



Shelter WA December- January Newsletter

December-January 2013

In This Issue

- Shelter WA News
- Housing and Homelessness News
- Media
- Research
- Awards, Grants and Funding

Conferences

Urban Development
Institute of Australia (WA)

*2014 President's Summit (17
February, Perth)*

Planning Institute of
Australia

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

Western Australian Council
of Social Service (WACOSS)

*The Difference We Make (5-7
May, Perth)*

Contact Us

Shelter WA is open
weekdays during office
hours and is located at:

1st Floor

Claisebrook Lotteries
House

33 Moore Street

EAST PERTH WA 6004

Shelter WA News

Become a member of **Shelter WA** today! As a member, you will receive:

- Discounts on Shelter WA events
- Advance notice of emerging housing research, up and coming projects, job announcements, news and events
- Opportunities for networking
- A monthly newsletter keeping you up to date on affordable housing and homelessness issues
- Voting rights at general meetings
- Eligibility to nominate to the Board

It's quick, easy and affordable to become a member (\$20 waged/free unwaged/\$50-\$100 organisations) by filling out the [membership form online](#). Consider becoming a member of Shelter WA today and supporting accessible and affordable housing for all Western Australians.

Shelter WA is developing a response to the Housing Authority's **Request for Policy Advice, Stakeholder Engagement and Influencing Services** tender document for comment. The draft Request document provides the requirements for the services that the Department of Housing will purchase in relation to policy advice and stakeholder engagement in 2014. Shelter WA's current grant agreement with the Department of Housing ends in June 2014, so any new funding will be through this competitive tendering process. The final tender document will be released in January 2014 with a decision expected to be announced several months later. You can provide feedback on the tender document directly to the Housing Authority or to Shelter WA to be included in our response. The draft Request document is available on [Tenders WA](#). Comments are due by 10 December 2013.

Shelter WA released a [research report](#) into **The Impact of Fly-In/Fly-Out on Housing Affordability in Western Australia**. Resource boom towns in rural and regional Australia are currently experiencing a housing shortage and supply crisis due to the impact of a 'fly-in/fly-out' workforce. Some regional resource towns have experienced dramatic increases in housing costs, pushing many low and moderate income households out of housing and out of the locality. Shelter WA has developed a report on affordability and accessibility issues in resource boom towns, which includes recommendations for how Federal, State and Local governments

PH: (08) 9325 6660

Fax: (08) 9325 8113

shelterwa@shelterwa.org.au

www.shelterwa.org.au

Links



national
shelter



AUSTRALIANS FOR
AFFORDABLE
HOUSING
HousingStressed.org.au



Australasian Housing Institute
Supporting Social Housing Professionals



COAG
Reform Council



COMMUNITY
HOUSING COALITION WA



CHFA
Community Housing
Federation of Australia



chp



FOHCOL
Federation of
Housing Collectives



Homelessness
Australia
Creating a framework for
ending homelessness

can increase the supply of affordable housing in these locations.

Shelter WA is conducting a survey on **Improving Homelessness Services** to identify gaps 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 hosted a forum on **Building Community Support for Affordable Housing** on 4 December 2013 at the City of Vincent Administration Centre. Guest speakers included Tania Loosley-Smith and Julian Munrowd-Harris, Department of Housing, Kathleen Gregory, Foundation Housing, Philip St. John, City of Fremantle, and Robert Gough, Shelter WA. Kieran Wong, CODA Studio, was also an invited speaker but was unable to attend. Presentations from the forum are available on the [Shelter WA website](#).

Shelter WA released its **Pre-Budget Submission** to complement a submission by the Western Australian Council of Social Service. Shelter WA supports a multi-pronged approach to address the affordable housing crisis in WA. The Shelter WA submission included:

1. Ways to make housing more affordable
2. Reforms to the private rental market
3. An allocation for the expansion of the social housing sector
4. Funding to address homelessness.

The report, [Shelter WA: Pre-Budget Submission to Treasury 2014-15](#), outlines more detailed recommendations to achieve the long-term housing outcomes needed in Western Australia.

Shelter WA recently completed a pilot project **Tenancy Education and Information Forums: Fitzroy Valley**. Over the month of October, and into the beginning of November, Shelter WA staff travelled into the region to





deliver tenancy training in a number of remote Aboriginal communities. The project has been a great success so far, with communities and support services in the area providing positive feedback about the presentations. Included here is a picture of the Shelter WA project staff with Marra Worra Worra (MWW) staff (an Aboriginal Resource Agency in the region). From the left: Robert Gough, Shelter WA, Jo-Ann Coleman, MWW, Sharmaine Carter, MWW, Tammy Solonec, Shelter WA consultant, and Buddy Worrigan, MWW.



Shelter WA participated in **Homeless Connect** 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.

This was a very successful event for Shelter WA. We connected with 20-30 people experiencing homelessness, gave out information, collected 'stories' and referred people to appropriate services. Shelter WA also made valuable connections with homeless service providers and gathered input from service providers and individuals on issues affecting the sector.

To find out more information about Homeless Connect, visit the [website](#).

Housing and Homelessness News

National Shelter has a new Executive Officer. Shelter WA welcomes **Adrian Pisarski** into his new role at the organisation. Adrian brings extensive knowledge and experience in housing policy to the role. He has been the Executive Officer of Queensland Shelter and the Chair of National Shelter for many years. In his new role, he will develop and advocate affordable housing policy at a national level to achieve National Shelter's goal of a housing system which ensures that every person has access to affordable, appropriate, safe and secure housing. Under Adrian's leadership, National Shelter will also embark on several key research projects on homelessness and the affordable housing continuum. The Shelter WA staff look forward to working with Adrian in his new role.

Australian Council for Social Service (ACOSS) have a new President- **Francis Lynch**. Shelter WA welcomes the appointment of outgoing Western Australian Council for Social Service (WACOSS) President, Francis Lynch (CEO of Ruah Community Services) to the role of President of the Australian Council of Social Services, and congratulates him on his successes on the WACOSS board over the last 6 years.

National Housing Supply Council has been abolished by the Federal Government. The National Housing Supply Council was established in 2008 to monitor housing demand, supply and affordability in Australia and to identify gaps in this regard. REIWA and UDIA have both criticised this decision. Julie Katz (UDAI) said, "prior to the establishment of the NHSC there was a severe lack of data and research on housing supply and affordability issues in Australia, and the information it has provided since has proven extremely valuable to policy makers at all

levels of government, as well as community and industry groups". The Housing Industry of Australia take the stance that this provides a new opportunity to take a fresh look at Australia's housing supply challenge.

Housing Industry Forecasting Group released its **Forecast Dwelling Commencements in Western Australia** [report](#) providing the forecast of dwelling commencements in WA from 2013-14 to 2016-17. Among the report's key findings was that despite falling interest rates and improvements in various affordability indexes, housing affordability is still a major issue in WA – a household needs to earn over \$80,000 per annum just to be able to afford the median rent in Perth.

Prime Minister's Council on Homelessness will be wound down by the Federal Government. The Minister for Social Services, the Hon Kevin Andrews explained this to the National Housing Conference in his first major speech since becoming minister.

UnitingCare West has just opened a brand new service for families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Centrally located, the **Family Foundations Service** provides the much needed basic support to families from the inner city area and a range of surrounding suburbs. It is a drop in service where families can have dinner together, have a warm shower and wash their clothes. For more information about this service please [click here](#) or phone 9220 1268.

Media

The West Australian released an article entitled **Indigenous hit hard by housing policy**. This article explains that more than 500 Aboriginal households have been evicted under the Department of Housing's Disruptive Behaviour Management Strategy. The article is available [here](#).

The Greens have released a [media statement](#) **Government strikes out on social housing policy** commending *The West Australian* newspaper for its article on evictions. In the Greens media statement, they support calls from Shelter WA and the Equal Opportunity Commission to make changes to this policy.

State Government announcements:

[Government proposal to improve councils finalised](#)
[New phase of South Hedland development](#)
[Report finds strength in housing construction sector](#)
[Government's preferred Perth model released](#)
[Government delivers on housing promise](#)

Research

Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) released the following evidence reviews:

- [Gentrification leads to 'concentration of advantage'](#)
- [Population mobility concentrates low-income households](#)
- [Housing transfers need clear objectives](#)

AHURI released a number of final reports:

- [Housing equity and withdrawal: uses, risks and barriers to alternative mechanisms in later life; and](#)
- [The edges of home ownership](#)

AHURI also released **The use of guarantees in affordable housing development - a select international review**. This [positioning paper](#) outlines current research which aims to build critical capacity among policy-makers concerned with the design of public or private sector

sponsored guarantees. Such guarantees can play a role bearing and reducing the risk of long-term credit for affordable housing providers.

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.

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) released **Mortgage repayments on the rise**, a [report](#) that looks at the median monthly mortgage repayments in rural and regional areas of Australia, based on census data. This report highlights the effect of the Fly-In/Fly-out phenomena on mortgage repayments, with Derby-West Kimberley, Port Hedland and Ashburton mortgage repayments increasing dramatically between censuses (104.7%, 140.1% and 278.6% respectively).

The ABS also released **Housing Finance, Australia, Sep 2013**, a [report](#) which explains that dwelling commencements, owner occupier housing commitments and investment commitments all rose in September 2013. The report also explains that the average loan size for first home buyers and owner occupier properties continue to increase (by \$4,800 and \$5,600 respectively).

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) released **Housing assistance in Australia**, a [report](#) looking at trends in housing and housing assistance provided by governments in Australia in terms of social housing and financial assistance in 2012-13. The report explores the various types of housing assistance provided to low-income households and special needs groups including first home buyers, Indigenous Australians, young and older Australians, people with disability, and those who are homeless.

AIHW also released a survey [report](#) entitled **National Social Housing Survey: detailed results 2012**. This report provides further detail on the satisfaction of social housing tenants in their tenures. Whilst most tenants are satisfied their housing needs are met, results varied by housing providers and locations.

Australian Psychological Society has given insight into **How psychologists can help to end homelessness** through a recent [study](#). Although the causes of homelessness are not primarily psychological, there are many roles for psychologists in addressing it - this research touches on these strategies.

Hanover Welfare Services in combination with Swinburne University, released a research [report](#) entitled **The Right to Belong: Family Homelessness and Citizenship**. The research reports on how homelessness affects the day to day life of women with children. This research provides an in-depth perspective rather than focusing on public policy, which is the focus of other research projects.

The Salvation Army have undertaken a snapshot of **Homelessness Across Australia: The Salvation Army's Response**. This [report](#) shows that a high percentage (44%) of people accessing the Salvation Army service are doing so with housing affordability or housing crisis issues.

Awards, Grants and Funding

The Department of Local Government and Communities is currently seeking applications for the **National Youth Week Grants Program 2014**. Funding of up to \$1,000 will be available to host an event during National Youth Week 2014 (4 – 13 April 2014). [Click here](#) to view the guidelines and [click here](#) to download the application form.

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

If you wish to subscribe to our newsletter you can do so [here](#). If you want to unsubscribe click [here](#).

If you would like to become a **Member of Shelter WA** please complete the membership form [here](#).