

FCAWA (WA)

*Prepare to Improve: Personal, Professional and Practice (14-18 October)*

WAAMH (WA)

*Mental Health & Behaviour, Social Inclusion, Reception Responses (14-31 October)*

National Seniors Australia (WA)

*WA State Convention (21 October)*

UDIA (WA)

*How to make the new R-Codes work for you (23 October, Perth)*

AHURI

*8th National Housing Conference (30 October, Adelaide)*

Academy of the Social

## Shelter WA News

**Shelter WA** invites you to attend our **Affordable Housing Network Meeting**. Our guest speaker, Jemma Green, will deliver a presentation on 'Delivering affordable, environmentally sustainable housing in Perth'. Jemma is a Senior Research Fellow and PhD Candidate at Curtin University's Sustainability Policy (CUSP) Institute. This event will be held from 12:30 – 2:30pm on Tuesday 22 October in the Conference Room, Claisebrook Lotteries House, 33 Moore St, East Perth.

Please RSVP by Tuesday 15 October to Shae on 9325 6660 or email [research@shelterwa.org.au](mailto:research@shelterwa.org.au).

**Shelter WA** also invites you to our **Annual General Meeting**, to be held on 22 October following the Affordable Housing Network Meeting. Shelter WA's AGM will begin at 3:00pm, with light refreshments at 3:30pm. We'd love to see you there!

Please RSVP by Tuesday 15 October to Corinne on 9325 6660 or email [corinne@shelterwa.org.au](mailto:corinne@shelterwa.org.au).

**Shelter WA** is conducting a [survey](#) to identify gaps in homelessness services in WA and barriers to getting people into appropriate services. The results of the survey, along with one on one interviews with key stakeholders, will be used to inform our advocacy agenda in relation to homelessness in WA, and to inform policy at a Federal level, through Shelter WA's participation in National Shelter and the Council for Homeless Persons Australia. The information gathered will culminate in a report to support future changes to the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness and the National Affordable Housing Agreement. If you work in the homelessness sector or a related field or have experienced homelessness please complete the survey by clicking [here](#). It will take less than 5 minutes.

**Shelter WA** has recently completed a submission on an '[Inquiry into Microeconomic Reform in Western Australia](#)' conducted by the Economic Regulation Authority (ERA). The ERA issues paper focuses on increasing the 'efficiency' and 'flexibility' of the Western Australian economy through microeconomic reform. Shelter WA's response to this issues paper is positioned under '[Proposed Reforms to Make Housing More Affordable](#)'.

Shelter WA proposes the following reforms:

- Allow local governments to borrow against the value of their land in order to increase their ability to partner in the development of affordable housing;

Sciences in Australia

*Levelling the Spirit:  
Addressing the social  
impacts of economic  
inequality (12 November,  
Canberra)*

Volunteering WA (WA)

*Homeless Connect (13  
November, Perth)*

Criterion Conferences

*Integrating Services to  
Reduce Homelessness (20  
November, Sydney)*

Australian Housing  
Institute

*Stock Transfer:  
Opportunities and  
Challenges (27 November,  
Brisbane)*

State of Australian Cities

*National Conference (26-  
29 November, Sydney)*

Planning Institute of  
Australia

*International Planning  
Conference (16-19 March,  
Sydney)*

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- Use incentives in conjunction with inclusionary zoning requirements, to encourage developers to increase the supply of affordable housing;
- Encourage more efficient use of undeveloped land;
- Abolish stamp duty to promote mobility in the housing market; and
- Encourage the use of sustainable building materials and techniques.

**Shelter WA** is again participating in '**Homeless Connect**' this year on **13 November**. Sponsored by the City of Perth, and organised by Volunteering WA, Homeless Connect Perth is based on a one-stop-shop model of service provision for people experiencing homelessness. The event works to bring together business and community groups to provide free services to people for a day, while working towards making this a permanent initiative. To find out more information or to volunteer, click the [Homeless Connect website](#).

Shelter WA will also be participating in the Bazaar at the Financial Counsellors' Association of Western Australia (FCAWA) Annual Conference '**Prepare to Improve: Personal, Professional and Practice**' on **14-18 October**. To register for this event, visit the [FCAWA website](#).

**Shelter WA** has updated fact sheets on [Commonwealth Rent Assistance](#) and [Stamp Duty](#). These facts sheets provide an overview of these two housing topics and discuss possibilities for their reform, to make housing more affordable.

## Housing and Homelessness News

**National Shelter** is looking for an Executive Officer. This position will be responsible for the overall management of National Shelter with broad direction provided by, and the position accountable to, the National Shelter Council. This position has been established to also take carriage of activities under National Shelter's three year funding agreement, including:

- To work with National Shelter members to support and deliver the National Shelter work program;
- To provide secretariat functions for National Shelter, including support for the National Shelter Council, policy research, and advocacy; and
- To establish and develop national capacity on housing advocacy.

Applications need to address the [selection criteria](#). To get more information or to submit your application, please contact Adam Farrar, the National Shelter interim Chairperson [adam@shelternsw.org.au](mailto:adam@shelternsw.org.au) Application must be received before COB Friday 11 October.

**Department of Social Services** and the Department of Treasury have been put in charge of dealing with the housing and

## Links



homelessness agenda following the federal election. Unfortunately, the new ministry no longer contains a dedicated Minister for Housing and Homelessness. This role has been merged into the portfolio of Minister for Social Services. The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) has been re-badged and is also included under the 'Social Services' portfolio. 'Housing supply policy' will come under the Department of Treasury. More information about the portfolio re-shuffles can be found at [www.probonoaustralia.com.au/news/2013/09/coalition-reveals-portfolio-responsibilities](http://www.probonoaustralia.com.au/news/2013/09/coalition-reveals-portfolio-responsibilities).

**Anti-Poverty Week** is coming up on the 13-19 October. Anti-Poverty Week is a week where all Australians are encouraged to organise or take part in an activity aiming to highlight or overcome issues of poverty and hardship here in Australia or overseas. There are plenty of events happening in WA over this week, and Shelter WA urges you to get involved. More information about where these events are being held, and how to participate, is available on the Anti-Poverty Week [website](#).

**WACOSS** have released their '[2013 Cost of Living Report](#)'. In this report "the evidence is quite clear that only those households on low and fixed incomes (such as those relying on income support, the minimum wage or low-skilled part-time and casual work) have seen their basic living costs going up faster than their incomes. Middle income families on average or above average wages have seen their pay packets grow faster than their essential living costs." states WACOSS CEO Irina Cattalini.

**National Regulatory System for Community Housing** have updated progress on the National Regulatory System for Community Housing. The update provides information on Applications for Registration (AFR) for Phase 1, as well as information on upcoming activities and how to provide feedback to the evaluation of Phase 1 for both providers who have been involved and anyone else interested. For more information please see the [NRSCH website](#) or the official updates flyer [here](#).

**O'Sullivan Centre** have developed a resource kit for community service organisations entitled '[I Just Want to Work](#)'. This resource was developed to support economic participation and social inclusion for unemployed persons. It seeks to give workers in community service agencies tools they can use to increase vocational outcomes for their clients.

**Foundation for Young Australians** have released a report into '[How Young People Are Faring 2013](#)'. This report provides important information about point-in-time and trend data on education and training outcomes for young people in Australia. It also assesses trends in independence and home ownership, amongst other issues.

**The WA State Government** has developed an '[Affordable Housing Portal](#)' in combination with the Department of Housing. This is



designed as a single entry point for consumers to access government and other information about affordable housing. The portal provides access to information about low-cost and low-entry home loans, affordable rentals and affordable properties for sale, financial assistance for renters in the private market and advice on renting and buying property. The Affordable Housing Portal can be accessed by visiting [www.affordablehousing.wa.gov.au](http://www.affordablehousing.wa.gov.au)

**The WA State Government** has also recently announced changes to the **'First Home Owner Grant'** (FHOG) with first homeowners purchasing newly constructed homes receiving \$10,000, up from \$7,000, and first homeowners purchasing existing properties receiving \$3,000, down from \$7,000. You can find out more information [here](#).

**City of Perth** has released an updated version of the directory of **'Homeless Services in the Inner City'**. This can be accessed on the City of Perth's [website](#). The directory provides a listing of service providers, service types such as accommodation, food, and counselling, and a map to locate each of the services. It is a valuable resource for people experiencing homelessness and those working in the housing and homelessness services sector.

**The Salvation Army** has implemented a night outreach program, **'Street Team'**. The program aims to assist rough sleepers; providing support with food, transport to services, sleeping bags and links with crisis accommodation and detox programs where required. The Street Team currently works in collaboration with Street to Home services, and aims to link in with Noongar Patrol in the near future. If you would like to connect with this service, to obtain assistance for yourself or on behalf of someone sleeping rough, please contact Kris on 0458 600 946, or 9326 9599 (BH). The new service operates Fridays, Saturdays and Sunday nights between 8.00 and 11.30pm.

**The National Housing Conference** is fast approaching, commencing on 30 October. [New speakers have been announced](#). The overarching theme **'A New Way Home'** is all about new ways of solving contemporary housing problems and will be exploring six major program themes:

1. DisabilityCare and Housing Provision
2. The roles of Government and NFP in housing supply
3. Economic development and Indigenous communities
4. Homelessness prevention through mainstream services
5. Urban renewal and the supply of affordable housing
6. Housing in the economy

More information, including registration information, can be found at the [event website](#).

## Media

**Shelter WA's** Executive Officer, Chantal Roberts, was interviewed on the 6 September 13 by Paul Murray on 6PR radio to discuss a recent eviction of a public housing tenant who suffers from a terminal illness. The tenant was evicted under the Department of Housing's **'Disruptive Behaviour Management Strategy'** '3 Strikes' Policy, amendments for which Shelter WA has lobbying since its re-formulation in 2011.

This news story is available at <http://www.6pr.com.au/blogs/6pr-perth-blog/homeswest-evict-cancer-patient/20130906-2t9qr.html>

**WACOSS** have welcomed the WA Industrial Relation Commission's decision to award pay increases to workers in the community services sector covered under the state awards system. This media release is available [here](#).

**Inside Story** has released an article entitled 'Poverty in a time of prosperity'. Measured by income, most Australians have never had it so good, but some groups are falling dramatically behind.

#### **State Government announcements:**

[Spearwood youth crisis shelter opens](#)  
[Affordable housing for Onslow workers](#)  
[New planning reforms to streamline approvals](#)  
[FHOG changes take important step](#)  
[Affordable housing boost for Hedland apprentices](#)  
[Department of Housing big winners](#)

## **Research**

**Swinburne Institute for Social Research** is conducting a survey of organisations which produce and/or collect research and information for policy and practice. They are attempting to capture informal 'grey literature' from academic centres, government departments and agencies, NGOs, consultants etc. If you are part of an organisation which produces this type of literature, please complete this [survey](#). If you collect and use this information, please complete a different survey [here](#).

**National Mental Health Commission**, as part of the National Contributing Life Project, are inviting people with lived experience of mental health issues and their families, friends and other supporters to respond to an online pilot [survey](#). This survey seeks information about what helps people to experience a good life; what hinders this; and what would make a difference to their lives.

**Australian Council of Social Service** have released a report into 'Energy efficiency and people on low incomes'. In Australia, many households have invested in energy efficiency as a way to reduce costs. This report explains that persistent barriers have prevented people on low incomes from investing in these energies as a way of reducing their households costs, and that this is causing greater economic polarisation.

**Green Building Council of Australia** have released a 'Three-point plan for better buildings and communities'. This plan details the commitment and action needed from all three levels of government as well as the building industry and the community in relation to a sustainable built environment.

**Homelessness Clearinghouse** have released numerous research reports this month. These include:

- [Does Coordination of Welfare Services' Delivery Make a Difference for Extremely Disadvantaged Jobseekers?](#)
- [Instability in the housing circumstances of newly arrived humanitarian entrants and the implications for the homelessness service system: a scoping study](#)
- [Showcasing Innovation](#)
- [Workforce training for the homelessness sector](#)
- [On the margins: Permanent residents in caravan parks](#)
- [The practice of outreach and its role in responding to homelessness](#)
- [Financial analysis of Foyer-like youth housing models](#)

**AHURI** have released the following positioning papers, final reports, research and policy bulletins and research reviews this month:

- Officially homeless, actually housed
- 'Housing conditionality, Indigenous lifeworlds and policy outcomes: towards a model for culturally responsive housing provision'.
- 'Understanding and addressing community opposition to affordable housing development'
- 'Background paper for an investigative panel meeting on New emerging models of tenancy management in remote Indigenous communities'
- 'What is the role of informal community resources in supporting young people recovering from mental illness?'

The [AHURI research agenda for 2014](#) is also available. The priority areas are: service use by homeless people; NRAS delivery; housing markets and productivity; demographic change and future housing subsidy; and housing and support responses to NDIS.

## Awards, Grants and Funding

**Australian Regional Development Innovation Awards 2014** nominations opened on 29 August. These awards are aimed at recognising and showcasing innovation in: economic development; planning & building; environment & sustainability; and community development. You can nominate or learn more on the [website](#).

**Grants to End Homelessness** are being offered by the Mercy Foundation. These grants are available for initiatives, services, projects and research that will contribute to the goal of ending homelessness.

The Expression of Interest form, grant criteria and further information about the grants are available on their [website](#). EOIs must be received by 14 October. Interested organisations are advised to contact the CEO prior to lodging their EOI.

**Youth Mentoring WA Social Media Competition** was launched by the Department for Local Government and Communities and the Youth Mentoring Reform Project. \$500 cash prizes are up for grabs in the new #thankamentor video competition. To enter, just send in a short two minute video explaining how your mentor has made a difference. More information can be found on this [Facebook page](#).

## Other

**Australian Regional Development Conference** is calling for abstracts focused on the issues of 'economic, planning, environmental and community development' for the national conference. More information is available through the [ARDC website](#).

**Planning Institute of Australia** is calling for papers for its 'Connecting People & Ideas Planning Congress' on 16-19 March 2014. PIA is seeking papers from prospective speakers in planning and allied professions to connect and inspire dynamic and engaged discussion. A focus will be on the 'built environment' and hopefully inspire some discussion about the affordable housing agenda. More information can be found on the [event website](#).

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

If you require further information contact Robert on 9325 6660 or email [project@shelterwa.org.au](mailto:project@shelterwa.org.au)

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