

# Western Australian Council on Homelessness

## MINUTES OF MEETING Friday 11 February 2011

Large Executive Conference Room, Level 2  
Department for Child Protection  
189 Royal Street, East Perth  
Meeting commenced at 9:00am

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed the members to the meeting:

#### Present

Hon Kay Hallahan AO	Independent Chair
Mr Richard Aspinall	FaHCSIA
Mr Greg Cash	Department of Housing
Dr Paul Flatau	University of Western Australia
Mr Steve Glew	Department for Child Protection
Mr James Hunter (proxy)	Drug and Alcohol Office
Mr Ross Kyrwood	Mission Australia
Mr Lex McCulloch	Department for Corrective Services
Ms Anna Paris	Ruah Community Services
Mr Terry Preston (proxy)	Mental Health Commission
Ms Leanne Strommen (proxy)	Centrecare
Ms Nanette Williams	Pilbara Community Legal Service

#### In attendance

Sandra Flanagan	Department for Child Protection
Maureen Flynn	Department for Child Protection

#### Apologies

Ms Kathleen Gregory	Foundation Housing
Ms Julie Waylen	Department for Child Protection

The Chair welcomed members and advised that Mr Richard Aspinall, State Manager, FaHCSIA, is replacing Mr Tony Giamboi, on the Council.

The Chair also advised members of Ms Anna Paris resignation and Mr Lex McCulloch's secondment to Worksafe. Mr McCulloch to advise on his replacement from the Department for Corrective Services.

### 2. Hon. John Day, MLA, Minister for Planning and Ms Marion Thompson, Department for Planning

The Chair advised that apologies had been received from the Minister for Planning, Hon John Day, MLA, and introduced Ms Marion Thompson, Urban Planning Consultant and WA Urban Development Coordinator, Western Australian Planning Commission.

The following issues were discussed:

- Land supply and the need for affordable housing.

- Maximising people's access to services.
- The Government's main role as a regulator.
- Challenges including environmental constraints, provision of infrastructure and native title requirements.
- Increasing demand/need for environmental protection.
- The importance of both the quality and quantity of land supply.
- *Directions 2031 and Beyond* – policy document (link to be provided to members via email).
- *Hot Spots Report – Karratha*, released late last year (link to be provided to members via email).
- *South Hedland New Living Development Status Plan* was distributed and discussed. The map identifies development completed in the recent past, land to be developed in 2010/2011 and land to be developed post 2011.
- The need to consider people who cannot afford housing in all development/land release processes.
- The consideration of incorporating a mandated social housing allocation in future developments.
- Shared equity and affordable rental schemes.
- The benefits of small second dwellings on urban blocks and urban infill.
- The higher costs associated with construction of higher rise/apartment buildings.
- National Housing Supply Council – looking at social housing (link to national Housing Supply Council to be provided to members via email).

The Chair thanked Ms Thompson for her thorough and informative presentation.

### 3. Minutes of meeting held 19 November 2010

The minutes of the WA Council on Homelessness meeting held on 19 November 2010 were confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

### 4. Business Arising

#### 4.1 Evaluation of the NPAH program

Ms Flynn discussed the paper provided to members prior to the meeting - titled *National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH) Evaluation*.

Members were advised that Ms Paris is currently the Western Australian Council on Homelessness representative on the Evaluation Steering Group. Given Ms Paris's resignation from the Council a new representative for this Steering group is now required.

Members were asked for a nomination to the Steering Group, to be either a Council Member or for a Council member to nominate a representative from their organisation. Mr Kyrwood advised that he would nominate a staff member from his organisation.

**Action:** Mr Kyrwood to provide the name and contact details of the person nominated to the Evaluation Steering Group.

#### 4.2 NPAH Forum – development of the agenda

Ms Flynn discussed the paper provided to members prior to the meeting - titled *National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH) Forum*.

Discussion ensued on the following:

- The Forum will take place over 2 days with a focus on programs, supporting agency staff, consistency and good practice.
- The Forum will be framed around the four action areas identified in the State Plan.
- It was requested that the Council co-host the Forum and nominate one or more representatives to advise on the development of the agenda for the two day event.
- Ms Strommen and Ms Williams agreed to advise on the development of the agenda.

*Resolution: The Council resolved that it would co-host the NPAH forum with the Department for Child Protection and that Ms Strommen and Ms Williams would represent Council in the development of the agenda.*

#### 4.3 Homelessness data collection

Ms Flynn discussed the paper which had been provided to members prior to the meeting - *Specialist Homelessness Services Collection (SHCS)*.

The three main elements of the SHCS are:

- It will be web based.
- New national minimum data set.
- New client management system.

It was advised that a Specialist Homelessness Services Collection National Implementation workshop is to be held in Melbourne on 17 February, 2011. Following this, the WA representatives who attended the National workshop will be providing feedback at the WA Specialist Homelessness Services Information Group meeting to be held on 24 February, 2011.

#### 4.4 Homeless Connect

Dr Flatau raised the issue of links between specialist homelessness services and health services. This matter arose from analysis of the City of Perth's *Homeless Connect* held on 17 November, 2010. On that one day, there were between 500 and 600 incidents of support recorded by health services - including primary health, mental health, dental and drug and alcohol services.

Dr Flatau advised that there was a real concern about whether this client group is connecting with health services throughout the year. It was noted that a similar "connect day" is held quarterly in Geraldton to provide more regular health checks. It was suggested that increased connectivity may be achieved through the development of the regional plans and that strong local leadership would be vital for this to be achieved.

Members requested that this issue remain on the agenda for further discussion.

**Action:** The issue of links between homeless people, or those at risk of homelessness, and health services to remain on the agenda for further attention.

## **5. Update from the Department of Housing**

Mr Cash advised that:

- Property allocations for NPAH clients are down slightly, which may be explained by the usual fluctuations over the Christmas period and also that the Kimberley and Wheatbelt have been unable to secure staff (and therefore to make referrals).
- There are a few locations where an increase in the number of referrals is sought.
- 274 referrals are required over the next three months.
- It was requested that Mr Cash discuss the NRAS at the next meeting.

**Action:** Mr Cash to provide an update on NRAS at the next Council meeting.

## **6. Development of regional plans to reduce homelessness**

Ms Flynn thanked Council members who were able to attend regional seminars which were held across the State late last year. The regional seminars were well attended and it was evident that there was a commitment in each of the regions to progress a regional plan. Members discussed the requirement for strong leadership to drive the development of each regional plan and ensure integrated service provision. The Department for Child Protection will identify a suitable person in each region to assist in driving the process at the local level. The regional plans will be discussed in greater detail at the next Council meeting.

## **7. Future Agenda Items**

- Tenancy Rights.
- Government departments - homelessness programs.
- Housing issues re Mining Companies.
- Accommodation design for homeless people/families.
- Impact of the change from Job Network to Job Services Australia.
- 2011 Census
- Guest Speaker from EAC Homelessness Task Group.

## **8. General business**

### **8.1 National Quality Framework – 2<sup>nd</sup> round consultations**

Ms Paris advised on the progress of the development of a National Quality Framework. The options paper, as developed from the Stage One consultations, has now been released and the second round of consultations will take place in Western Australia in the near future.

The second round of consultations will comprise of workshops in each state and territory, interviews with people experiencing homelessness, with service providers who are unable to attend the workshops, written submissions and an on-line survey.

Members were strongly urged to participate in this round of consultations.

## 8.2 Other Business

### 8.2.1 New Housing Minister, Hon Troy Buswell, MLA

The proposal that Hon. Troy Buswell, MLA, Minister for Transport; Housing, be invited to a Council meeting in the near future was endorsed by the meeting.

**Action:** Ms Flanagan to prepare a letter inviting Minister Buswell to a Council meeting at his earliest convenience.

### 8.2.2 Resignation of Ms Paris and secondment of Mr McCulloch

The Chair reiterated that this regrettably is the final meeting for Ms Paris and Mr McCulloch. She thanked them for their time, commitment and contribution to the Council and wished them well in their future endeavours.

## 9. Next Meeting

The Chair advised members that she will be an apology at the next meeting and thanked members for their attendance. The meeting closed at 10:40am.

The next meeting will be held on March 11, 2011 at 9am.