

Shelter WA welcomes new Housing Minister, Hon. Terry Redman

Today Premier Colin Barnett announced his new-look cabinet which includes three new ministers. One of the major changes is the movement of Troy Buswell from Housing to the role of Treasurer. Shelter WA would like to acknowledge the contribution of former Housing Minister, Hon Troy Buswell and look forward to his continued support in his new role as Treasurer.

The Shelter WA Board and Staff welcome the new Housing Minister, Hon Terry Redman and look forward to some positive outcomes in this portfolio, and working closely with Mr Redman in the future.

[Click here for Premier's full media statement](#)

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, Dr 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 Shelter WA 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.

St Vinnie's CEO Sleepout 2012

The Vinnie's CEO Sleepout 2012 took place on 21 June, which happened to be the coldest night so far this winter, at 1.8 degrees. 108 CEOs took part in this year's CEO Sleepout in Perth – a great turnout for Vinnies and a demonstration of private and community sector growing awareness of the issue of homelessness in Perth. The total donations raised attests to that! I took part in the Sleepout and was pleased to see such large representation from big business and the resource industry. This type of event is quite a leveller – it was pleasing to see people in track suit pants and ugg boots, rubbing shoulders with young people who had experienced homelessness and gave poignant presentations. On behalf of Shelter WA, I commend St Vincent de Paul Society, and especially all the tireless volunteers who made it possible for this worthwhile event to come together smoothly and for articulating the issue of homelessness with great compassion. The presentations were moving and at times heart-rending. The whole event gave me a very small taste of what it might be like to sleep on the street. Of course, most people who have to sleep rough don't usually have a warm sleeping bag, or even two bits of cardboard to sleep on, or a scarf and beanie! Well done, Vinnies and thank you, I will be there again next year.

[Photo of Chantal in Perth Now](#)

Shelter WA Article in Parity

Shelter WA's Research Officer, Dr Shae Garwood recently had an article *Philanthropy and Private Sector Involvement in Responding to Homelessness in Ann Arbor, Michigan* published in *Parity* Vol.25, April 2012. A copy is available [here](#)

Recent Shelter WA Submissions

Shelter WA recently completed several submissions. Copies are available by clicking on the links below or visiting the Shelter WA website www.shelterwa.org.au.

[Shelter WA Submission to the Metropolitan Local Government Review Draft Findings May 2012](#)

[SHELTER WA Submission to the Department of Commerce Proposed Amendments to the Residential Tenancies Regulations 1989](#)

[Shelter WA Submission to the WA Labor Party Discussion Paper May 2012](#)

Shelter WA

Affordable Housing Network Meeting

Thursday, 26 July 2012, 9:30am – 12:30pm

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

Guest Speaker

Jacqui Herring

Manager Housing Policy

Market Innovation and Partnership | Strategy and Policy Division

Department of Housing

Please RSVP for catering purposes and as places are limited.

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

Next Shelter WA Affordable Housing Network meeting – Thursday, 18 October 2012

Update - Shelter WA Workshop *Young People, Housing and Homelessness*

On the 14 June 2012, Shelter WA ran a workshop *Young People, Housing and Homelessness*. The workshop was fully booked and 50 people attended. Many had to be turned away, which indicates the extent of the issue.

Shelter WA would like to thank all participants and speakers who attended. We are currently compiling a report from the workshop, a draft of which will be circulated to attendees for feedback/input before we present it to various government agencies.

Following is the Hon Lynn MacLaren's Parliamentary Question of 20 June regarding Youth Homelessness to Hon Robyn McSweeney and the State Government's response.

[COUNCIL — Wednesday, 20 June 2012] p4016b-4017a

408. Hon LYNN MacLAREN to the Minister for Child Protection:

- (1) Can the minister confirm the statistic revealed at a recent forum hosted by Shelter WA that 50 per cent of homeless people are young people?
- (2) Is the minister aware that if a person is homeless before the age of 25, that person is likely to struggle in and out of homelessness throughout their life?
- (3) Is the minister aware that Western Australia was the only Australian state to see an increase in the number of homeless people, with the number rising from 18 per 1 000 people in 2001 to 21 per 1 000 people in 2006?
- (4) Will the minister detail the steps being taken to —?
 - (a) prevent youth homelessness; and
 - (b) intervene to address the cycle of economic disadvantage and inexperience, along with stigma and discrimination, that are behind WA's youth homelessness figures?

Hon ROBYN McSWEENEY replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) The latest available data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics —Counting the Homeless 2006|| census data indicated that across Western Australia 13 391 people were homeless. This includes 2 392 people sleeping rough. Of the 13 391 homeless people, 6 558, or 49 per cent, were under the age of 25 years; 4 280 were aged 12 to 18 years; and 1 062 were aged 19 to 24 years.
- (2) I am advised that about 40 per cent of people who are homeless as adults were first homeless as young people.
- (3) Yes. The increase in Western Australia was highlighted in the report —Youth Homelessness in Australia 2006|| produced by David MacKenzie and Chris Chamberlain in 2008.
- (4) (a) In 2011–12, the Department for Child Protection has provided funding of \$12.6 million per annum for 29 services for homeless young people in Western Australia, including 24 services providing medium and long-term crisis accommodation for young people. The National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness has provided additional funding for innovative programs to address youth homelessness. This includes services that aim to intervene early and the prevention of homelessness with a focus on integration with education, employment and training. The NPAH programs for young people are a supportive housing option for young women leaving child protection service; a foyer development that will provide secure housing and on-site support services for up to 100 young people, including 35 young people who are at risk or are experiencing homelessness, which should be in operation by the end of July; a housing support worker program for young people exiting corrective facilities; housing support worker programs for people, including young people, exiting homelessness crisis accommodation, mental health inpatient units and drug and alcohol treatment.
 - (b) State funding of over \$5.2 million per annum is provided for 55 services for a range of mobile, centre-based and outreach services for young people at risk and leaving care.

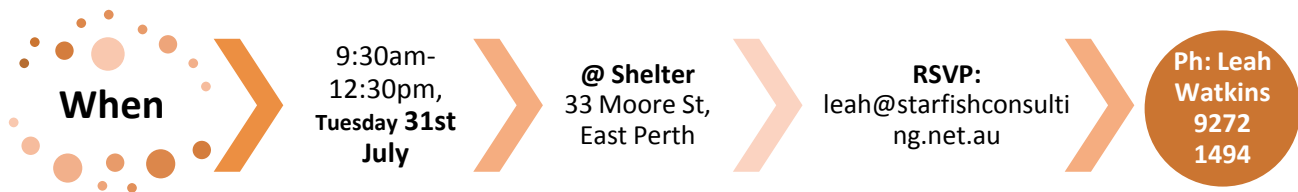
Homelessness is a serious community issue, often caused by complex interrelated personal, social and economic factors. Family and relationship breakdown, mental illness, domestic violence, drug and alcohol misuse, and disability may lead to homelessness. Coupled with a shortage of affordable housing and unemployment, homelessness may become entrenched.

The Western Australian homelessness state plan outlines the key principles for implementing an improved integrated approach to homelessness and aims to bring together the relevant agencies and services to work together to improve circumstances for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness. For the first time in this state \$135 million over four years has been put in that NPA program.

For further information <http://www.lynnmaclaren.org.au>

Perth Inner City Homeless Services Review FOCUS GROUP

The review of inner city homeless services in Perth and Fremantle is funded by DCP and conducted by independent researchers, Starfish Consulting. The review aims to identify factors affecting the inner city homelessness service system, assess current demand for services and make recommendations regarding service mix and to improve integration. The focus group is an opportunity for anyone working in the sector to contribute to this process. A similar focus group will also be held in Fremantle.



Australasian Housing Institute (AHI) A Call for Contributions for the August Edition of HousingWORKS

This is a great opportunity to showcase good practice in the social housing sector. Contributions from tenants, or relating to tenant support activities, will be particularly welcome.

In future, all contributions to Housing Works will be subject to the **Editorial Policy** outlined in the [Contributors Guide](#). In the past there has been no formal policy, and that may have led to situations where our independent voice has been restricted. The AHI Board want to make sure we are protected in the future, and the position is clear to all involved – contributors, staff and sponsors.

Further guidelines for contributors can be found on our website <http://www.housinginstitute.org>. Please remember, you do not need to be a professional writer to publish interesting and valuable work, we can assist you with editing your article for publication; but your ideas and knowledge are uniquely yours.

Please feel free to distribute this call for contributions throughout your networks and to anyone you think might be interested in contributing to the August edition of the premier journal on social housing matters in Australia and New Zealand.

All suggestions, final articles and images can be sent to editor@housinginstitute.org

Discussion Papers, Submissions, Issues Papers and Surveys

Australians for Affordable Housing Photo Petition

It's time to show our leaders just how important housing affordability is. Join our photo petition and share your story by completing the 5 easy steps.

We think it's time to really show government we want more affordable housing.

That's why we're launching a [photo petition](#) so you can put your face to the campaign, and show our leaders that we need immediate action on housing affordability.

The [photo petition](#) will show decision makers that there are real people behind this campaign, and that we are truly committed to bringing about positive changes to housing policy. You really can be an Australian for Affordable Housing.

Log on to our [petition page](#), tell us why you want more affordable housing in a photo and post it to our website.

We encourage you to be creative! Why not take a photo in front of your house, a local landmark, or even in a neighbourhood you'd love to live in? The images will be posted on our redesigned campaign website.

Check out the new homepage and upload your photo petition [HERE!](#)

Add your picture to the photo petition today by filling in the form below. It will only take a couple of minutes and will help make housing affordability a Government priority in 2012.

Sarah Toohey Campaign Manager, Australians for Affordable Housing www.housingstressed.org.au

PS - Keep [spreading the word](#) and help us reach our target of 5,000 supporters soon!

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. Changes in underlying demand are primarily the outcome of demographic processes, including population growth and changes in age structure, which affect the number and size of households and feed into market demand for housing.

Housing affordability constraints, cyclical economic factors and barriers to additional housing supply may cause underlying and market demand to diverge considerably.

The estimated imbalance between underlying demand and supply in 2010–11 occurred in an environment of moderate interest rates and flat or falling house prices and despite government actions to increase the supply of affordable housing, improve strategic planning, development approval arrangements and infrastructure provision as well as innovation in the residential development and construction industry to produce more affordable housing.

Reasons for the supply imbalance include continuing obstacles to greenfield development and more intensive residential development in existing urban areas, a variety of factors affecting the coordinated provision of urban infrastructure for a growing population, infrastructure financing arrangements that increase the cost of dwellings, and affordability barriers that depress demand among lower income people.

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.

These are among the key findings of the National Housing Supply Council that today 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](#).

Yarn About Youth: National youth survey on reconciliation

The Australian Youth Affairs Council and Reconciliation Australia are looking for young people to participate in their survey 'Yarn about Youth'. They want to find out about the relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous young people in Australia, and to get ideas on how to build a strong and active youth reconciliation network.

[Click here](#) for the online survey. All young people 15-26 years can participate and will go into the draw to win an iPad2.

The survey closes 15 July 2012.

Definition of Homelessness to be Broadened

The Federal Government has released draft legislation to establish a new national definition of homelessness to include caravan parks and boarding house residents with no formal lease. The draft legislation is set to provide greater recognition of the needs of people who are homeless or sleeping rough, one of the recommendations of the White Paper on Homelessness.

Minister for Housing and Homelessness Brendan O'Connor has called for community sector comment on the exposure draft of the Homelessness Bill.

The Bill will replace the old Supported Accommodation Assistance Act 1994, under which the Commonwealth Government provided grants to the States and Territories to fund homelessness services.

The matter of proposed homelessness legislation was referred to a House of Representatives Committee. The Committee made 15 recommendations, nine of which related specifically to the legislation. The Government says it will soon table its response to the report in Parliament. "These recommendations have been incorporated into the draft Bill to the extent possible within the constraints of the Australian Constitution.

The Minister says the draft Bill seeks to:

- establish a clear definition of homelessness
- set out the Government's views on how people who are homeless should be treated and supported
- reaffirm the Government's commitment to work cooperatively with State and Territory governments, the not-for-profit and the for-profit sectors to reduce homelessness
- recognise the importance of strategies to reduce homelessness, including early intervention and prevention, appropriate accommodation options, and ongoing service and support

Submissions are invited until 3 August 2012.

[Click here to view the draft Homelessness Bill and provide comment.](#)

Homelessness Australia welcomes Draft Bill but changes needed – Media Release

Homelessness Australia (HA) welcomes the release of the exposure draft of new national homelessness legislation but has some significant concerns about elements of the exposure draft and is urging the Australian Government to make changes before tabling the bill in Parliament.

“We are pleased that people experiencing homelessness and the services that provide assistance and accommodation have been recognised in the exposure draft of the new national *Homelessness Bill 2012*. Important elements of the previous act, the *Supported Accommodation Assistance Act 1994* (Cth) have been retained including recognition of the structural causes of homelessness and people who are at risk of becoming homeless and their need to access support services. We support efforts to broaden the definition of homelessness and enshrine it in legislation” Chairperson Narelle Clay said.

HA does have concerns, however, that the definition has introduced the concept of whether or not a person is living in a refuge or boarding house *by choice*.

“The inclusion of an element of choice in a homelessness definition is very worrying. There is a stark difference between choice and adaptation. A person who makes a “choice” to flee violence in the family home or leave a situation of sexual abuse is in fact faced with a Hobson’s choice. This element needs to be removed from the bill or the sector will not support it” Policy and Research Officer Travis Gilbert said.

The homelessness sector is also disappointed that the legislation does not seek to progress the realisation of a right to housing.

“We strongly believe that people should have the right to adequate housing in Australia. This exposure draft explicitly states that does not seek to do this or even progress it. This is disappointing as Australia is a signatory to the UN Declaration on Human Rights and international covenants that recognise a right to housing. While we welcome new legislation, this bill needs to be strengthened” Narelle Clay said.

While the homelessness sector welcomes new national homelessness legislation, HA is concerned that the draft falls short.

“We need to see some consultation with the sector and improvements made to the content of the bill. We look forward to working with Government in the coming weeks to ensure this bill makes a positive contribution to our efforts to improve life outcomes for people who will go to sleep tonight without a safe and secure place to call home” Mr Gilbert said.

For more information contact please contact Homelessness Australia www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au

Narelle Clay AM, HA Chairperson 0412 999 960 or Travis Gilbert, Policy and Research Officer, (02) 6247 7744, 0420 699 405

[Click here for link to Homelessness Australia Media Release 5 June 2012](#)

Australian Bureau of Statistic & National Statistical Service *ESA for Australia Initiative* consultation

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is seeking the opinions of users and producers of official statistics across the statistical and wider community to identify the core set of essential statistical assets that are critical for decision-making for the nation.

This paper provides an overview of the *Essential Statistical Assets (ESA) for Australia* initiative and presents a preliminary list as a springboard for discussion and debate. This list will be used as a starting point for a multi-faceted consultation process. The *ESA for Australia* initiative will be used to help governments invest in the information that counts most.

The ABS will be consulting with stakeholders through a combination of approaches including direct contact with stakeholders and via a range of existing discussion forums. In addition, you can participate by letting us know directly what statistics you personally think are essential to inform our country’s social, economic and environmental decision-making through a formal submission. It should be noted that the broader set of official statistics that don’t make up the Essential Statistical Assets (ESA) for Australia list are important, and will continue to be produced, managed and invested in when needed.

How can I participate?

As outlined above, the preliminary list will be used as a starting point for a multi-faceted consultation process which will include direct contact with stakeholders who produce and/or use official statistics, as well as consulting with a range of existing user consultation forums. In addition to the planned consultation approaches, the ABS is keen to provide the opportunity for all stakeholders to provide a submission.

Over the coming months, as feedback on the submission is received, the ABS will identify any common areas of interest that can be publicly noted and responded to via the *ESA for Australia* pages on the NSS website (www.nss.gov.au).

Submissions can focus on one specific policy dimension or pillar, or alternatively across all pillars.

To assist the ABS in collating the submission we recommend you address the following:

- Do you think this is a useful initiative?
- Are the criteria adequate in identifying what is essential?
- Are there any essential statistics you feel we have omitted? If so, why?
- What are your views on the statistics identified in the "possibly in" and "possibly out" categories?
- Are there any statistics you feel we should remove from the list? If so, why?

The *ESA for Australia* homepage on the NSS website (www.nss.gov.au) contains further information that may assist in preparation of submissions.

Please forward your feedback to the Director of the National Statistical Service Leadership Section by:

Email: inquiries@nss.gov.au or **Mail:** Marie Apostolou, Director, National Statistical Services Leadership Section Australian Bureau of Statistics, GPO Box 2796Y Melbourne VIC 3001

The closing date for submissions is **Friday 14 September 2012**.

[ESA for Australia Website](#)

[ESA for Australia Consultation Paper](#)

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](#)

Petition - Save Sisters Inside

The petition: Save Sisters Inside <http://www.communityrun.org/petitions/save-sisters-inside>

Please take a moment to add your name because:

Criminalised women have the highest rate of sexual and physical abuse perpetrated on them in our community. Due to this horrendous abuse women turn to self medicate with illegal drugs and or alcohol.

Nearly 60% of the women have a mental illness.

In Townsville women's prison over 80% of women are Aboriginal and over 90% of the women cannot read and write.

These issues have to be addressed so that women when released into the community can move on with their lives and not go back to their lives of drug and alcohol abuse and then offending to survive the addiction. Housing is also a fundamental part of their success on release.

The support of our services assists women in healing their traumas and practical needs so when released they can reconnect with their children and families and move towards their goals and being a part of their communities.

Sisters Inside's services and counselling reduces recidivism and the cost to tax payers. It costs tax payers \$70,000 per year to keep one woman in prison. If we support women so they do not return to prison we save hundreds of thousands of dollars that could be used in the areas of education, health and housing.

Support and counselling women costs less than the cycle of imprisonment. It also reduces crime in our communities and keeps families together for the long term.

Mary was sexually abused as a 5 year old child and this continued until she was 12 years old. She then ran away from home and took to the streets. She was prostituted and was introduced to drugs. The illegal drugs allowed her to not feel the pain of her childhood abuse. Soon Mary was addicted to heroin. She did not go to school after Grade 7 and she has no prospects of employment. She is homeless and addicted to drugs. She has no way of supporting herself so she turns to petty crime. Soon she is breaking into people's homes to feed herself and stealing their property to sell so she can buy drugs to feed her addiction. She falls pregnant and gives birth to a little boy. The baby is removed by child protection and taken into State care when he is born.

She keeps using heroin and committing crimes She ends up being caught and is given probation. She has no way of getting to the probation office and is focused on getting more drugs because she is hanging out. Probation is breached. She is back in court. This is the merry go round that goes on for Mary. She is eventually imprisoned. Mary goes in and out of prison 5 times due to feeding her addiction and committing offences to do so. She finally requests to see Sisters Inside for counselling during her fifth prison term. The healing process begins. It is difficult for Mary, she is young and doesn't trust anyone. She is fearful of being

let down and hurt again. A relationship is built with Sisters Inside and she starts to look forward to what life can be. To have a home, to see her baby, to not use drugs, to end the cycle of abuse.

Mary is eventually released after 9 months and Sisters Inside has accommodation for Mary to go directly too. Mary's life begins on a positive note. She keeps working with the counsellor and continues to work through her traumas.

Mary has not turned back to drugs, she is now seeing her baby and soon will have him back in her care. She has a safe home and attending education classes.

Life is good.

No more crime

No more prison.

Mother and child are together

<http://www.communityrun.org/petitions/save-sisters-inside>

Real change happens when everyday people like you and I come together and stand up for what we believe in. Together we can reach heaps of people and help create change around this important issue.

For more information visit the website: www.sistersinside.com.au

Awards, Grants, Tenders and Funding Opportunities

Join the National NAIDOC Committee

Suitable applicants are invited to nominate for membership of the National NAIDOC Committee (NNC).

The NNC is an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander committee that sets the policy and the arrangements for the National NAIDOC Awards and NAIDOC Week celebrations. Suitable applicants are invited to nominate for membership of the National NAIDOC Committee (NNC).

The NNC is an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander committee that sets the policy and the arrangements for the National NAIDOC Awards and NAIDOC Week celebrations.

Applicants must be of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent.

Nominations close on Monday 16 July 2012.

Read more about how to [join the National NAIDOC Committee](#) or for more information visit www.naidoc.org.au

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 Good Outcomes Awards

Nominations have opened for the Mental Health Good Outcomes Awards 2012.

Nominations close at 5pm on Friday July 30, 2012

Mental Health Minister Helen Morton said the awards, now in their tenth year, honoured and recognised the exceptional achievements of the State's mental health sector and celebrated inspiring role models whose activities and contributions have a positive impact on their community.

The awards are co-ordinated by the Mental Health Commission and this year there are 12 categories, four more than in the previous year.

The award winners will be announced at the Good Outcomes Awards presentation event, held at The University Club of Western Australia on Tuesday October 9 as part of the WA's National Mental Health Week celebrations.

[Nominations forms are available from the Mental Health Commission's website](#)

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

Volunteer Grants 2012 - Call for applications now open

Applications close 25 July 2012

Volunteer Grants 2012 recognises the valuable work of Australia's volunteers. This initiative forms part of the Australian Government's ongoing commitment to organisations whose volunteers assist disadvantaged communities and encourage inclusion of vulnerable people in community life.

Funding of \$16 million is available to support and encourage volunteering. Eligible not-for-profit community organisations can apply for grants between \$1,000 and \$5,000 to:

- Purchase portable, tangible, small equipment items to help their volunteers
- Contribute to the reimbursement of fuel costs for their volunteers who use their own car to transport others to activities, to deliver food, assist with medical appointments or help people in need
- Contribute to the reimbursement of transport costs incurred by volunteers with disability, who are unable to drive
- Contribute to the costs of training courses and/or undertake background screening checks for their volunteers.

Funding is limited and applications will be assessed and prioritised according to how strongly they meet the selection criteria. The selection criteria, eligibility requirements and other essential information about Volunteer Grants 2012 are provided in the:

- [Volunteer Grants 2012 Application Guidelines](#)
- [Volunteer Grants 2012 Application Form](#)

Phone: Volunteer Grants Hotline 1800 183 374 (Mon – Fri 9am to 5pm AEST)

Email: vg2012@fahcsia.gov.au

Source: <http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/volunteer-grants-2012-call-for-applications-now-open>

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](#)

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>

Research, Resources, Reports and Publications

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.

[Australian Social Trends, Jun 2012](#)

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

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

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

[QuickStats, 2011 First Release](#)

[Basic, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and Time Series Census DVD DataPacks , 2011 First Release](#)

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

[Census of Population and Housing - Counts of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2011 \(First Issue\)](#)

[Census of Population and Housing - Data Quality Statements, Non-Response Rates and Fact Sheets, 2011 \(First Issue\)](#)

[Census of Population and Housing - Details of Undercount, 2011](#)

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

[Dwelling Unit Commencements, Australia, Preliminary, Mar 2012](#)

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

[Building Approvals, Australia, April 2012 \(Additional Information](#)

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

Housing Industry Forecast Group (HIFG) April Update

The group is a joint industry and government body re-established in February 2008 to provide independent commentary on the housing sector in WA. The Department of Planning and the Department of Housing jointly provide the HIFG secretariat and research function.

Membership of the group is drawn from major organisations associated with the housing and land development industry in Western Australia and from government. Through its diverse membership, the group has access to considerable expertise and knowledge of the sector, including land development, real estate, the private rental market, social housing, building statistics, demographics, building resources and home finance.

For a copy of the Housing Industry Forecast Group April 2012 Update click on the link following: [HIFG April 2012 Update](#)

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

[Constructing and maintaining houses](#) Paul Pholeros, Peter Phibbs | Closing the Gap Clearinghouse | Because there is a clear relationship between the quality of Indigenous housing and the health outcomes of the occupants, this research describes the best building approaches for Indigenous housing stock.

[Remote housing reforms in the Northern Territory](#) Alison Larkins | Commonwealth Ombudsman's Office | This report identifies areas in which further work by the Australian and NT governments would improve service delivery in remote Indigenous housing.

[Generation rental](#) | Benjamin Law in VCROSS's latest issue of Insight deals with the ideals of his generation and how the notion of one day owning your own home may just be slipping away for most young people.

[Supported accommodation options for people with disability: investigating responses to the urban village concept](#) Sarah Yu, Binod Nepal, Laurie Brown | National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling | This working paper reports on a survey of people with disabilities and their families to develop an evidence-based supported accommodation model that meets the needs of care recipients, their families and carers.

[Click here for the latest from Australian Policy Online](#)

[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?](#)

Presentations from *The changing structure of housing markets* seminar (Sydney) are available. [Download files...](#)

Presentations from the *Improving housing outcomes for low-income households* seminar (Hobart) are available. [Download files...](#)

Presentations and audio from the *New developments in housing research* seminar (Darwin) are available. [Download files...](#)

Presentations and audio from *Measuring housing stress and its consequences: new AHURI research* seminar (Perth) are available. [Download files...](#)

[Homelessness research conference 2012 papers](#) The report, conference papers and audio files from the April 2012 Homelessness Research Conference co-hosted by AHURI and RMIT University are available to download [here](#)

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

Homelessness Australia Budget 2012/2013 Sector Briefing

Homelessness Australia's response to the Federal Budget 2012/2013 is available [here](#).

For further information visit their website www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)

www.aihw.gov.au

[Closing the Gap Clearinghouse Resource sheet no. 13 Constructing and maintaining houses](#)

[Specialist Homelessness Services Collection: first results](#)

[Younger people with disability in residential aged care 2010-11](#)

Super Funds Could Back Cheap Homes

Thursday, 31 May, 2012, By Ben Hurley and Ben Wilmot, *The Australian Financial Review*

Australia's largest industry superannuation fund, AustralianSuper, has backed a proposal for government-guaranteed housing supply bonds which it says could bring billions of dollars into the ailing not-for-profit social housing sector.

Institutional funding into the not-for-profit social housing sector is seen as the "Holy Grail" of housing.

State governments can no longer afford public housing while institutions are looking for long-term, steady investments.

The government-funded Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) has consulted widely with super funds and government regulators to come up with ways to structure a suite of housing bonds for institutional, retail and public investors. The findings of its investigation are in a report released this month.

John Hopper, investment manager for AustralianSuper which manages \$42 billion of funds, said the government guarantee proposed by AHURI would lower the risk profile of an investment by making it appear more like a government bond, lowering the return required.

"If structured the right way this could find a logical home in our portfolio," Mr Hopper said. "This is a pretty good step in that direction. I think now we just need to see more detail so we can make a proper investment assessment."

AHURI argues 20,000 new social and low-cost rental dwellings are needed each year for a decade to return to the 1996 share of the market at a cost of about \$7 billion a year.

The institute wants a specialist financial intermediary to assess and approve non-profit housing providers to first gain an injection of government funding in a zero-interest loan.

The intermediary would then raise funds from institutional and retail investors. Government guarantees would suit super funds looking for steady, long-term returns. Tax incentives would enable retail investors to generate an appealing after-tax yield.

"If the government was serious about increasing supply and using these organisations for that supply it's got to get serious about getting larger scale investment into the sector," said report author Julie Lawson.

She has met with top-level housing officials at a state and federal level, including NSW Minister for Family and Community Services Pru Goward, who flew her from Switzerland to meet with key policy advisers.

"At policy maker level there is a lot of interest," Ms Goward said. "But it's been a musical chairs of housing ministers. We need to get their attention."

The high cost of commercial loans to non-government housing providers makes it hard for them to make the most of programs like the Social Housing Initiative and the National Rental Affordability Scheme.

AHURI argues a specialist financial intermediary has been crucial to housing delivery in the UK and The Netherlands. Since 1993, Austria has raised around €15 billion towards new affordable housing or the renovation of older social housing, through housing bonds.

Property commentator Christopher Joye, executive director of Rismark International, said past proposals for housing bonds had failed to galvanise institutional investment capital. While debt capital could be obtained from banks, the biggest challenge was getting equity capital.

"Equity capital needs to provide portfolio investors with attractive risk-adjusted returns, and housing bonds have never delivered the minimum required rate of returns necessary," he said.

http://www.afr.com/p/business/property/super_funds_could_back_cheap_homes_FHNta4F2w7uHhec8DfjmGN

Queensland Shelter Report – *What Does it Take to House a Young Person?*

Queensland Shelter has launched a report outlining ways to address homelessness and housing stress issues for young people.

The launch of “*What Does it Take to House a Young Person?*” comes during Youth Week and in the wake of Youth Homelessness Matters Day, which was themed around being part of the solution.

[Click here to see the full report, including list of recommendations](#)

Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) 2012 Budget Analysis

A copy of the Australian Council of Social Services (ACOSS) Budget Analyses is available by clicking on the following link [ACOSS Paper 189: Federal Budget 2012-13 ACOSS Initial Budget Analysis May 2012](#)

For more information visit their website: www.acoss.org.au

Livable Housing Australia new website online

Livable Housing Australia (LHA) is the lead national, not-for profit organisation for livable housing design in Australia. Established in June 2011, LHA’s primary objective is to champion everyday Australians, the residential building and property industry and all levels of Government to adopt livable housing features in all new homes being built in Australia. It is supported by industry, government and lead consumer organisations across the country.

LHA is committed to establishing national awareness, education and housing accreditation programs that will enable the community, the residential building and property industry and all levels of Government to identify and better understand the value of livable housing design.

LHA is responsible for the development, dissemination and revision of the nationally agreed Livable Housing Design (LHD) Guidelines.

The new website can be accessed at www.lha.org.au or www.livablehousingaustralia.org.au

The Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC)

Click on the link for a copy of the recently released ASRC Position Paper on Homelessness of Asylum Seekers Living in the Community [Locked Out: Homelessness of Asylum Seekers Living in the Community](#)

Greater access to media for people who are deaf or have a hearing impairment

Captioning levels on free to air and subscription TV will improve following the passage of the Broadcasting Services Amendment (Improved Access to Television Services) Bill 2012.

Disability Discrimination Commissioner Graeme Innes said the focus in the legislation towards increasing captioning services should be applauded. Captioning assists people who are deaf or have a hearing impairment by providing a text version of speech and other sounds during television broadcasts.

“Over 2 million Australians who are deaf or have hearing impairment will have better access to a greater range of television programs, which is particularly important for the social and cultural participation of people with disability in Australia,” said Commissioner Innes.

Under this legislation, the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) will regulate closed captioning on broadcast television, and subscription narrowcast television. The legislation will also empower the ACMA, to develop a quality standard for captioning. A draft version of the quality standard should be open to public consultation later this year.

The Australian Human Rights Commission has advocated for a rise in captioning services over a number of years and has encouraged this by granting temporary exemptions from complaints to free-to-air and subscription broadcasters under the Disability Discrimination Act.

“Given the number of people with hearing impairments will increase with Australia’s ageing population, in the spirit of the legislation I encourage broadcasters to caption television broadcasts where ever possible,” said Commissioner Innes.

The legislation will require commercial television broadcasting licensees and national broadcasters to provide a captioning service for all television programs between 6 am and midnight by 1 July 2014.

Subscription television licensees will also have to meet increased annual captioning targets. Over the next three years obligations are to increase between 2.5% and 10% a year, across a range of movie, entertainment and news subscription services. Following this period, annual targets for all subscription services are to increase by 5% per year.

Information on the new captioning requirements are available at:

http://www.acma.gov.au/WEB/STANDARD/pc=PC_91792

Mental Health Services in Australia website

The Mental Health Services in Australia website has been updated. The sections that have been updated are:

1. Mental health-related services provided in Australia

- Emergency department
- Community care
- Residential care
- Supported accommodation assistance
- Psychiatric disability support

2. Additional mental health-related information

- summary data tables
- mental health-related indicators

Click to view the [Mental Health Services in Australia website](#)

Statement by the Australian Human Rights Commission – UN Human Rights Council

The Australian Human Rights Commission welcomes the report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons on her mission to Australia in November 2011.

The Australian Human Rights Commission was pleased to co-host with Australian NGOs two forums for the Special Rapporteur during her visit. The Special Rapporteur has provided a constructive assessment of Australia's efforts in addressing trafficking in persons, noting both the positive efforts of the Australian Government in this regard, as well as some of the areas that could be further strengthened.

The Special Rapporteur commended some of the positive elements of the Australian Government's efforts to prevent trafficking in persons and protect the rights of trafficked persons including:

- The proposed amendments to the Criminal Code Act 2005 (Cth) to comprehensively reflect the full suite of Australia's international legal obligations under the Trafficking Protocol;
- a robust working relationship with civil society; and
- good engagement across the national government, through regular inter-departmental government meetings.
- The Commission is pleased to note that since the Special Rapporteur's visit, the Australian Government has introduced the [Crimes Legislation Amendment \(Slavery, Slavery-like Conditions and People Trafficking\) Bill 2012](#) into the federal Parliament.
- This Bill proposes to criminalise a range of exploitative behaviours including forced labour, forced marriage, organ trafficking and harbouring a victim; as well as clarify and extend the scope of slavery offences; extend the application of existing offences of deceptive recruiting to situations of non-sexual servitude; increase penalties for debt bondage offences; and amend existing definitions to ensure the broadest range of exploitative conduct is criminalised, among other things.
- The Commission supports the Bill. It contains significant and improved protections which further align Australian law with our human rights obligations.

The Commission notes that the Special Rapporteur has also commented on some areas where the Australian Government could strengthen efforts to preventing trafficking in persons and protecting the rights of trafficked persons, which include:

- Re-develop, consultatively, a national plan of action for combating trafficking which applies a human rights based approach, including measurable targets and indicators.
- Placing a greater focus on a victim centred approach and on victim's rights particularly in the areas of housing, settlement and orientation services, medical and psycho-social support and translation and interpreting services.
- Providing specialist services for trafficked children, including appropriate housing, education and care.
- Ensuring trafficked persons including children are not arrested, detained for long periods and deported for breach of migration regulations without proper identification, while paying particular attention to the vulnerability of smuggled migrants to trafficking related deception, coercion and exploitation.
- Ratifying, without delay, the Convention on the human rights of Migrant Workers and their families and the 2011 ILO Convention Concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers.

The Australian Human Rights Commission looks forward to continuing to work with the Australian Government as it considers how best to implement the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur. We commend the report to the Council.

Special Rapporteur's report on Australia:

http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session20/A.HRC.20.18.Add.1_En.PDF

Conferences, Events and Workshops 2012

Youth Affairs Council WA Fairground Youth Sector Conference 19-20 July

Registrations are now open for the YACWA Fairground conference.

For more information visit their website <http://www.yacwa.org.au/fairground2012/>

Local NAIDOC Events Calendar

The 2012 Local NAIDOC Events Calendar is now live on the National NAIDOC website: www.naidoc.org.au

Check out what is happening to celebrate NAIDOC Week across the country.

To promote your NAIDOC celebrations on the calendar, complete our online [Submission Form](#).

2012 NAIDOC Week will be held from 1-8 July

MercyCare Rental Ready Course dates

MercyCare conducts a **Rental Ready course** as part of its Settlement Grants Program (SGP) funded by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC)

The 4 day course is run during school/ TAFE holidays from 9.30am to 3.30 pm and covers:

- 2 days - Rights and responsibilities as a tenant
- 2 days – Practical Cleaning skills, which can also be transferred to employment opportunities

On completion of the course clients obtain a **certificate** stating what they have covered in the training

Feedback from clients have included statements like:

- “Because of the certificate and I felt confident, I have been able to get a new rental”
- “This course has helped me with my inspections – I have got really good inspection reports since doing this course”
- “I wish I had done this course before, I now feel I can be a good tenant”
- “ I have learnt skills that I am now using in a job, I first got a casual job, then a permanent one and now I am a supervisor”

Eligibility conditions for SGP broadly are that clients should be permanent residents who have arrived in Australia during the last five years as: Humanitarian entrants, Family stream migrants with low levels of English proficiency and who normally enter under Visa sub-classes: 200, 201, 203, 204, 866, 851. There are some other categories that may be eligible for assistance and we would be delighted for you to check this with us.

Scheduled some dates for the Rental Ready Course for 2012-2013 as follows

Dates for courses which will be held at 4 Brewer Place, MIRRABOOKA, WA 6061

July	Monday- Thursday	9-10-11-12
July	Monday- Thursday	16-17-18-19
October	Tuesday – Friday	2-3-4-5
October	Monday – Thursday	8-9-10-11
December	Monday – Thursday	17-18-19-20

If any of your clients are interested in doing this training, please let me know as I will arrange a pre-course interview for them.

To book please contact me on 93442468 or 0417 220 126 or email: amohammadkhani@mercycares.com.au.

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](#)



Registrations Open National Affordable Housing Exchange 2012

The *Community Housing Federation Australia* (CHFA) **3rd National Affordable Housing Exchange** is to be held on **26 and 27 July 2012** at Australia Technology Park in Sydney.

Registrations are now open for our National Affordable Housing Exchange. For further information on the event and to register please visit the [event website](#) or the [CHFA website](#)

Self-Abuse Finally Ends

*"... I now know this would be the most important decision I have made in my life. It gave me my life!"
said Juliet, 27 years of age. "I have not hurt myself since February 2002"*

The workshop aims to give participants an insight into the headspace of one who self-abuses in order to better understand their 'real' world and experiences; focussing specifically on their thoughts, feelings and behaviours.

Throughout the workshop participants are encouraged to employ strength based practice, in collaboration with their clients, as a means to discovering a myriad of healthier alternative behaviours to use in response to their inner trauma.

As self-abuse does not impact solely on the physical aspect of an individual's life, we link self-abuse to its impact on the, mind, spirit and social aspects of life and explore the related long term effects.

We also discuss the connection between self-abuse and suicide, BPD [Borderline Personality Disorder], mental illness, sexual assault, domestic violence and adolescence.

The presentation mode for the workshop is both interactive and activity based and includes 'real' case studies, PowerPoint presentation and DVD.

Each workshop participant is provided with a SAFE in Oz brochure, pen and presentation folder. The folder includes a workbook for each day which contains a copy of the PowerPoint presentation, activity pages and additional subject related reference material.

The activity sheets include strategies and tools for use with clients, while the reference material acts to enhance understanding and give insight into related topics.

You can also access information on our website and links to our Training Calendar 2012, individual workshop information, generic registration form and our bi-monthly newsletter – 'Hope, Help & Hanging Out'...

There are limited places for the workshops.

For more information: E: safeinoz@wideband.net.au W: www.safeinoz.com.au

[2012 Training Calendar](#)

['Hope, Help & Hanging Out'](#)

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

Source: <http://indymedia.org.au/2012/05/29/renters-rights-rally-wa-august-15-national-day-of-renters-rights-rallies-october-16>

Conferences, Events and Workshops 2012

continued

NAIDOC [Week](#) (National) 1-8 July

3rd Annual Affordable Housing Projects [Conference](#) (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia) 2-4 July

3rd Annual Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander [Conference](#) (Sydney) 18-19 July

YACWA Fairground Youth Sector [Conference](#) (Perth) 19-20 July

Case Management Society of Australia 15th National [Conference](#) (Sydney) 24-25 July

10th International Urban Planning & Environment Association [Symposium](#) (Sydney) 24-27 July

12th Australian Institute of Family Studies [Conference](#) *Family Transitions & Trajectories* (Melbourne) 25-27 July

Shelter WA Affordable Housing Network Meeting (East Perth) 26 July 2012

3rd CHFA National Affordable Housing [Exchange](#) (Sydney) 26-27 July

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

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

[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

[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

[Premier unveils new-look Cabinet](#)

[Government launches more land development projects](#)

[New framework for Indigenous Affairs](#)

[New group home opens for people who are deafblind](#)

[Three landmark projects to give birth to Karratha's new CBD](#)

[Initiatives to ease service worker housing shortage in Port Hedland](#)

[Suburban centres targeted in next stage of Govt office reform](#)

[Kieran Kinsella appointed as CEO of MRA](#)

[Mobile health service for isolated Peel areas](#)

[New release of Perry Lakes home sites](#)

[Regional assets upgraded with \\$7million grants](#)

[Call for vigilance after foiled real estate scam attempts](#)

[North-west metropolitan participation boost](#)

[Leading industry figure to oversee proposed Pilbara infrastructure development](#)

[UK expert helps develop WA social enterprises](#)

[Campaign launched to save energy and money](#)

[State Budget 2012-13: Supporting our Community - Child Care Regulatory Unit established](#)

[Click here for a full list of WA Government media statements including State Budget 2012-2013](#)

Govt moves to fast-track building applications and approvals

Simon O'Brien, Minister for Finance; Commerce; Small Business, Wed 13 June, 2012

Commerce Minister Simon O'Brien today announced a series of measures to assist the building industry and local governments to work with recent legislation changes.

"The introduction of the Building Act on April 2, 2012 was the result of several years of consultation," Mr O'Brien said.

"However, as with any wholesale change to legislation, there is always the possibility that the need for some modifications will arise as the new processes are put into practice.

"The State Government is very aware that any processing delays have a big impact on builders and consumers and since being made aware of the drop in building applications and approvals following the start of the new legislation, we have been working with industry and local government to find a solution."

To alleviate the immediate pressures on industry, the Minister today signed a Ministerial Order designed to expedite the flow of building work. This order, which will take effect from Saturday, will allow a builder to start work pending approvals for applications lodged after January 1, 2012 and prior to June 30, 2012.

"This temporary measure will assist builders in avoiding protracted delays before starting construction, but will not remove the industry's obligation to meet all necessary standards," Mr O'Brien said.

Further, in response to feedback from industry, the Building Commission has formulated a series of regulatory amendments that will simplify the approvals process and make it easier for local governments to apply the law consistently. Redesigned standard forms aimed at removing confusion in interpreting approval requirements will be distributed to local government authorities, along with a processing checklist.

"Additional information workshops and specific information kits will provide further assistance in understanding the new system and how to benefit from it," the Minister said.

The State Government, with the Building Commission, is now working to identify longer-term measures, including looking at any other amendments to the Act that may be required to give greater security to industry and local government. While the necessary amendments and changes were being made, building surveyors were advised to use the new processing checklist, prioritise their new house applications, use electronic mail systems where possible and seek advice from the Building Commission to help speed up the applications and approvals processes.

For details on the Building Act 2011, regulations & forms: <http://www.buildingcommission.wa.gov.au>

Minister's office - 6552 5800 [Link to Minister's Media Statement](#)

Australian Federal Government Media Releases

[Increased investment in social enterprise boosts local communities](#)

[New Group Appointed to Help Shape Mental Health Reforms](#)

[New web portal for Social and Community Services sector](#)

[Dr Andrew Refshauge Appointed New Chair of Aged Care Standards and Accreditation Agency](#)

[Peter Shergold Appointed Chair of Aged Care Reform Implementation Council](#)

[\\$24 Million for Drug and Alcohol Research](#)

[New grants for WA will improve the quality of care for children | Ministers' Media Centre](#)

[Release of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Taskforce Implementation Report](#)

[Anne Gooley to lead development of Aged Care Workforce Compact](#)

[Measuring the Contribution of the Not-for-Profit Sector | Office for the Not-for-Profit Sector](#)

[Building innovative accommodation for people with disability in Kingston](#)

[New scheme helps low-income Australians save on energy](#)

[headspace to Open in 13 More Locations](#)

[Government to Nominate Inaugural Commissioner of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission | Office for the Not-for-Profit Sector](#)

[Ramping up accessible information and representation for people with disability](#)

[Senate Committee to Consider Social Determinants of Health | Social Inclusion](#)

[Click here for the latest Australian Government Media Releases](#)

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 independent 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 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.

If you wish to receive Shelter WA's Newsletters and Updates please click [Subscribe](#)

If you no longer wish to receive Shelter WA's Newsletters or Updates please click [Unsubscribe](#)