



Promoting Affordable Housing

Newsletter

July 2012

Shelter WA Submission - Homelessness Draft Bill 2012

The Homelessness Bill is set to replace the Supported Accommodation Assistance Act 1994 (Cth) (SAA Act). The funding agreements, previously administered under the SAA Act, are now administered under the financial relationship framework through agreements such as the National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA) and the related National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH). A major difficulty with the proposed Bill is the funding arrangements are not incorporated into the Act, which could mean a change of government may see the funding come to an end without the requirement of going through the parliamentary processes to amend legislation. Another issue which has been omitted from this proposed Bill is that, unlike the *previous* SAA Act, there is no provision for an overseeing body.

In the Commonwealth Government's White Paper on homelessness, *The Road Home*, the Government outlined its desire to introduce new homelessness legislation to ensure that people who are homeless receive quality services and adequate support.

The new legislation will replace the *Supported Accommodation Assistance Act 1994* (Cth) (SAA Act), which set out principles and has guided the Commonwealth's response to homelessness in Australia since first legislated in 1985. The SAA Act was primarily a vehicle for providing funding to States and Territories to administer the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP). New funding arrangements were introduced in 2009 under the federal financial relations framework, superseding the funding mechanism of the SAA Act.

The Commonwealth does not have express constitutional power in relation to housing or homelessness. The object of this Act is to increase recognition and awareness of persons who are, or are at risk of, experiencing homelessness.

We welcome your feedback and input into Shelter WA's submission, or you may wish to put in your own submission. A copy of Shelter WA's submission is attached to the email as well as a copy of the Exposure Draft Bill 2012. Submissions are limited to a maximum of 2 pages.

The closing date for submissions is FRIDAY 3 AUGUST 2012; therefore we would appreciate any feedback by close of business Wednesday 2 August 2012.

Welcome to FoHCOL's Coordinator, Gary Robins

Shelter WA would like to extend a very warm welcome to FoHCOL's (Federation of Housing Collectives) new Coordinator, Gary Robins, who took over from Elizabeth Po in late June. FoHCOL and Shelter WA have developed an exciting collaborative arrangement, which sees Gary (and FoHCOL) now based in our offices at 33 Moore Street East Perth. We look forward to a prosperous working relationship between our two organisations and to the benefits each can bring to the other. For more information on FoHCOL visit <http://www.fohcol.org.au/>

Shelter WA

Young People, Housing & Homelessness Workshop

Wednesday, 29 October 2012

9:30am – 12:30pm

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

RSVP to Stephanie by 11 June 2012 - phone 9325 6660 or email cdpo@shelterwa.org.au

Housing affordability falls in Western Australia:

COAG report shows State and Commonwealth fail housing reforms

The West Australian government needs to go back to the drawing board on the National Affordable Housing Agreement with today's Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Reform Council report showing it is getting harder for households to put a roof over their heads.

“The National Affordable Housing Agreement between the States and the Commonwealth is meant to improve housing affordability in Australia, but it's clearly not working” said Australians for Affordable Housing campaign manager Sarah Toohey.

“The report finds that housing affordability in Perth has declined, with 39 per cent of low income renters in housing stress.”

“For the very lowest income renters in Western Australia, in the bottom 10 per cent of incomes, things are even worse with 42 per cent in housing stress.”

“These households, already on very low incomes, now have to make ends meet with less and less after they pay their rent. It means cutting back on the basics, like clothes, food, transport and school costs.”

“Western Australia has had very few affordable properties for low income earners looking to buy a home. Just 4 per cent of properties for sale were affordable to 40 per cent of the population.”

“For three years in a row the COAG Reform Council has reported that housing affordability in Australia is getting worse, particularly in the rental market. We're calling for the Western Australian Government and the Commonwealth to go back to the drawing board and negotiate a new agreement.”

There are three key changes needed to turn the National Affordable Housing Agreement around:

1. **Establish an Affordable Housing Growth Fund.** The operating funding for running state housing systems should be split from the capital funding to grow the number of houses available. This will help make sure states are building enough housing for those who need it.
2. **Improve transparency of government spending.** It is unclear how states spend funding they receive under the National Affordable Housing Agreement. Clearer accountability on spending would make it easier to track which areas are improving and why.
3. **Index the agreement properly.** The way funding under the National Affordable Housing Agreement is indexed means that it has increased at a rate below inflation agreement over the life of the Agreement. In real terms funding has been going backwards, and will continue to do so unless the Agreement is indexed properly.

“Australians for Affordable Housing is calling on the Western Australian Government to negotiate a National Affordable Housing Agreement that tackles the real problems in our housing system.”

Australians for Affordable Housing is a coalition of national housing, welfare and community sector organisations working to highlight the problem of housing affordability in Australia. For more information visit www.housingstressed.org.au

Media contact: Sarah Toohey, 0427 563 989.

Follow AAH on Facebook at www.facebook.com/housingstressed and Twitter: @housingstressed

Affordable Housing 2010–11: Comparing performance across Australia

National Affordable Housing Agreement Report to the Council of Australian Governments

The COAG Reform Council has released its third report assessing progress under COAG's National Affordable Housing Agreement. The report, 'Affordable Housing 2010-11: Comparing performance across Australia' focuses on the outcomes in the Agreement that relate to home purchase affordability, rental affordability, and housing market efficiency and responsiveness.

The council found that nationally, based on the indicators and years that can be reported on, there is no indication that housing affordability has improved. Rental affordability in particular – as measured by the proportion of low income households spending more than 30 per cent of their income on rent – has worsened in capital cities and for those on the lowest incomes.

This report was submitted to COAG on 30 April 2012 and publicly released on 29 June 2012.

[A copy of the full report is available here](#)

A Call for Expressions of Interest in Contributing to the December 2012 edition of Parity

Responding to Homelessness in Western Australia

The December 2012 “*Responding to Homelessness in Western Australia*” Edition of Parity is being developed and prepared in collaboration with major sector stakeholders with the support of the West Australian Government's Department for Child Protection and the project is being overseen by the Western Australian Council on Homelessness (WACH)

The Guest Editors for the edition will be Dr Paul Flatau from the University of Western Australia, Robyn Martin from Curtin University and Chantal Roberts, the Executive Officer of Shelter WA.

In order to assist potential and prospective contributors a Call for Contributions document has been developed. Copies of the EOI can be downloaded from both the WA Shelter and CHP Web Sites: www.shelterwa.org.au and www.chp.org.au. Alternatively click on the links below or a PDF copy can be sent to you. Just email parity@chp.org.au

In order to assist with the planning and development of the edition and to make sure all issues and themes are covered, all those interested in contributing to this edition are to complete and return the Expression of Interest pro forma below.

Expressions of Interest need to be completed and returned ASAP and by no later than August 10th.

Most articles in *Parity* are either single page (900 words) or double page, (up to 1800 words).

All contributions should be submitted by email to parity@chp.org.au as a Word attachment.

Noel Murray, Parity Editor, parity@chp.org.au; 03 8415 6200

[Expression of Interest Parity December 2012 Issue.pdf](#)

[Call for Contributions Information Sheet Parity December 2012](#)

Shelter WA Submissions and Projects

Shelter WA is currently working on the following submissions and projects. If you have any issues or concerns you would like us to consider when preparing our submissions or you wish to attend a forum contact Stephanie at cdpo@shelterwa.org.au or phone 9325 6660.

Shelter WA

Affordable Housing Network Meeting

Thursday, 18 October 2012, 9:30am – 12:30pm

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

RSVP to Stephanie by 11 June 2012 - phone 9325 6660 or email cdpo@shelterwa.org.au

National Regulatory System for Community Housing – WA Consultation

In June 2011, Housing Ministers across Australia agreed to a blueprint for a National Regulatory System for community housing providers. The proposed system seeks to introduce nationally consistent regulatory arrangements to promote the growth of the community housing sector nationally.

The new system will aim to:

- Improve tenant outcomes and protect vulnerable tenants
- Protect government funding and equity in the sector
- Enhance investor and partner confidence.

In addition, objectives specific to WA are to:

- Increase the level of protection afforded to government funding and equity;
- Ensure regulation of the community housing sector is sufficiently responsive to the particular geographic, economic and social characteristics of WA, including the WA Government's commitment to the principles of partnership with the not-for-profit sector;
- Ensure government investment in regulation is cost effective, and
- Ensure that WA is not disadvantaged if future Commonwealth Government funding for social housing is tied to participation in a nationally consistent regulatory system.

Public consultations on the proposed system were held in November and December 2011, the public submission period closed on 20 January 2012.

The [Report of the Public Consultation](#) (PDF, 500KB) for the proposed National Regulatory System for community housing and a [letter to stakeholders](#) (PDF, 26KB) is now available.

WA's community housing providers are taking on an increasingly significant role in delivering affordable housing, which is a key initiative in the State Government's Affordable Housing Strategy 2010-2020: Opening Doors to Affordable Housing.

Expanding the role of the sector is also a key reform arising from the National Affordable Housing Agreement, and jurisdictions across Australia have agreed to explore a nationally consistent regulatory system to support the sector's growth. The WA Government has participated in the development of the proposed National Regulatory System for Community Housing through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) and is seeking to assess the likely impact of nationally consistent regulation on the Western Australian Community Housing Sector and related stakeholders. The Department of Housing will release a WA specific Regulatory Impact Statement shortly to help inform the consultation process.

WA Government Consultation Paper: [REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT - CONSULTATION PAPER – NATIONAL REGULATORY SYSTEM FOR COMMUNITY HOUSING Implementation of Nationally Consistent Legislation in Western Australia](#)

This consultation paper proposes a number of options for the ongoing regulation of the sector and provides stakeholders with the opportunity to comment on the implications for them and put forward their preferred regulatory model.

The consultation period ends 31 August 2012.

If you would like to take part in any of Shelter WA's surveys, please click on the links below:

[Affordable Housing Survey](#)

[Renting in WA](#)

Discussion Papers, Submissions, Issues Papers, Surveys

YACWA Homeless Youth Suicide Prevention Project - Needs Your Feedback

The Youth Affairs Council WA (YACWA) is currently consulting with young homeless people, services and other stakeholders on the issues and needs facing young homeless people. These consultations will inform the approach and direction of a Community Action Plan to prevent suicide amongst young homeless people in WA.

The consultation and Community Action Plan is funded by the One Life Strategy through Centrecare - as part of The Western Australian Suicide Prevention Strategy.

YACWA would like you to become involved in the consultation process - they are currently distributing surveys and conducting phone interviews.

Email YACWA at onelife@yacwa.org.au with your contact details to receive the survey or request a phone consultation.

National Housing Supply Council Release of *Housing Supply and Affordability - Key Indicators, 2012: Principal Findings*

The growth of housing stock in Australia in 2010–11 fell short of the increase in estimated underlying demand for housing. Affordable housing for lower income individuals and families is in especially short supply in most Australian capital cities and some regional areas, although the Australian Government's economic stimulus spending on social housing lifted the number of new public and community–managed dwellings in 2010–11 to its highest level since the late 1980s.

The National Housing Supply Council has released its latest report: *Housing Supply and Affordability – Key Indicators, 2012*.

For further information on the report and the Council's findings:

- see [the National Housing Supply Council website](#)
- contact the [Council's Secretariat by email](#)
- contact [Owen Donald via email](#) or 0419–313–186.

The Report can be downloaded from the [National Housing Supply Council website](#).

St Barts People Need People to rebuild their lives

For people whose lives are in crisis and experiencing homelessness, many don't have a support network or people to support them in rebuilding their lives.

Join the St Barts People Need People network and help people turn their lives around.

As a Friend of St Bart's you will ...

- be part of a group of people committed to social justice and caring about the homeless.
- be kept up to date with St Bart's work in addressing homelessness issues in Perth through newsletters and client success stories.
- be invited to participate in and promote St Bart's fundraising events through your networks.
- be encouraged and supported to host fundraising events and activities if you wish.

How do I sign up to become a Friend of St Bart's?

Simply register your interest by sending your name and contact details to events@stbarts.org.au.

Becoming a Friend of St Bart's is free of charge.

For more information visit <http://peopleneedpeople.org.au/Become-a-Friend-of-St-Barts.aspx>

Awards, Grants, Tenders and Funding Opportunities

2013 National Youth Week Young Member - Apply Now!

National Youth Week is the largest annual youth event in Australia, and Department for Communities is looking for an amazing young person to get involved.

You could be Western Australia's 2013 National Youth Week Young Member and represent young people in Western Australia on the National Planning Committee. You will get the chance to shape Western Australia's National Youth Week 2013, and make sure that it will be the biggest and best celebration of young people yet.

Interested? Visit the [National Youth Week webpage](#) for details. **Applications close 3 August 2012.**

2012 WA Seniors Awards Nominations Now Open

Nominations close on Friday, August 10, 2012

Nominations are open for the following five categories:

- Community Award for voluntary work and serving the community
- Intergenerational Award for working with children and young people under 25
- *beyondblue* Inspiration Award for Wellbeing for seniors involved in promoting mental health and wellbeing
- Westscheme/COTA WA Champion for Seniors Award for an individual of any age who works in a paid or voluntary capacity to improve the quality of life for seniors or retirees
- The Bendigo Bank Active Ageing Leadership Award for recognising organisations for their innovative planning or services that improve the quality of life of seniors.

Award winners will be announced at a gala ceremony on Sunday, November 11 to mark the start of Seniors Week 2012.

Nomination forms for the WA Seniors Awards are available at <http://www.communities.wa.gov.au>

Grandparents Day Grants

Funding of up to \$2000 is available for community organisations to celebrate **Grandparents Day**, which will be held on **Sunday, 28 October 2012**.

Organisations may apply for a Grandparent grant in order to host an event to thank and recognise grandparents for the valuable role they play in our society by offering care and guidance to their children and grandchildren. It is recommended that a range of different community groups be involved in the celebration event. Please note that proposed activities or events are to be held on Sunday 28 October 2012.

Applications close at 5pm on Friday 17 August 2012.

Please contact the Grants and Contracts Officer for more information by telephoning (08) 6551 8412 or email grants@communities.wa.gov.au

Carers Week 14-20 October 2012 - Grants

To celebrate the carers in our community, Carers WA are offering up to \$1000 to help you hold an event during Carer's Week, 14-20 October 2012. Applications are welcome from organisations in the metropolitan area, and all regional and remote communities for events recognising family carers in the community.

For more details and application forms, visit the Carers WA [website](#)

Applications close 17 August 2012.

Community Crime Prevention Grants

The Western Australia Police Strategic Crime Prevention Division is offering grants of up to \$25 000 to support crime prevention projects throughout the state. Eligible projects will focus on crime prevention, youth justice, addressing antisocial behaviour, addressing drug and alcohol related crime and more.

If you have a project idea, visit their [website](#) for more information.

The current funding round closes 23 August 2012.

Thank a Volunteer Day, 5 December 2012 - Grants

Funding of up to \$1000 is available for community organisations to host Thank a Volunteer Day events. Organisations may apply for a Thank a Volunteer Day grant in order to host an event to thank and recognise volunteers for their valuable contribution within the community. It is recommended that a range of different community groups be involved in the celebration event. Communities who receive TAVD grants are strongly encouraged to hold their event on 5 December, as it coincides with Western Australia's Thank a Volunteer Day and the International Day of Volunteers.

Contact the Grants and Contracts Officer for more information by telephoning (08) 6551 8413 or email grants@communities.wa.gov.au or visit the [website](#)

Applications close at 5pm on Friday 24 August 2012.

Shining the spotlight on innovation

Innovative individuals and projects across seven fields, ranging from clean energy technology to education, have an opportunity to secure cash prizes and national recognition as part of the Australian Innovation Challenge.

The Minister for Industry and Innovation, Greg Combet, has welcomed the Federal Government's support through the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education for The Challenge, an initiative of *The Australian Newspaper* in association with Shell Australia.

"We know that innovation is vitally important to Australia's future. Businesses that innovate are twice as likely to boost their productivity and also more likely to create jobs," Mr Combet said.

"That is why the Government has generous programs available to help innovative businesses like the R&D Tax Incentive, Enterprise Connect, Commercialisation Australia, and the Clean Technology Innovation Program.

"The technology created by the winner of last year's challenge, Professor Mark Kendall, is being commercialised by Vaxxas Pty Ltd, a company established with funding from the Government's Innovation Investment Fund.

"The Challenge showcases the kind of new ideas and products that will lead the world into the future."

The Australian Innovation Challenge has seven categories: Environment & Agriculture/Food, Health, Community Services, Minerals and Energy, Manufacturing and Hi-tech Design, ICT, and Education. The winner of each category will receive \$5,000 and the overall winner will receive \$25,000.

In addition, there is a Backyard Innovation category (prize money of \$10,000), which covers inventions by the general public that are at an advanced stage.

"The recognition and chance for national exposure for good ideas and products is just as important as the cash prizes offered in the Challenge," Mr Combet said.

Details are available at www.theaustralian.com.au/innovationchallenge and www.ausindustry.gov.au.

Media Contact: Minister Combet's office, 02 6277 7920

The Homeless Short Film Competition 2012 is now open!

The Homeless Short Film Competition focuses on Youth Homeless.

You can make a film about any aspect of Youth Homelessness but your film must not be any longer than three minutes including all credits.

You can win a share in \$25,000 for your school as well as student prizes.

Entry is Free.

To enter you must fill in the entry form ([download here](#)) and sign the Terms and Conditions ([download here](#)).

Send both forms to us then, [upload your film](#).

The email address for all competition correspondence is: online@sharkisland.com.au

1. We suggest you [watch THE OASIS DOCUMENTARY](#)
2. We suggest that you [read the curriculum resource](#) which will help facilitate your learning around your film

You can watch the 2011 finalists [here](#) on the Shark Island You Tube channel.

The Competition closes at 5pm AEST on Friday 14 September 2012.

[For more information visit the Oasis website here](#)

Entries now open for 25th Australian Human Rights Awards

The Australian Human Rights Commission has announced the opening of nominations for Australia's National Human Rights Awards. Commission President Catherine Branson QC said this year's awards are a watershed event celebrating 25 years of honouring those who protect human rights for all Australians.

"For 25 years the Australian Human Rights Commission has recognised the efforts of Australia's finest who have achieved amazing things in making Australia a fairer and more equitable nation for us all," Ms Branson said. Ms Branson said the Commission had continued to evolve the Human Rights Awards which are held each year to mark Human Rights Day.

Nominations are being called for each of the 10 categories including the Human Rights Medal, the Young People's Human Rights Medal and specific categories such as the Business Award, Community Organisation Award and the Law Award, among others.

Nomination forms and details of each Award category are now live at www.humanrights.gov.au/hrawards/index.html

Nominations close 5 September 2012

Nominations open for Positive Image Award

Teachers, student councils and individual secondary students are urged to nominate an outstanding secondary student for this year's Positive Image Awards.

Opening the nominations, Youth Minister Robyn McSweeney said the awards, first introduced in 1998, recognised the contributions made by secondary students throughout the State.

"There are many Western Australian students who set positive examples and are exemplary role models to their peers. It is vital these students are acknowledged," Mrs McSweeney said.

"For more than a decade these awards have worked to enhance the community's perception of our young people, and I expect the 2012 nominees and winners to do the same."

Secondary schools are encouraged to nominate a school ambassador, who will then be entered into the Positive Image Award and be in the running to become the region ambassador for their education region.

The Minister said she was looking for students who were involved in youth projects and activities, and for those who inspired other students through their work.

Applications close 5pm on Friday 28 September.

Application kits are available from <http://www.communities.wa.gov.au> or phone 6551 8700

Minister's office - 6552 6500 [Click here for link to full media statement](#)

Count Me In Awards: time to nominate

Two new categories have been added to the Disability Services Commission's annual Count Me In Awards, recognising governance and leadership and innovation and excellence within disability sector organisations.

Disability Services Minister Helen Morton said with nominations open for this year's awards, it created an opportunity to honour individuals and organisations committed to access and inclusion for people with disability.

Other categories include the Count Me In Award for an Individual; Barry MacKinnon Award for Employment; Count Me In Award for Local Government; Count Me In Award for State Government; Count Me In Award for Education and Training; Count Me In Award for Customer Service and Disability Future Directions Award: Liveable Homes.

All category winners are eligible for the overall Dr Louisa Alessandri Award for Excellence.

Mrs Morton said the awards provided a tangible expression of the State's Count Me In vision; that all people live in welcoming communities that facilitate citizenship, friendship, mutual support and a fair go for all.

"The awards tie in with that vision by highlighting the importance of providing opportunities for people with disability across community life," the Minister said.

"They recognise the efforts of those working towards a more inclusive society for Western Australia."

Nominations close 5pm Friday 28 September.

Winners announced December 5, during Disability Awareness Week 2012

Disability Awareness Week (December 2-8) being held for the third time in 2012

Ties in with International Day of People with Disability on December 3

For more information, visit <http://www.count-me-in.com.au>, email cmiawards@dsc.wa.gov.au or call 9426 9264

Minister's office - 6552 6900 [Click here for the link to the full media statement](#)

Booklet: Domestic violence and renting

This booklet outlines options for people living in a rental property who are experiencing domestic violence. It explains the types of tenancies, what an apprehended violence order is and what to do to leave a property. It also provides contact details of service providers that can offer further advice and assistance about tenancy, housing and domestic violence.

Download the booklet: [Domestic violence and renting \(PDF 5.9MB\)](#) or from [here](#)

AIHW Specialist Homelessness Services Collection December 2011

This report presents results of the Specialist Homelessness Services Collection for the December quarter 2011.

Homelessness (and the risk of homelessness) affects a large number of Australians each year. Nationally, it is estimated that 44 people per 10,000 accessed specialist homelessness services in this quarter and, on average, over 18,500 clients were accommodated by these service on any given night in the quarter.

[AIHW Specialist Homelessness Services Collection December 2011](#)

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)

www.abs.gov.au

ABS 2011 Census Data and Shelter WA Publications

The ABS 2011 Census data has arrived. Shelter WA is currently in the process of updating its publications (fact sheets, reports). We will also be producing several reports outlining the new data. Links to some of the latest data released is following. The new look Census website is [available here](#)

[Census of Population and Housing: Basic Community Profile DataPack, 2011 First Release](#)

[Census of Population and Housing: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Profile DataPack, 2011 First Release](#)

[Census of Population and Housing: Time Series Profile Datapack, 2011 First Release](#)

[Dwelling approvals rise in May \(Media Release\), May 2012](#)

[Engineering Construction Activity, Australia, Mar 2012](#)

[Australian Statistical Geography Standard \(ASGS\): Volume 3 - Non ABS Structures, July, 2012](#)

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

[Tourist Accommodation, Small Area Data, Western Australia, Mar 2012 \(Additional Information\)](#)

[Building Approvals, Australia, June 2012](#)

[Australian Social Trends, Jun 2012](#)

[QuickStats, 2011 First Release](#)

[Reflecting a Nation: Stories from the 2011 Census, 2012-2013](#)

[What's New in Regional Statistics, 2012](#)

[Private sector house approvals fall in June \(Media Release\), June 2012](#)

[Lending Finance, Australia, May 2012](#)

[Housing Finance, Australia, May 2012](#)

[ABS Corporate Plan, Jul 2012](#)

[Forward Work Program, 2012-13 to 2015-16](#)

[Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2011](#)

[Functional Classification of Buildings, 1999 \(Revision 2011\) \(First Issue\)](#)

[Building Activity, Australia, Mar 2012](#)

Australian Homelessness Clearinghouse

[People in Improvised Dwellings, Tents and Sleepers Out](#)

[Keeping Off the streets: Effective Models of Intervention with People who are Sleeping Rough](#)

[Reconnect evaluation report and literature review](#)

[Click here for the latest from Australian Homelessness Clearinghouse](#)

A partnership of the [Australian National Institute for Public Policy](#) and the [Swinburne Institute for Social Research](#)

[Is social mixing of tenures a solution for public housing estates?](#) Roger Patulny, Michelle Jamieson, Alan Morris | Evidence Base, Vol. 1, 2012. | In order to address problems often associated with disadvantaged public housing estates, this article reviews eleven primary studies that examine the impact of social mix on public housing estates.

[Making the numbers stack up a study into major residential urban renewal in Melbourne](#) Property Council of Australia | This Property Council study aims to demonstrate the significance of the residential element of urban renewal and argues that policy must be better informed than it currently is, by the realities of the market drivers of urban renewal.

[Evaluation of quality of life outcomes of the Younger People in Residential Aged Care Initiative in Victoria](#) Dianne Winkler | Summer Foundation | Young people should not be forced to live in nursing homes because there is nowhere else for them.

Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI)

www.ahuri.edu.au

[Final Report: No. 191: Quantifying planning system performance and Australia's housing reform agenda: an Investigative Panel](#)

[Final Report: No. 190: Addressing concentrations of disadvantage: policy, practice and literature review](#)

[Final Report: No. 189: Moving home: conceptual and policy implications of the housing-mobility nexus](#)

[Final Report: No. 188 Housing Supply Bonds—a suitable instrument to channel investment towards affordable housing in Australia?](#)

[Positioning Paper: No. 148: Marginal rental housing and marginal renters: a typology for policy](#)

[Positioning Paper: No. 147: The role of community housing organisations in meeting the housing and support needs of people who are homeless](#)

[Positioning Paper No. 146: Social inclusion and housing: towards a household and local area analysis](#)

[Research and Policy Bulletin: Issue 155 How can secure occupancy in rental housing be improved in Australia?](#)

[Research and Policy Bulletin: Issue 154 How should government respond to affordability problems in regional and rural housing markets?](#)

[Research and Policy Bulletin: Issue 153: What does the residual income method tell us about housing affordability in Australia?](#)

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

The influence of unstable housing on children's wellbeing and development

M Taylor and B Edwards, *Australian Institute of Family Studies*, July 2012

This research project was funded by the Australian Government under the 2009-13 [National Homelessness Research Agenda](#).

Little evidence has been produced on the influence of housing on children's development in Australia. This study, relying on LSAC 2004 and 2008 data, begins to fill this gap by examining the association between residential mobility, unstable housing tenure and housing stress on children's cognitive development and social-emotional functioning.

Previous research indicates that parental relationship breakdown often leads to unstable housing; therefore, this study has a separate focus on the experiences of children living in separated or coupled families.

Section 2 of the report presents a review of the Australian and international literature on the association between residential mobility, housing stress and housing tenure on child outcomes. Section 3 provides an overview of some definitions relevant to housing and homelessness in Australia and the data used in this report. Section 4 provides a description of these aspects of the housing circumstances of Australian children. Section 5 focuses on the housing circumstances of children living in families where their parents have separated and where their parents are still coupled. Section 6 examines the relationships between child outcomes and housing characteristics for 4–5 and 8–9 year old children in separated and couple families, while controlling for other socio-economic characteristics of children's families. The final section discusses these findings and their implications.

Below are links to the Full Report and an Evidence Note that provides a summary of the report findings.

Final Report [[PDF](#) - 1050 KB] [[DOCX](#) – 1052 KB] Evidence Note [[PDF](#) - 54 KB] [[DOCX](#) - 141 KB]

[Link to full report on Australian Homelessness Clearing House](#)

Council to Homeless Persons (CHP) Update: ABS Review of Counting the Homeless

After several months of considered work with the Homelessness Statistics Reference Group (HSRG), the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is preparing to release the outcomes from the review of *Counting the Homeless, 2006* (CTH). Drawing on the learnings from Australia's leading homelessness academics Professors Chris Chamberlain and David MacKenzie, advice from the HSRG, international research and local evidence, the ABS will launch a paper on 11 September that:

- outlines the ABS statistical definition of homelessness
- reports on its new methodology for estimating homelessness with the 2011 Census data
- releases estimates from the 2001 and 2006 Censuses based on the new methodology
- summarises key findings from the CTH review

This sector briefing provides more detail on each of these issues. Please contact Sarah Kahn (sarah@chp.org.au or 8415 6203) CHP's Manager of Policy and Communications with questions or for additional information.

Background

Professors Chamberlain and MacKenzie continue to contribute significantly to homelessness research and estimation in Australia. Their pioneering work led to the cultural definition of homelessness and the use of Census data to produce estimates of homelessness. This work addressed a key gap in Australian statistics.

In 2008, following widespread discussion in Australia about the meaning and measurement of social inclusion and exclusion, the ABS recognised the need for more comprehensive homelessness data. ABS recognition of homelessness as a key social issue also coincided with the release of the Federal Government White Paper on Homelessness, *The Road Home*, where the need to prevent and end homelessness was identified.

Building on the strength of these efforts, the ABS, for the first time, committed to produce official estimates of homelessness from the Census (beginning in 2012) and to improve homelessness measurement across a range of other data sources. The ABS began this work by looking at the way in which estimates have most recently been derived from the Census data. They launched a [review of the methodology](#) used for the *Counting the Homeless 2006* report (the Review).

Throughout the Review process, CHP and the ABS sought feedback from leading experts and key stakeholders. Several consultation forums highlighted the many challenges associated with measuring homelessness in the Census, many of which were highlighted in [CHP's submission to the Review](#). With any approach, some people who are homeless will inherently be left out of estimates—like young people couch surfing or people fleeing violence—and some people who might not be homeless, will be included.

Improving homelessness statistics: progress update

Considering the challenges with homelessness measurement, as well as the consistent recommendations made from several key stakeholders, the ABS determined it needed to:

1. **Be guided by a Homelessness Statistics Reference Group (HSRG).** The HSRG was developed to provide advice to the ABS as it continues to refine and develop its work program on homelessness. Over the last year, the HSRG—made up of Australia's leading homelessness researchers and academics, service providers, peak organisations and state and federal government agencies—advised the ABS on a number of key projects aimed at improving homelessness measurement and compiling, for the first time, official homelessness statistics in Australia.
2. **Analyse, develop and adopt a statistical definition of homelessness.** For the ABS to fulfil its commitments to homelessness measurement across the ABS data sets, it needed first to have a consistent definition of homelessness—one that is measurable and can identify gaps in data. To inform the development of a statistical definition, the ABS has drawn on advice from the HSRG Definition Sub -group, local and international research on statistical definitions and on the concept of 'home'. See the [attached brief on the development of a statistical definition](#) for more information. With the adoption of a definition, the ABS can measure the scope, scale and dimensions of homelessness through a range of data sources including: the General Social Survey; Personal Safety Survey; Disability, Ageing and Carers Survey, among others. For the first time researchers, governments and the sector will have the opportunity to pull together a fuller picture of homelessness in Australia that can inform policy and service delivery.
3. **Further review methods for more accurately using Census data.** HSRG was also asked to provide advice on estimation methods. Given the challenges in using the Census data for accurate measurement, the ABS will continue to look for other data sources that can be used in conjunction with the Census findings. The group provided feedback on the methodologies proposed by the ABS and insight into other sources of data that might be used to supplement the Census information. Look out for the ABS 'guide to homelessness statistics' in November.
4. **Improve estimation of youth homelessness.** Currently the only tool available to the ABS for producing youth homelessness estimates is the Census survey. There is consensus that just using Census data will lead to an underestimation. Thus the ABS is actively working with expert stakeholders on developing and identifying new methods and data to more accurately measure youth homelessness. In previous years, Professors Chamberlain and MacKenzie undertook a National Census for Homeless School Students (NHSS) to develop youth estimates.

The ABS has indicated that aspects of the methodology prohibit them from using the same tool in 2012. The ABS is working to develop a method that will accurately measure changes in the population over time. In addition the tool must produce data that can be used in conjunction with Census data to produce official estimates. Due to past work in this area, the ABS is considering how best to target schools. The ABS will continue work with HSRG to develop a national school survey, which they hope can be implemented later in 2012. They also note the need for additional data to develop a more accurate picture of the scale and scope of youth homelessness in Australia. Please look out for additional information from CHP and the ABS with regard to youth estimates.

What next?

CHP will continue to update you as new information about the CTH review and homelessness estimates are made available. Below is a timeline of events:

| | |
|----------------|---|
| SEPTEMBER 4 | ABS scheduled to publish, on their website, the final statistical definition of homelessness and estimation mythology |
| SEPTEMBER 11 | ABS release of paper with: findings of CTH review, final statistical definition, revised methodology and revised 2001 and 2006 estimate of homelessness |
| NOVEMBER (TBD) | ABS release of a guide to homelessness statistics; ABS release of paper with 2011 homelessness estimates |

Source: CHP Sector Bulletin - Monday 30 July 2012 <http://www.chp.org.au/index.shtml>

Conferences, Events and Workshops 2012

Homeless Persons Week (HPW) 2012: Monday 6 August to Sunday 12 August



2012 theme of Homelessness Australia's campaign and HPW: HOMING IN on the *real* issues of homelessness

For more information, resource kits and event links [click here](#)

HAND IT ON and help build CafeSmart 2012!

CafeSmart is a day of action to UNITE coffee makers and coffee drinkers to assist people who are homeless. Last year 175 cafes were involved around Australia, this year organisers are hoping to make it bigger and better and **they need your help to make it happen!**

On 10 August *Hand It On* are teaming up with a generous bunch of cafes and coffee roasters to bring you CafeSmart 2012. Cafes around Australia will be firing up their coffee machines to help fund grassroots homeless projects in their suburb or region.

For one day cafes will donate \$1 per coffee sold to StreetSmart. The 10 August falls in Homeless Person's Week and shows how small businesses and every coffee lover can really make a positive contribution to helping people who are homeless at a local level.



Hand It On want as many cafes involved as possible across Australia – **this is where *Hand It On* need your help.**

STEP 1- Check to see which local cafes have already signed up for CafeSmart 2012 on this [google map](#),

STEP 2- if your favourite cafes are not involved download *Hand It On's* [info flyer](#) and hand it on to encourage their involvement. **It's a simple action that could really change someone's life.**

STEP 3 - Share on *Hand It On's* [Facebook Page](#) what you are doing and encourage others to get involved.

STEP 4 - on 10 August arrange to drink a few coffees with friends at participating cafes and make sure as many people know about it as possible

Download a flyer to hand on [here](#) – thanks for helping out!



PERTH REGISTRY WEEK 2012

LESS HOMELESS.

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION - 13th to 17th August 2012

The Perth Registry Week 2012 committee is seeking 60 volunteers who already work within the homelessness sector, to participate in the first Perth Registry Week.

It will involve outreach workers and agency staff, as well as service sector volunteers to complete a Vulnerability Index questionnaire with people who are rough sleeping in the inner city Perth area. The information collected will be used to directly assist individuals; as well as to better understand service, health and housing needs.

The methodology for undertaking 'Registry Week' has already been used in a number of cities overseas, as well as in Australia and has proved to be a successful model.

The people we meet on the streets and ask to complete the survey will be treated with the utmost dignity and respect at all times. The survey is completely voluntary and anyone who agrees to participate will need to give consent for the use of the information they provide. Everyone who completes a survey will be given a small cash token of appreciation for their time.

Perth Registry Week is being coordinated by Ruah Community Services and its partner organisations: City of Perth, City of Vincent, Department for Child Protection and Department of Housing. We are most grateful for the support of other key organisations including WA Police, Nyoongar Patrol, Department of Health, Mobile GP, The Salvation Army, Hills Community Support Group and St Bartholomew's; among others.

Anyone interested in volunteering can express their interest through our online volunteer booking link:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PerthRegistryWeek2012>

If you need any further information on volunteering, please contact Leah Curo by email leahcuro@ruah.com.au or phone 0412 066 998.

Like us on facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/PerthRegistryWeek> and follow us on twitter @perthregistrywk or <https://twitter.com/perthregistrywk>

Important Training and Survey Session dates and times are:

| Date | Time | Session | Venue |
|--|----------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Sunday 12 th August | 3pm to 6pm | Team Leaders Training | Ruah Community Services 67/102 Railway Pde West Perth |
| Monday 13 th August ***All volunteers are required to attend this session*** | 4pm to 7pm | Volunteer Training Session | Ruah Centre 33 Shenton Street Northbridge |
| Tuesday 14 th August | 3.30am to 7am | Survey Rough Sleepers | Ruah Centre 33 Shenton Street Northbridge |
| Wednesday 15 th August | 3.30am to 7am | Survey Rough Sleepers | Ruah Centre 33 Shenton Street Northbridge |
| Thursday 16 th August | 3.30am to 7am | Survey Rough Sleepers | Ruah Centre 33 Shenton Street Northbridge |
| Friday 17 th August | 8.30am to 10am | Community Briefing – by Invitation | City West Venue Centre – The Cambridge Room 45/102 Railway Pde West Perth |

Insurance: All Perth Registry Week volunteers will be required to complete a Ruah Volunteer Form. This will ensure you are covered by Ruah Community Services volunteer insurance. If you have any concerns regarding insurance cover, given the nature of volunteer duties for the Perth Registry Week, we recommend you discuss this with your employer to clarify whether their insurance policy also covers your volunteer involvement in the Perth Registry Week, and/or seek professional advice.



Government of Western Australia
Department of Housing



CITY OF PERTH



Ruah Community Services



CITY OF VINCENT



Government of Western Australia
Department for Child Protection

Renters Rights Rally WA, August 15

National Day of Renters Rights Rallies, October 16

By Gerry Georgatos, Independent Media Centre Australia

The Renters Alliance (RA) started only several months ago in Western Australia with a number of its original members from Bridgetown and the Blackwood region. The RA spokesperson Lea Keenan said the renters rights movement has spread Australia-wide after the RA was swamped with emails and calls from distressed renters.

To get involved write to rentersalliance@humanrightsalliance.org or phone 0430 657 309 or 0412 833 733

<http://www.4zzzfm.org.au/news/audio/2012/may/22/national-renters-allianc...>

"Crushing rental prices are forcing people from the most disadvantaged backgrounds into poverty and, in extreme cases, homelessness according to a newly-formed national renter's advocacy group. The National Renter's Alliance says people living in rental accommodation should have the right to have their dwelling considered as their home and should be afforded protections by the federal government to stay there. The Alliance wants rental prices to be regulated to make them more affordable and reduce the risk of people who can't afford to pay their rent being forced onto the street. 4ZZZ Brisbane Line reporter Lauren Gallagher spoke with Gerry Georgatos and Lea Keenan about the issue."

Ms Keenan said that the RA will convene a rally for renters rights at the Western Australian Parliament on Wednesday August 15 commencing at midday. She said thousands of renters and supporters are expected "if the emails and calls are any indication."

Two Bridgetown renters will be among the speakers at the rally - Louise O'Shea and Jenny Kaeshagen.

"Rights for renters just don't exist. What's out there in terms of our rights is just a mirage - if we don't pay the rent in any one week, we can well and truly be out on the street," said Ms O'Shea.

"Times are getting tougher and when families can't afford to pay for a trailer load of firewood for the cold winter ahead well then I think it's time we start to rethink our moral compass." The Donnybrook-Bridgetown Mail recently wrote about two Bridgetown families who couldn't afford firewood, and for whom just about all of their income went on rent and food. The Human Rights Alliance recently paid for their firewood.

Ms Kaeshagen, also a spokesperson of the Renters Alliance, said that it was "high time" the "conversation about renters' rights" began in earnest and that the conversation needs to involve realtors, investors and renters.

Ms Keenan said that "enough is enough with renters stress and families made vulnerable to the one-sided demands of owners and investors."

"It is now the case that 70% of Australians live in rent whereas in 1975 the reverse applied with 70% of Australians in some form of home ownership. People could also pay off their homes in less than ten years whereas now with an even heavier slice of the weekly income it takes forty years," she said.

Ms Keenan said cost of living pressures in the South West were increasing, including food, fuel and utility costs, while wages were lower in the South West than in Perth and full time jobs harder to come by and it made no sense that South West rents were increasing while property prices declined.

South West Blackwood-Stirling MLA Terry Redman said he readily acknowledged housing affordability, whether for renters or buyers, was the biggest living issue for most Australians.

"Pressure on the Perth rental market is clearly having a flow-on effect in country areas including the Warren Blackwood region," he said.

"This is why a major focus of the Royalties for Regions program is on stimulating regional economies to create more opportunities for both full and part-time employment."

Greens MLA Giz Watson, who will challenge for a seat in the South West at the next election said, "One of the reasons for rents rising is the lack of diversity of housing, forcing all types of household to compete for the same houses."

Collie MLA Mick Murray said housing needs were the main concern of his constituents.

"Renters stress is worse than mortgage stress, and the development and legislation of renters rights and which must include protections such as regulated rents, and that it will be unlawful to raise rents outside a schedule and outside people's means, where the location and size of a home is linked to the amount of rent and an affordability regime for everyone must be the rule, and where inspections are done away with - all this must happen so people can live with dignity," said Ms Keenan.

"Renters rights, affecting the majority of residents in the South West, the majority of Western Australians, the majority of Australians will be the hot topic of all coming elections, state and federal. We only needed the Renters Alliance, Shelters for the Needy, and Australians for Affordable Housing to give us the voice and raise the stakes," said Ms Keenan.

"An investor should not make their real estate purchase contingent on the weekly rent by some poor sod," she said.

The August 15 rally will be followed by a National Day of Rallies - every capital city and in many towns - on Tuesday October 16.

Ms Keenan said anyone who would like to contact or join the Renters Alliance should email rentersalliance@humanrightsalliance.org.

Community Legal Centres Association of WA, biennial State Conference 24-25 October 2012

The Community Legal Centres Association of WA is holding its biennial State Conference on 24 and 25 October. This year's theme is "Creating a Just Future". The first day of the Conference is intended for community legal centre staff and the second day is open to all.

Information about fees, registration and speakers is still being finalised. If you are interested in learning more, please see the link following: <http://www.facebook.com/?sk=welcome#!/pages/CLC-State-Conference-2012/454885457869443>

Conferences, Events and Workshops 2012

continued

Western Australian Drug and Alcohol [Conference](#) (Perth) 6-8 August

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

Association of Children's Welfare Agencies [Conference](#) 2012 (Sydney) 20-22 August

WA Carers [Conference](#) (Perth) 23-24 August

Australasian Institute of Judicial Administration (AIJA) [Conference](#) (Brisbane) 23-25 August

National Employment Services Association (NESA) [Conference](#) (Sydney) 29th - 31st August

Self Help & Support Groups National Awareness [Day](#) *United Voice of Compassion* (National) 5 September

7th National Homelessness [Conference](#) (Melbourne) 5-7 September

ASTSS 17th Australasian [Conference](#) on Traumatic Stress (Perth) 6-8 September

Annual National Suicide Prevention [Conference](#) (Sydney) 11-12 October

Australasian Housing Institute (AHI) People and Places: A [Master Class Series](#) for housing professionals involved in place making, community renewal and urban regeneration (Adelaide) 11-12 October

Anti-Poverty [Week](#) (National) 16-22 October

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

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

The First International Law Enforcement and Public Health [Conference](#) (Melbourne) 11-14 November

Youth Mentoring Network [Conference](#) (Gold Coast, QLD) 14-15 November

2013

AHURI National Urban Policy [Conference](#) (Sydney) 16-17 May 2013

12th National Rural Health [Conference](#) (Adelaide) 7-10 April 2013. [Call for Abstracts](#)

Media Releases

WA Government Media Releases

[Foodbank WA receives \\$3m for new premises](#)

[Locations announced for Disability Justice Centres](#)

[City of Cockburn rated most sustainable city](#)

[Waterfront project to reshape Port Hedland foreshore](#)

[Aboriginal estates discrimination repealed](#)

[Government launches more land development projects](#)

[WA seniors urged to cash-in on Govt benefits](#)

[WA forges ahead with NDIS type scheme](#)

[Aboriginal cadetships in child protection work](#)

[Health governing councils launched](#)

[Framework to guide Gascoyne's future released](#)

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

Liberals push to abolish public housing wait list

Source: [ABC News, Monday, 30 July, 2012](#)

There is a push within the WA Liberal Party for the State Government to abolish the public housing waiting list, which is at a record high.

The Liberal Party's policy committee wants the Homeswest wait list to be abolished, and for housing to be made available only to those who satisfy the priority housing criteria who are in urgent need of accommodation.

Such a move would see the list drop from almost 23,000 to just over 3,000 applicants.

Labor MP Ben Wyatt says the Liberal Party wants to pretend the problem does not exist.

"It's incredibly heartless for the Barnett Government to assume that they can solve the incredible housing crisis in Western Australia by simply abolishing the waiting list," he said.

"What that does is incredibly disrespectful to those families who are waiting for public housing and shows, I think, a lack of foresight and rigour about solving the housing problem."

Mr Wyatt says abolishing the list will not solve the crisis.

"It's another example of a Liberal Party that is lurching further and further to the right, who now seems to think that you solve the housing crisis in Western Australia by abolishing the waiting list," he said.

"It's not a way to go about implementing public policy." The proposal will be debated at the Liberal Party's annual conference next month.

Australian Federal Government Media Releases

[New measures to tackle Centrelink waiting times](#)

[\\$3 billion for Social and Community Sector Workers](#)

[Equality for LGBTI Australians in Aged Care](#)

[Australian Government Monthly Financial Statements](#)

[Supporting Indigenous families and women in the East Kimberley](#)

[Home Care Reforms to Benefit More Than 500,000 Seniors](#)

[Youth Connections helping young Australians: report](#)

[1 in 3 prisoners have a history of mental health problems \(AIHW\)](#)

[Fair Work Building and Construction - Advisory Board appointments](#)

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

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

National Party WA: <http://www.nationalswa.com/>

Liberal Party Australia: <http://www.liberal.org.au/Latest-News.aspx>

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

Useful links

[National Shelter](#)

[Homelessness Australia Newsletter](#)

[Community Housing Federation Australia](#)

[Tenants Advice Service WA](#)

[Housing Industry Association Ltd](#)

[Real Estate Institute of Australia \(REIA\)](#)

[Communities and Families Clearing House](#)

[Pro Bono Australia](#)

[Australians for Affordable Housing](#)

[Homelessness Clearing House](#)

[Community Housing Coalition WA \(CHCWA\)](#)

[WACOSS](#)

[Australasian Housing Institute](#)

[Real Estate Institute of WA \(REIWA\)](#)

[Council to Homeless Persons](#)

[Property Council of Australia](#)

Shelter WA 2012 Newsletters Publications

Shelter WA publishes a monthly newsletter and welcomes your input.

We accept articles, reports, new housing related and support services, and are happy to promote events, training etc.

If you have any questions or require further information contact Stephanie on 9325 6660 or email cdpo@shelterwa.org.au

For copies of Shelter WA's previous publications click on the following links to access previous [Newsletters](#)

About Shelter WA

Shelter WA is an independent community based peak body committed to accessible, affordable, appropriate and secure housing in Western Australia. Shelter WA focuses on supporting positive housing outcomes for people on low incomes or for those who are otherwise disadvantaged in the housing market. This includes people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Shelter WA promotes and advocates housing options along the whole housing continuum, including social housing (public and community housing), affordable housing provided through the private sector, and affordable home ownership. The work of Shelter WA is directed towards influencing government and community policy leading to the elimination of homelessness and housing related poverty. Shelter WA believes housing is a human right, and every person should have appropriate and affordable housing, and security of tenure.

Shelter WA provides an informed voice on housing policy and issues based on sound research and analysis, strong collaboration with the housing sector and wide consultation with the community. Through our research and consultation, we identify housing needs and gaps, from which we develop and promote effective housing policy.

We do this by: holding regular forums and consultations, conducting questionnaires and surveys in response to housing policy and practice issues; actively participating in government and community sector committees; by responding to queries and requests from the public; and by informing and educating through the electronic circulation of regular newsletters, reports and fact sheets which are also available on our website.

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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