



Shelter WA November Newsletter

November 2013

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Conferences

Australian Common Ground Alliance

Working Towards Ending Street Homelessness in 2020 (5 November, Brisbane)

UWA CPD Health (WA)

Multidisciplinary Mental Health (9 November, Perth)

Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia

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

Volunteering WA (WA)

Homeless Connect (13 November, Perth)

AHURI

New homelessness research (14 November, Sydney)

Criterion Conferences

Integrating Services to Reduce Homelessness (20 November, Sydney)

National Indigenous Health

Shelter WA News

Shelter WA's Annual General Meeting was held on 22 October. It was well-attended, and Shelter WA now has a full Board of Management, with four Office Bearers and six board members. There were five Board vacancies, including the Chair and Secretary positions. Shelter WA's previous Chair, Richard Sheridan, made a decision to step down after five years in the position, but has remained as a Board member. Two nominations were received for Chair and a secret ballot was held to determine the outcome for this position. The positive response to Shelter WA's Board positions shows strong sector support for the organisation and the work we are doing.

Shelter WA would like to congratulate Leanne Strommen (Centrecare) on her appointment as Shelter WA Chair, welcome new board members, Nina Crosland (St Bartholomew's House) and Professor Eileen Webb (Faculty of Law, UWA), and thank the other Board members for remaining on in their positions. The current Board consists of Leanne Strommen (Chair), Cindy Dunham (Vice Chair), Danielle Van Kampen (Secretary), Bev Carstairs (Treasurer), and Richard Sheridan, Antoinette Morris, Kendal Head, Professor Paul Flatau, Professor Eileen Webb and Nina Crosland. The organisation has also retained Lynne Evans as Patron.

Shelter WA also held the **Affordable Housing Network Meeting** on 22 October. Shelter WA would like to thank Jemma Green, from Curtin University Sustainability Policy Institute (CUSP) for her presentation '**Delivering affordable, environmentally sustainable housing in Perth**' which promoted a rich discussion from participants.

Shelter WA would also like to thank attendees for both these events, and their continued support, as this is integral to the ongoing success of the organisation.

Shelter WA is conducting a **survey** to identify gaps in homeless 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

Conference

*Building Bridges for
Indigenous Health (25-27
November, Cairns)*

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)*

Urban Development
Institute of Australia

*UDIA National Congress (26-
28 March, Brisbane)*

Contact Us

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Links



experienced homelessness please complete the survey by clicking [here](#). It will take less than 5 minutes.

Shelter WA will hold a community forum on 4 December 2013 from 9:30 to 12:00 on **'Building Community Support for Affordable Housing'**. The forum will be held at the City of Vincent Function Room (cnr Vincent St. And Loftus St.) Speakers will be announced shortly. To register your interest, contact research@shelterwa.org.au or 9325 6660.

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, to volunteer, or to donate goods or services, please visit the Homeless Connect [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

Curtin Housing Affordability Survey How does housing affordability affect you? Please complete this short [survey](#) (5-10 mins) and tell us. This survey is relevant if you live in Western Australia and you: own your own home, want to own your own home, rent from any type of landlord, or live with parents, friends or in a group household. The Curtin Business School wants to know how your current housing expenditure affects your day to day life. If you cannot afford to form a household, we want to know what barriers prevent you from doing so and what sort of housing you would be prepared to accept.

The results of the survey will be used to provide housing policy makers with a better understanding of how housing affordability affects individual households. We thank you in advance for your participation.

If you have any questions please contact AHRC13@curtin.edu.au. Click [here](#) to take the survey.

ACOSS and National Rural Health Alliance Inc have undertaken a **'snapshot of poverty in rural and regional Australia'**. This outlines the extent of poverty and disadvantage outside Australia's major capital cities, highlighting the devastating impact on people's lives and on country towns and communities. The snapshot is available on the ACOSS [website](#).

Anglicare Australia has released the **'State of the Family report - Paying Attention'**. This report explores the new ways in which agencies respond to the needs of their clients and relates to people who are primarily experiencing poverty and hardship. The report



is available from the Anglicare [website](#).

Graham Garstin, a long time supporter of Shelter WA, has set up a petition to be presented to the Western Australian Government. The petition supports the use of Caravan Park type accommodation and manufactured housing to ensure housing affordability into the future, particularly for seniors. To include your name on the petition or to get involved in the initiative, please contact Graham personally on (08) 9437 6346, 0413 404 727 or email affordablehousingwa@gmail.com

Homelessness Australia (HA) is conducting a survey on the use of homelessness services by new migrants, including refugees and asylum-seekers. HA are inviting homelessness services to take part in the survey. The survey closes on Tuesday 5 November. For more information contact info@homelessnessaustralia.org.au or [take the survey now](#).

St Vincent de Paul Society have developed practical recommendations for the new government in the light of the facts on poverty in prosperous Australia. The report **‘Two Australias - a report on poverty in the land of plenty’** explains that for those who have been left out, choices are few and deprivations are many and that, in the provision of the fundamentals such as housing, health, education, and access to meaningful employment, governments must do what markets cannot. The extensive research report is available on the Vinnies’ [website](#).

WACOSS released their Pre-Budget Submission (PBS) this month, under the title **‘What Really Counts: Investing for all Western Australians’**. The PBS can be accessed on the WACOSS [website](#). In compiling their submission, the WACOSS consulted with its 300 members, including Shelter WA and over 800 organisations who provide community services to hundreds of thousands of Western Australians every year, to identify the key priorities for investment in the 2014-15 State Budget:

- Housing and Homelessness
- The Cost of Living
- Children, Young People & Families
- People with Complex Needs
- Sustainable Community Services State-wide

WACOSS is also holding a forum on **‘FIFO & Long- Distance Commuting: Making sure it works for workers, families and communities’** on 11 November. People interested in the impact of FIFO/long-distance commuting, or the delivery of services to support resource communities, are encouraged to attend this forum. Please [click here](#) to view flyer and register for the event.

Media

David Airey, the REIWA President, on 11 October, released an article **‘Prices down, rents down; Perth’s trend of decline continues’**, indicating the declining trend in Perth median house



price over the last two months is continuing. This article is available [here](#).

Nicole Gurran and Peter Phibbs, two well respected housing researchers, have released a news article on **‘The growing wealth divide in Australia’s home equity’**. This delves into the issues of the wealth divide which is occurring between home owners and renters, and also examines which government initiatives have been effective and ineffective in creating a fair housing system. This article is also available [here](#).

Saul Eslake has addressed the 122nd Annual Henry George Commemorative Dinner in Melbourne on **“50 Years of Housing Failure”**. The address provides an extensive history of Australia’s housing past in terms of negative gearing and the effects of the First Home Owners Grant on housing affordability. Read more at www.prosper.org.au/2013/09/03/saul-eslake-50-years-of-housing-failure/

State Government announcements:

[Historic day for people with mental illness](#)
[Unique land release calls developers to quay](#)
[Restructure is a step towards NDIS](#)
[Local government reform takes historic step](#)
[WA developments in sustainability first](#)

Research

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

- [Public housing stock transfers in Australia: past, present and prospective](#)
- [Not a holiday - living permanently in caravan parks](#)
- [Australian suburban house building: industry organisation, practices and constraints](#)
- [Housing conditionality, Indigenous lifeworlds and policy outcomes: towards a model for culturally responsive housing provision](#)
- [Understanding and addressing local opposition to affordable housing projects](#)

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 has updated a **‘Directory of Family and Domestic Violence Statistics’**. The directory’s purpose is to improve awareness, and ultimately the use of family and domestic violence-related data, collected on behalf of Australian governments. This directory can be found on the ABS [website](#).

The ABS has also released important data on **‘Housing Finance’** for secured and unsecured housing finance commitments for owner occupation, commitments for construction or purchase of dwellings for rent or resale, and loans outstanding to individuals/households for housing. This is available also on the ABS [website](#).

WA Department of Housing (DoH) released its Annual Report for 2012-2013, including the progress it has made with regards to the *Affordable Housing Strategy 2010 – 2020: Opening Doors to Affordable Housing*. The Annual Report states the Department of Housing is half way to its target of 20,000 additional affordable opportunities by 2020. This includes 3,864 new social houses, 1,427 NRAS properties, 4,655 Keystart Home Loans, and 1,618 public housing dwellings.

Shelter WA has developed a brief review of this report, which is available [here](#). The DoH Annual Report is available on the DoH [website](#).

WA Department of Planning this month released a discussion paper for public comment, **'Planning Provisions for Affordable Housing'**. The Department is seeking feedback from stakeholders and members of the public on the best way to use the planning system to support the delivery of affordable housing. This will be used to inform the Government's policy position regarding the use of planning provisions to deliver affordable housing. The paper can be found on the WAPC [website](#).

Shelter WA will be preparing a submission to this paper in the coming weeks. If you have any issues/comments you wish us to include, please forward them to Robert at project@shelterwa.org.au

Grattan Institute Cities Program has released a study into **'Renovating housing policy'**. It explores how Government tax and welfare policies, by favouring homeowners and property investors over people who rent, are increasing the divide between Australians who own housing and those who do not. This study can be found on the Grattan Institute [website](#).

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

- [Fighting for my Family: A longitudinal study of families experiencing homelessness](#)
- [Don't push foster children out in the cold when they turn 18](#)
- [Paternal influence crucial to the success of children](#)

Institute of Social Science Research, the University of Queensland has released the final report of a series of six research reports spanning two years on **'Indigenous homelessness in regional Australia'**. The overall aim of the research was to assess the appropriateness and effectiveness of regional service responses to Indigenous homelessness. The report is available through the Australian Indigenous Health Bulletins' [website](#).

National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM) has released research into **'Poverty, Social Exclusion and Disadvantage in Australia'**, which reveals an increase in overall poverty between 2000-01 and 2011-12, in spite of a strong Australian economy. The research report is available on the [NATSEM website](#).

NATSEM has also recently released a **'Household budget report: cost of living and standard of living indexes for Australia'**. This report provides new insights into changes in the cost of living, incomes and the related standard of living for a range of different household types, income levels, demographics and regions. It also looks at cost and standard of living in terms of demographics in terms of main source of income, renters, mortgagors, and family types. This report is also available on the [NATSEM website](#).

NATSEM has also released publications on:

- [Geographical analysis of the risk of homelessness](#)
- [Income and Wealth Report - Modern Family. The Changing Shape of Australian Families](#)

The Summer Foundation has released a report looking at **'National Disability Insurance Scheme launch sites: projection of the number of young people in Residential Aged Care'**. The report estimates unmet need and resources required for housing and support in launch sites. The report is available on the Summer Foundation [website](#).

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, Swinburne Institute for Social Research would like you to complete this [survey](#).

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 [here](#).

Department of Commerce has announced that nominations for the '**2014 Western Australian Consumer Protection Awards**' are open. The awards seek to recognise and reward those in our community who promote consumer rights, provide assistance and educational programs and raise awareness of consumer issues, including child safety. Nominations must be received by 29 November. [Click here](#) to read more.

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'. More information is available through the [ARDC website](#).

Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) 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. The 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

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](#).