

Shelter WA Tenant Forums

Shelter WA held a series of tenant forums in the metropolitan area during May 2012. Tenant forums were undertaken in Rockingham, Perth, Armadale and Clarkson to discover the issues which are affecting people renting, or trying to access rentals, in the metropolitan area. The forums were well attended in all regions and hosted some lively discussions around issues currently affecting people in the rental market. A report is being prepared; compiling the information obtained at the forums, and will be distributed to members, and posted on Shelter WA's website in the near future.

Shelter WA in the media

Housing issues dominate forum

DISABLED HAVE LITTLE CHANCE TO SECURE PROPERTY

Lucy Jarvis [Housing issues dominate forum on Page 7 of May 22, 2012 issue of North Coast Times](#)

CONCERNS about high rental rates and a lack of enforcement in public housing eligibility breaches were issues raised at a housing forum in Clarkson this month.

Shelter WA hosted the forum on May 11, where local residents and people in support services shared their experiences.

Shelter WA executive officer Chantal Roberts said it was the last of 10 forums held in the metropolitan area

Community development and policy officer Stephanie Bachman said there was a smaller group at the Clarkson forum than had attended previous forums.

She said information gathered through the forums would be circulated to government and political parties.

Mental health workers at the forum said people with disabilities had little chance of securing a property. The rental allowance they received barely covered the board for a room.

They said people with mental health problems often found it difficult to share housing, and they had clients living in tents and cars because they could not find rental properties.

"We've got a lot of people living in unsuitable properties," one worker said. "They have got nowhere else to put them."

Clarkson resident Edith Cruthers said she was representing her family at the forum, and suggested State and Federal parties should be involved in another one.

"Young people that I'm aware of, they are never going to be able to afford their own homes," she said.

Mindarie resident Colette Owens said when her family moved to Perth from the UK last year, there were many people turning up to view rental properties, and offering more than the advertised rate just to secure the properties.

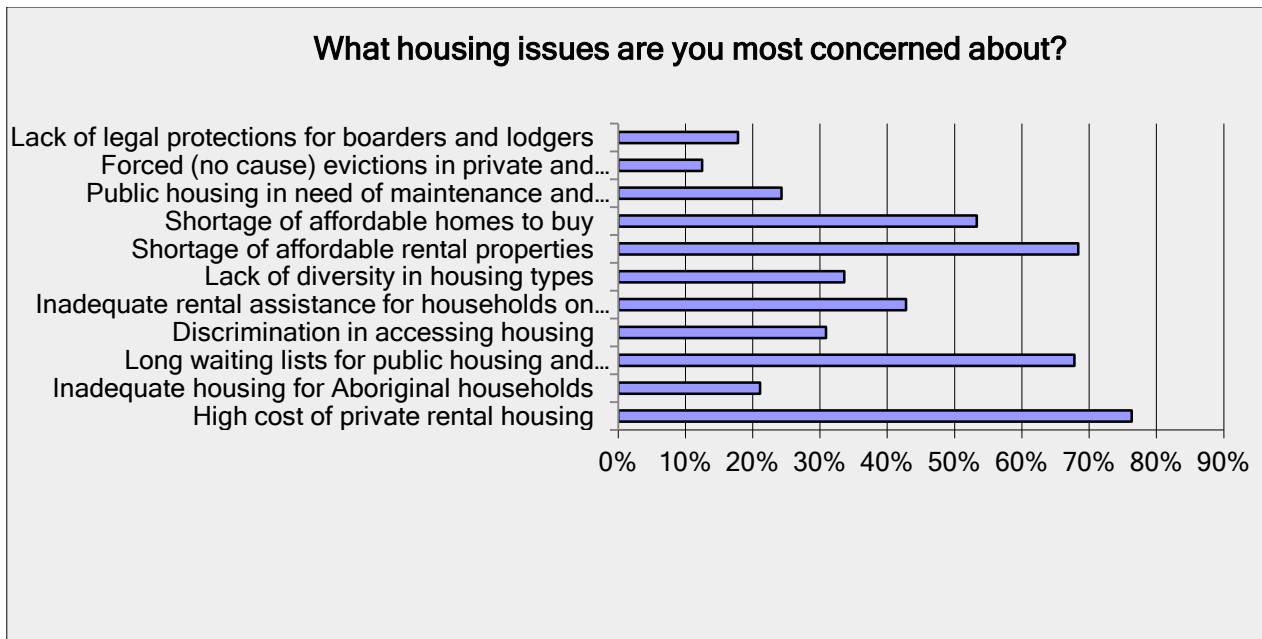
"We didn't have any references, and we weren't employed when we first got here," she said.

"Through a real estate agent we had absolutely no chance. We were literally (at) the bottom of the pile."

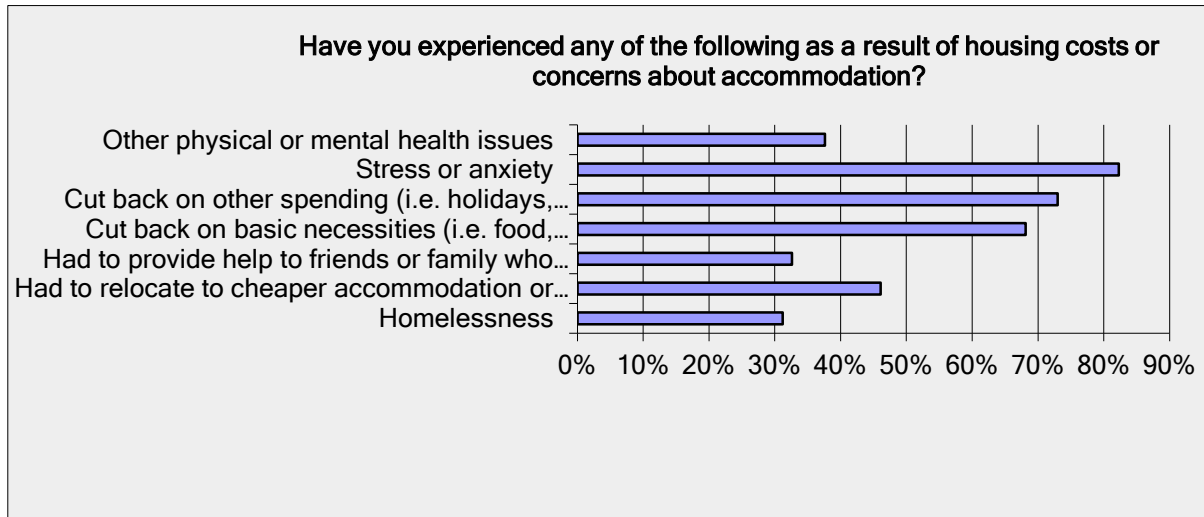
Afsoun Khani said enforcement was an issue because in a Morley complex of eight, she had seen only one public housing tenant was eligible, while the others had partners with higher incomes, or other people living in the houses.

Shelter WA Housing Survey Results Update

Shelter WA is conducting an ongoing survey on housing issues in WA. Over 150 people have responded to the survey so far reporting on a wide variety of concerns. The high cost and lack of supply of rentals were at the top of respondents' concerns. For example, 76% reported they were troubled by the high cost of private rental housing and 68% reported that the lack of supply of affordable rental properties was of concern. Others worry about the long waiting lists for public housing and community housing. The chart below illustrates survey respondents' housing concerns.



The high cost of housing in WA has had a significant impact on people's financial, social and physical well-being. For example, 82% of respondents said they experienced stress or anxiety as a result of high housing costs. Others reported having to cut back on basic necessities (68%) and other expenses (73%) such as holidays or education. Over thirty percent of respondents experienced homelessness and 46% had to relocate to cheaper accommodation or share housing as a result of high housing costs.

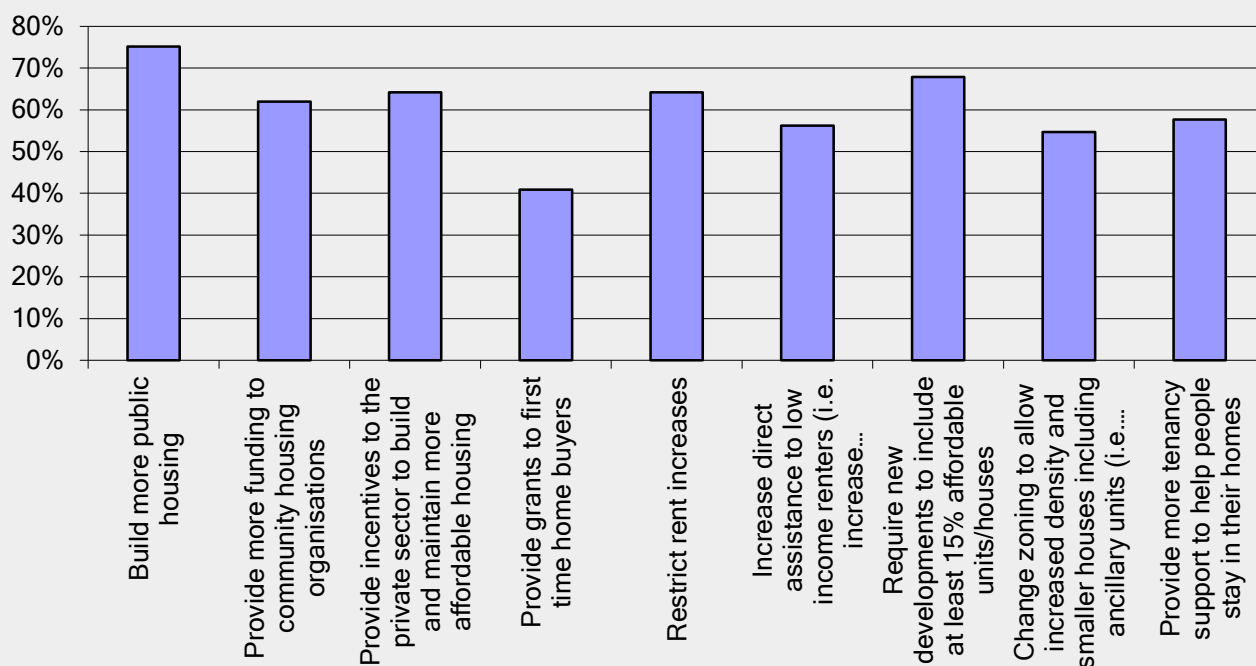


Comments from respondents show the depth of fear and anxiety associated with being unable to secure and maintain stable accommodation.

- *"causing stress to my family by needing help to afford a place to live"*
- *"Medication for depression caused by anxiety over housing"*
- *"Being assaulted by another tenant in same complex, being constantly harassed by another tenant..."*
- *"Lost custody and access of my three children due to homelessness"*
- *"Had to depend on tolerance and generosity of others for basic needs -bathing and laundering."*
- *"Had to drop out of studies to work to afford rent"*
- *"Had to relocate to rural area, where there was little work, no child care, cheaper rent and no way to move forward as a family which increased dependency on welfare"*

Housing provides a critical role in people's health and well-being. Shelter WA is working with community organisations and government agencies to address these housing concerns and to enhance housing affordability in WA.

What do you think the government should do to promote affordable housing?



A Call for Contributions: December 2012 edition of Parity Responding to Homelessness in Western Australia

This edition of Parity is sponsored by the Government of Western Australia's Department for Child Protection.

All those involved in responding to homelessness in Western Australia are invited to contribute to the upcoming December 2012 'Responding to Homelessness in Western Australia' Edition of Parity.

Parity is the national publication of the Council of Homeless Persons and is the national homelessness publication in Australia. Please visit: www.chp.org.au/parity

One of aims of this publication is to develop a comprehensive and detailed resource for all those working in the homelessness, social housing and related welfare sectors that examines and discusses all aspects of homelessness and the response to homelessness in Western Australia.

An equally important aim is to provide all those involved in the response to homelessness in Western Australia the opportunity to actively participate in this project and contribute to the publication. *All voices need to be heard.*

If you are at all interested in the possibility of contributing to this publication, please contact Noel Murray, Parity Editor parity@chp.org.au and leave your contact details so you can be put on the mailing list for this project.

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

Deadline: All contributions must be received by Friday 2nd November. Expressions of interest can be submitted to Noel Murray, parity@chp.org.au by 20 June 2012, and initial drafts by 15 September 2012. Comment or feedback on drafts, if required, will be provided if submitted by this time.

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

Chapter Overview

Introduction:

Chapter 1: Homelessness in Western Australia

Chapter 2: The Policy Framework

Chapter 3: Program, Service and Practice Responses

Chapter 4: Consumer and Client Input

Chapter 5: Key Themes and Issues in Western Australia including Aboriginal Homelessness, Public Space Issues, Family and Domestic Violence, Accompanying Children, Youth Homelessness, Affordable Housing, Town and Country

Conclusion: Where to From Here?

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 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 link 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 Workshop

Young People, Housing & Homelessness

Thursday, 14 June 2012, 10am – 3pm

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

Workshop Agenda

Session 1 Presentations

Philippa Boldy, General Manager, *Anglicare WA Youth Services & WA representative National Youth Coalition for Housing*;

Liza Beinart, Regional Manager Perth, *Save the Children*;

Dr Antoinette Morris, Program Coordinator, *Fremantle Fast Track, North Lake Senior Campus*

Discussion Session 1

*What are the key housing and homelessness issues for young people under 16yrs?
What can we do? What should we be doing?*

Shelter WA will provide a light lunch for attendees

Session 2 Presentations

Craig Comrie, Executive Officer, *Youth Affairs Council WA & WA representative National Youth Coalition for Housing*;

Kristy O'Bryan, Housing Support Worker, *Youth Futures & WA representative, National Youth Coalition for Housing*;

Karen Poole & Liz Astone, Community Engagement Officers, *Department of Human Services*

Discussion Session 2

*What are the key housing and homelessness issues for young people over 16yrs?
What can we do? What should we be doing?*

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

A follow up meeting will be held on 29 August 2012, 10am-12pm.

Shelter WA Affordable Housing Network WA Meetings 2012

The Shelter WA Affordable Housing Network WA (AHNWA) meetings provide information and the latest news on Affordable Housing both nationally and in WA including upcoming submissions and discussion papers, etc.

Please join us for the opportunity to meet other individuals, service providers and organisations to discuss affordable housing issues which need to be addressed.

These issues help to inform Shelter's policy position in pending submissions and at various meetings and committees such as the Department of Housing, Housing Advisory Roundtable (HART). All meetings are scheduled prior to the HART meetings so issues discussed at AHNWA meetings can be raised in that forum.

The AHNWA 2012 meeting dates are as follows:

Thursday 26 July 2012

Thursday 18 October 2012

All meetings are held from 9:30am – 12:30pm in the Conference Room at Claisebrook Lotteries House, 33 Moore St, East Perth.

For more information or to **RSVP** please contact Stephanie on cdpo@shelterwa.org.au or phone 9325 6660.

National Shelter Website

National Shelter has a new [website](#). The site contains National Shelter's policy platforms, a guide to housing terms as well as the Housing Australia factsheet.

[Housing Australia factsheet](#)

[Housing terms factsheet](#)

Discussion Papers, Submissions, Issues Papers and Surveys

Australians for Affordable Housing Photo Petition

Act now – upload your 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!

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](#)

Australian Law Reform Commission seeks input into its Inquiry into legal barriers to mature age persons participating in the workforce and other productive work

The Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) has released an Issues Paper for its Inquiry into legal barriers to mature age participation in the workforce and other productive work—Grey Areas: Age Barriers to Work in Commonwealth Laws (ALRC IP 41, 2012).

Australia's population is ageing rapidly. By 2044–45 almost one in four Australians will be aged 65 years or older and this will have a significant implication for Australia's economy with the need to encourage people to stay at work for as long as they are able and willing. This Inquiry forms part of the Australian Government's response to this issue.

The ALRC has been asked to look at a range of laws, including superannuation law; family assistance, child support and social security law; employment law; insurance law; compensation laws; and any other relevant Commonwealth legislation exempt under the Age Discrimination Act 2004 (Cth). For the purposes of this Inquiry mature age is defined as being over 45 years.

This Issues Paper forms a basis for consultation. It is intended to encourage informed community participation in the Inquiry by providing background information and highlighting the issues so far identified by the ALRC. The ALRC invites individuals and organisations to make submissions in response to the questions contained in the Issues Paper, or to any of the background material and analysis provided. This community input will help inform the development of draft recommendations for reform to be released in a Discussion Paper later in the year.

The Issues Paper may be downloaded free of charge from the ALRC website, www.alrc.gov.au. Hard copies may be obtained on request by contacting the ALRC.

Submissions using the ALRC's online submission form can be made at: www.alrc.gov.au/content/age-barriers-work-issues-paper.

Written submissions can also be posted, faxed or emailed to the ALRC, GPO Box 3708 Sydney NSW 2001

Telephone (02) 82386333 Fax (02) 82386363

Closing date for submissions is Thursday 14 June 2012.

The final Report is to be delivered by 31 March 2013.

For more information about the ALRC's inquiry and to subscribe to the Age Barriers to Work e-newsletter please go to www.alrc.gov.au/inquiries/age-barriers-work.

Media contact: Sabina Wynn on (02) 8238 6366 or 0404 874 159 or via email at sabina.wynn@alrc.gov.au

A study of the impacts for low-income households of rising energy prices

Survey of household energy use and affordability

This study is investigating the impacts on **low-income households** from paying higher energy prices. Why? There is no Australian research which presents a comprehensive picture of the pressures and circumstances of **low-income households** following the substantial increases in electricity and gas prices in recent years.

The findings of this study will be used to recommend policies to improve the circumstances of low-income Australian households.

The study is being undertaken by [Dr Lynne Chester](#), a researcher from The University of Sydney.

The first phase in the study is a survey of **low-income household** energy use and affordability.

Australian household energy use has increased substantially in the last 10 years. Electricity and gas prices have also increased substantially in recent years. Further increases in energy prices are forecast.

The [survey](#) is seeking information about the circumstances of **low-income households** as they pay rising electricity and gas bills, the amounts of income needed to pay energy bills, and the relationship between energy use and housing conditions. Go to the [survey](#) for more details.

The survey asks about:

- the characteristics of your household (such as where you live, how many people, how many children);
- the size and type of your housing (such as how many rooms, what is home made from);
- your household energy use (such as household appliances, if you are able to reduce energy use); and
- your energy bills and their impact (such as the cost, any payment difficulties, the impact on spending for other essentials).

<http://www.householdenergyuse.com/survey.php>

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](#)

Awards, Grants, Tenders and Funding Opportunities

Professional Excellence in Housing Awards Western Australia

The closing date for nominations for the 2012 AHI Professional Excellence in Housing Awards in Western Australia has been **extended to Friday, 8th June 2012**. There is no better way to highlight the efforts of your colleagues and peers than through nominating them for the awards in one or more categories. This year the awards categories are:

- Inspirational Colleague;
- Outstanding Achievement;
- Leading Innovation;
- Leading Practice;
- Leading Housing Solutions;
- and Tenant Led Initiative.

Full information about the awards, selection criteria and conditions of entry are contained in [the brochure](#) and the [nomination form](#). They are also available on the [website](#). You can also download the brochure for sponsors [here](#).

Please [circulate this e-mail](#) and nominate a colleague for an award for professional excellence in housing. For any further information about Awards Nominations please do not hesitate to contact us. Contact Olena Sydorenko by phone on 02 6494 7566

Craft your entry today and e-mail us **before Friday, 8 June 2012**.

Crime grants applications open

Attorney General Christian Porter has launched the latest round of the Criminal Property Confiscation Grants program, which allows local governments and non-profit community groups to apply for grants of up to \$200,000.

Mr Porter said the program, administered by the Department of the Attorney General, allocated the grants from a pool of funds seized under the State's tough proceeds of crime laws. The Attorney General said the grants would fund projects designed to prevent or reduce drug-related crime and drug abuse, support crime victims or to aid law enforcement.

"The grants are released to the successful applicants once they have met certain pre-conditions, including contributing in-kind support to the project they are going to run," he said.

A total of \$2million has been made available in this latest round of the program.

The closing date for applications is Friday, June 29, 2012 at 5pm.

Further information about the program, including guidelines and an application form, is available at <http://www.dotag.wa.gov.au>

All applicants are encouraged to discuss their proposed project with the department's grants administrator on 9264 1206 (country callers 1800 994 400)

Attorney General's office - 6552 5600 or [Click here for link to full media statement](#)

Song of the Year Competition opens

Nominations for a popular songwriting competition aimed at promoting youth mental health are now open.

The annual WA Music Industry Association (WAM) Song of the Year Competition is sponsored by the Mental Health Commission and has seen *Little Birdy*, *The Waifs*, *Lash* and *The Panda Band* among previous prize winners.

Mental Health Minister Helen Morton said the commission had more than doubled its funding for the competition from \$15,000 to \$33,000.

This year's tagline is '*Music talks about mental health. So can you*', and aims to encourage people to seek help and challenge the stigma associated with mental illness.

The competition has 16 categories, including Mentally Healthy, School Age, Outstanding Regional and Outstanding Indigenous.

In May, WAM will run five free songwriting workshops with Catch Music, a network of musicians supporting people with a disability or mental illness to write and record one song with a positive message to be entered in the Mentally Healthy category.

With a \$30,000 prize cash pool, promotional exposure and professional development opportunities for both emerging and established songwriters, the grand prize winner will vie for \$2,000, CD pressing and an opportunity for a publishing deal and studio time.

The WAM Song of the Year competition details <http://www.wam.asn.au/songoftheyear>

Entries close on July 30, 2012 with a concert and awards night on October 11, 2012

Music Feedback website - <http://www.musicfeedback.com.au>

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

Nominations open for Good Outcomes Awards

Nominations have opened for the Mental Health Good Outcomes Awards 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 close at 5pm on Friday July 30, 2012

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

Minister's office - 6552 6900

[Click here for the full media statement](#)

The Friends of Heathcote Trust Fund 2012 Grants Program

If you are an individual, or a group that has members who have been, diagnosed with a mental health issue put in your application now for a grant to fund a small project:

- To improve your 'Quality of Life'...
- To make you feel as *Special as You Actually Are!*

The Friends of Heathcote Trust Fund tries to help as many applicants as possible each year. Successful grants over the last few years have been about \$250 per applicant. Below are a few activities that have made successful applicant

'Dreams come true'.

- ❖ Ten Pin Bowling sessions
- ❖ Weekend at Rottnest
- ❖ Special Luncheons for friends
- ❖ Whale Watching or River Cruises
- ❖ Movie experiences
- ❖ Holidays utilising annual free bus passes and using grant money for sightseeing, accommodation and food expenses
- ❖ Computer Lessons
- ❖ Pampering & relaxation sessions

What would you like to do?

Applications close at 4pm on Thursday 28th June 2012.

Application forms and eligibility criteria are available from:

WAAMH

City West Lotteries House, 2 Delhi Street, WEST PERTH WA 6005

Phone: (08) 9420 7277

Fax: (08) 9420 7280

E-mail: reception@waamh.org.au

Or ... download a copy of the application package from the WAAMH website at: <http://www.waamh.org.au> – click on Friends of Heathcote! It is located on the front page as well as in the Grant section.

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](#)

Research, Resources, Reports and Publications

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 Council of Social Service (ACOSS) 2012/2012 Budget Analysis

[ACOSS Paper 189: Federal Budget 2012-13 ACOSS Initial Budget Analysis May 2012](#)

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

[Building Approvals, Australia \(Media Release\), April 2012](#)

[House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities, Mar 2012](#)

[Analytical Living Cost Indexes for Selected Australian Household Types, Mar 2012](#)

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

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

[As a Matter of Fact, 2012 \(First Issue\)](#)

[Year Book Australia: The Book of a Nation \(Media Release\), 2012](#)

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

[Construction Work Done, Australia, Preliminary, Mar 2012](#)

[Mining industry remains WA's biggest economic contributor \(Media Release\), 2012](#)

[Western Australia at a Glance, 2012](#)

[Population growth surges in the outer suburbs - WA \(Media Release\), 2010-11](#)

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](#)

Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI)www.ahuri.edu.au

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

[Final Report: No. 187: Sustaining home ownership in the 21st century: emerging policy concerns](#)

[Final Report: No. 186 Pathways into and within social housing](#)

[Final Report: No. 185: Community Land Trusts and Indigenous housing options](#)

[Final Report: No. 184: Policy shift or program drift? Implementing Housing First in Australia](#)

[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](#)

[Positioning Paper: No. 145: Resident third party objections and appeals against planning applications: implications for higher density and social housing](#)

[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?](#)

[Research and Policy Bulletin Issue 152: Building new housing in remote Indigenous communities](#)

[Research and Policy Bulletin Issue 151: Addressing the stigmatisation of social housing](#)

[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***](#)

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

[Generation rental](#) | Benjamin Law in VCOSS'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.

[Are unemployment benefits adequate in Australia?](#) Richard Denniss, David Baker | Australian Institute | The unemployment rate in Australia was 5.2 per cent in March 2012 which is low by historic and international standards. However, a substantial number of people who are looking for work cannot find it with the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) reporting that the number of people unemployed in March 2012 was 626,800

[Sustaining home ownership in the 21st century: emerging policy concerns](#) Gavin Wood | Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute | Australian home buyers are exposed to higher levels of credit risk for longer periods of their lives and Australia urgently needs new safety valves to ease market pressures, according to this essay.

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

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

Queensland Shelter today 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](#)

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](#)

Human Rights Commission – *Know your rights brochure*

The Commission has just released a new set of information brochures entitled **Know your rights**, which are available now. The series of five Know Your Rights brochures are entitled, About Us, Age Discrimination, Disability Discrimination, Race Discrimination and Sex Discrimination.

The brochures aim to assist people to understand their rights, identify situations where their rights are not being met and know what actions they can take

The About Us brochure explains what the Commission does - its aims, functions and its place in the world of human rights advocacy.

The other four look at the types of discrimination that fall under each heading, provide an overview of the Commission's complaints process, and how to use it, and provide other useful contacts and information.

Though they provide an overview of discrimination and rights in a general sense, each brochure also has a particular focus on employment.

Aside from being available in hard copy in a useful DL sized publication, they are also available on the Commission's website in HTML, PDF and Word formats.

Hard copies can be obtained from Reception in our Sydney offices (phone 02-92849600 or fax 02-92849611) or can be ordered by email at publications@humanrights.gov.au

You can find and download the Know Your Rights brochures [here](#)

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

Conferences, Events and Workshops 2012

WACOSS FREE Workshop

How to Advocate for Clients who are having Problems with Utilities and Payment

Friday, 22 June, 2012 – 1-4pm

Many clients have problems with their Utility Bills and in getting problems sorted. This training is a must for anyone who has clients who have debts or difficulty dealing with utility companies such as Synergy; Alinta; Water Corporation.

The Workshop will provide an overview of the concession programs; Utility company responsibilities to consumers/clients – especially those from diverse backgrounds; clients' rights and who to speak to get action and problems resolved.

In response to requests, we have put on this course to specifically target staff/agencies who work with CALD clients – e.g. IHSS, SGP, case workers; community leaders etc. However, all community workers, case workers, Emergency Relief Staff/volunteers are encouraged to attend.

Numbers are limited and this course is popular, so book in ASAP by going to: <http://www.wacoss.org.au/events.aspx> and scroll down the page. Booking is essential!

Health Consumers' Council (HCC) Speakers Bureau Programme

The Health Consumers' Council (HCC) is an independent community based organisation, representing the consumer's voice in health policy, planning, research and service delivery.

HCC advocate on behalf of consumers to doctors, other health professionals, hospitals and the wider health system. For further information regarding the Council, see <http://www.hconc.org.au>.

Through its Speakers' Bureau programme, HCC has volunteer speakers available to provide free presentations (in metro and country areas) to communities about:

- The WA Health System
- Rights and responsibilities of Health Consumers
- Where to go when there are difficulties with the Health System
- Health Consumers' Council and its programs
- How communities can get involved

The objective of these presentations is to increase public knowledge of the above topics so as to equip communities with the necessary knowledge or information to be able to make informed decisions about their health and plans for their healthcare. At the same time this is also aimed at increasing their confidence in achieving the best health outcomes within the healthcare systems.

HCC are keen to come out and present to the various community groups and would welcome any opportunity to present to your community members.

If you are interested in hosting HCC presentations and would like further information contact Caroline at 9221 3422 or caroline.rugdee@hconc.org.au.

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](#)

7th Australian Women's Health Conference, 7 - 10 May 2013, Sydney

The 7th Australian Women's Health Conference *Gender Matters: Determining Women's Health* will continue Australia's focus on showcasing cutting edge research and best practice approaches in women's health policy and practice locally, across Australia and internationally. The conference is relevant to: service providers, policy makers, managers, researchers, women's health, mental health, community health, social and community services, Aboriginal controlled services, migrant and refugee services, reproductive services, legal services, universities, disability services, allied health care, public health, educators, academics, local councils, Local Health Districts, Medicare Locals, Government, non-government and private sectors, volunteers and students.

Abstract Submission Deadline 30 September 2012. To download the Call for Abstracts Brochure, access: [click here](#). Submit your abstract as early as possible in order to avoid online submission congestion. Enquiries regarding abstracts for AWHN 7th Australian Women's Health Conference 2013 should be emailed to abstracts@womenshealth2013.org.au

Registration for AWHN 7th Australian Women's Health Conference 2013 is now open. Early bird registration closes 15 February 2013. To register, access: <https://secure.icmsaust.com.au/ei/getdemo.ei?id=595&s=33G0UE2QP>

For further information contact the AWHN 7th Australian Women's Health Conference 2013 Secretariat: ICMS Australasia, GPO Box 3270, Sydney NSW 2001, T: +61 2 9254 5000, F: +61 2 9251 3552

The 2012 National NAIDOC Poster is now available for order!

Congratulations to Amanda Joy Tronc from Chinchilla in Queensland who has won the 2012 National NAIDOC Poster Competition.

To order a free copy of the poster visit www.naidoc.org.au.

Conferences, Events and Workshops 2012

continued

[International Year of Housing Cooperatives 2012](#) [WA Federation of Housing Collectives \(FoHCOL\)](#)

Richmond Fellowship Asia Pacific [Conference on Mental Health](#) (Perth) 11-13 June

Shelter WA Young People, Housing & Homelessness [Workshop](#) (Perth) 14 June

AIHW Australia's Health [Conference 2012](#) (Canberra) 21 June

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

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

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

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

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

WA Government Media Releases

\$19.7million community projects and services on the Action Agenda

A range of major new projects in key service areas will be supported with \$19.7million of State Government Royalties for Regions funding as part of the Regional Development Council's Action Agenda 2011 Funding Scheme.

The 13 projects include indigenous education and housing, business education and training as well as infrastructure projects, including arts and cultural centres and housing.

This funding will assist with the development of projects in the education, housing and services, social and environmental amenity and employment, infrastructure and skills sectors.

Some of the projects funded include:

Acquisition of Housing Stock for Affordable Housing

Great Southern Community Housing Association Funding: \$1.88million

Project Description: The acquisition of a specific parcel of land in Albany to construct 12 x two-bedroom dwellings that will be used for the supply of affordable housing

Housing for Youth Bail Options Program - Port Hedland

Applicant: Drug ARM WA Ltd Funding: \$1.2million

Project Description: Drug ARM WA has been awarded alternative funding to establish a Youth Bail Options Program supervised bail service in Port Hedland. This funding will be utilised to acquire a suitable facility from which to deliver this service.

Stage 2 - Extension to the Aboriginal Housing Project

Shire of Halls Creek Funding: \$2.25million.

Project Description: The current Kimberley Aboriginal Housing Project in Halls Creek aims to deliver eight houses for Aboriginal people.

Yawoorroong Miriwung Gajerrong Yirrgeb Noong Dwang (MG Corporation) Funding: \$2.28million

Project Description: The current Kimberley Aboriginal Housing Project in Kununurra aims to deliver 10 houses for Aboriginal people. This funding will be utilised to expand the housing stock by an additional four houses that will address the needs of providing affordable housing for Aboriginal people in the Kimberley.

For a full list of the projects click on the following link: [actionagendaprojsummary.pdf](#)

Minister's office - 6552 5500 [Click here for full media statement](#)

Boost for inner city social housing

A new \$16.8million social housing complex in Northbridge will provide 67 people with affordable housing close to a range of services including health care, education and employment.

Opening the Newcastle Street complex, Housing Minister Troy Buswell said the project was funded through the Department of Housing in collaboration with Foundation Housing Limited.

"The complex consists of 44 hostel bedrooms, six two-bedroom and 11 one-bedroom apartments that will provide 67 people with a roof over their heads and a place to call home.

The complex will be managed by Foundation Housing Limited, which contributed \$1.47million to the project.

The Minister said that the Newcastle Street complex was one of several inner-city accommodation options the State Government was developing through the State Affordable Housing Strategy which aimed to provide 20,000 affordable housing options by 2020.

"Properties in East Perth, Perth and Northbridge are currently being sold through the Opening Doors shared home ownership scheme, which allows low-to-moderate income earners to enter into a shared equity arrangement with the State Government," he said.

"In Northbridge, One on Aberdeen, an off-the-plan development providing affordable sales as well as shared equity options, is a popular choice for those people taking advantage of the opportunities offered through the Opening Doors Strategy.

Minister's office - 6552 6400 [Click here for full media statement](#)

[Boost for inner city social housing](#)

[Community housing boost for Great Southern](#)

[WA's first homeless conference gets under way](#)

[Pilbara's first high-rise apartment complex opens in Karratha](#)

[Regional SuperTowns receive almost \\$80m funding](#)

[New residential land for Newman](#)

[State celebrates first Noongar Centre](#)

[More than \\$500,000 to children's charity](#)

[State Budget 2012-13: Supporting our Community - State Budget pledges more for child protection care and parenting skills](#)

[State Budget 2012-13: Supporting our Community - Funding boost for Aboriginal community patrols](#)

[State Budget 2012-13: Supporting our Community - Assistance for WA Families](#)

[New online parenting program on offer](#)

[Funding for Mid-West infrastructure projects](#)

[WA Govt supports increase in State Wage Case](#)

[Broome house ready for alcohol and drug recovery](#)

[Broome Mental Health Unit opened](#)

[Positive support services for Aboriginal students](#)

[Education and training key to Aboriginal success](#)

[Second chance for women leaving prison](#)

[Disability respite unveiled in Clarkson](#)

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

Australian Federal Government Media Releases

[New Fair Work building and construction laws to commence](#)

[Young Men's Mental Illness Costs us \\$3 Billion Annually](#)

[Improving the Liveability of Australian Cities](#)

[Staging the introduction of regulatory reform for the not-for-profit sector](#)

[National child protection reforms make impact on frontline](#)

[Energy saver scheme for vulnerable Australians set to start](#)

[More community mental health funding will help thousands](#)

[National Disability Insurance Scheme to launch in 2013](#)

[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 [Updates](#) and [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.

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](#)