

# Western Australian Council on Homelessness

## MINUTES OF MEETING

Friday 12 August 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 members to the meeting:

#### Present

Hon Kay Hallahan AO	Independent Chair
Ms Benita Cattalini (proxy)	FaHCSIA
Mr Greg Cash	Department of Housing
Mr Steve Glew	Department for Child Protection
Ms Kathleen Gregory	Foundation Housing
Ms Heather Harker	Department of Corrective Services
Mr James Hunter	Drug and Alcohol Office
Ms Judi Morris	Mental Health Commission
Ms Julie Waylen	Department for Child Protection
Ms Nanette Williams (teleconference)	Pilbara Community Legal Service

#### In attendance

Ms Stacey Collins	Department for Child Protection
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#### Apologies

Mr Richard Aspinall	FaHCSIA
W/Professor Paul Flatau	University of Western Australia
Mr Ross Kyrwood	Mission Australia
Mr Tony Pietropiccolo	Centrecare

### 2. Minutes of meeting held 8 July 2011

The minutes of the WA Council on Homelessness meeting held on 8 July 2011 were confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

### 3. Business Arising

#### 3.1 Specialist Homelessness Services Collection - update

Ms Waylen advised that the new system went live on 1 July 2011. DCP is continuing to provide the full two day courses and refresher courses. Three hundred and forty two people attended the SHS Collection training, 296 people attended Specialist Homelessness Information Platform (SHIP) training and 24 people have attended the refresher training course.

Services must logon to SHIP and Specialist Homelessness Online Reporting (SHOR) and submit the first data extracts or forms to AIHW by 17 August 2011. In future data will need to be submitted by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Ms Waylen congratulated Ms Roza Cvetkoska and her team, including two trainers from the community sector, on a very successful outcome. Feedback from agencies has been positive.

On a national level, publication of data reports will be available quarterly. The report available in February/March will not be qualified but will provide a data snapshot. The Annual Report will contain qualified data.

Data from NAHA services (formally SAAP) shows 20,000 clients accessing services, with the additional NPAH services (110 FTE) it is anticipated this figure will rise.

Ms Waylen provided information on three breaches of privacy that occurred in Victoria and Queensland in relation to SHIP and the steps AIHW has taken to address the breaches. Breaches were rectified within an hour and steps taken to avoid a recurrence. AIHW provided clear communication and acted quickly and appropriately.

Ms Waylen has asked AIHW to explore the option of quarantining domestic violence services to provide additional security in response to concerns from a DV service.

### **3.2 Homeless Persons Week**

Ms Waylen advised that Homeless Persons Week has occurred with a range of well organised and attended events and the Community Housing Coalition of WA (CHCWA) is to be congratulated for its work organising the week. The week began with the official launch at St Bartholomew's House and concluded with the Walk to Support the Homeless in Forrest Chase. A photography exhibition 'Home is Where My Heart Is' explored the concept of home through the eyes of nine young homeless people.

### **3.3 Intergovernmental Integration**

This item is to be a Standing Item on future agendas.

A meeting is to be scheduled to explore intergovernmental integration and what needs to happen. The group will include W/Professor Paul Flatau, Mr Ross Kyrwood, Julie Waylen, Greg Cash, Dace Thomson, Judi Morris and Myra Browne. The meeting will follow the Senior Officers Group on 1 September 2011.

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

Mr Greg Cash advised that the allocation of properties was operating well. There have been some issues with timing, which are being addressed. The impact of the Three Strike Policy was discussed including emerging consequences to people with mental health issues. There have been positive discussions between the Department of Housing and other departments including DCP and the Mental Health Commission.

Ms Kathleen Gregory advised non-government services usually have a rigorous assessment to ensure a client is housing ready before being allocated a property.

## **5. Guest Speaker: Ms Myra Browne, Acting Director, Policy Strategy and Planning, Mental Health Commission**

Presentation distributed (copy to be sent to Ms Williams).

Ms Browne provided an overview of State and Federal Mental Health Initiatives including new social housing, community living support and alternatives to hospitalisation.

There was a discussion regarding the National Partnership Agreement on Mental Health being linked in with the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness.

<b>Action:</b> Ms Browne's presentation to be forwarded to Ms Williams.
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## **6. Development of Regional Plans to reduce homelessness: update**

### **Country Regions**

#### **Wheatbelt**

- Discussion paper completed.
- Workshop completed 27 June.
- Priority Action Plan for 2011 – 2012 drafted.
- 'Share and Care' is managing \$5k grant.

#### **Great Southern**

- Discussion Paper completed.
- Workshop completed end of June.
- Priority Action Plan for 2011 – 2012 drafted.
- Albany Youth Support Association Inc is managing \$5k grant.

#### **Peel**

- Demographic and socio economic information provided.
- Workshop completed 1 July 2011.
- Priority Action Plan for 2011 – 2012 is being drafted.
- Peel Community Development Group is managing the \$5k grant.

#### **Pilbara**

- Discussion papers completed for Karratha and Port Hedland.
- Workshops completed 11 and 13 July 2011.
- Priority Action Plan for 2011-2012 is in draft.
- Pilbara Community Legal Services facilitated the workshop and is managing the \$5k grant.

#### **East Kimberley**

- Discussion paper completed.
- A workshop held 15 August 2011.
- Grant pending.

#### **West Kimberley**

- Discussion paper drafted.
- Likely schedule for workshop is September 2011.
- Centrecare will facilitate the workshop and managing the \$5k grant.

#### **Murchison**

- Discussion paper completed.
- Workshop to be held on 16 August 2011. Geraldton Resource Centre to facilitate the workshop and manage the \$5k grant.

#### **Goldfields**

- Discussion Paper completed.

- Workshop to be completed 18 August 2011. Red Cross to facilitate the workshop and manage the \$5k grant.

#### **Bunbury**

- Discussion paper completed.
- Workshop 28 September 2011. AccordWest to facilitate the workshop and manage the \$5k grant.

#### **Metropolitan Regions**

Demographic and socio economic information will be provided to assist discussions. Each district will receive \$500 to assist with workshops.

#### **Midland**

- Workshop scheduled for 2 September 2011. The Chair, WACH, will attend and open the proceedings.

#### **Fremantle and Rockingham**

- Workshop scheduled for 20 September 2011 arrangements being finalised.

#### **Joondalup**

- Workshop scheduled for first week of October 2011.

#### **Mirrabooka**

- Workshop 5 October 2011.

#### **Perth**

- Workshop completed 3 August 2011.

#### **Armadale - Cannington**

- Workshop date to be advised.

### **7. Future Agenda Items**

The following items were confirmed or discussed:

- International Alliance to End Homelessness Conference (Ian Carter, September 2011).
- The Hon Troy Buswell MLA Minister for Housing is attending in October, discuss questions at the September meeting.
- Links between specialist homelessness services and health services: it was suggested the Street to Home Program is a good example and Anthony Collier from the Mobile Clinical Outreach Team (MCOT), Adele Stewart and Lynne Evans be invited to discuss at the November meeting.
- The outcome of the Fair Work Australia Social and Community Services Equal Remuneration Case needs to be discussed at a future meeting.

### **8. Correspondence**

Nil

### **9. General business**

#### **9.1 CHOGM Plan**

Ms Waylen advised the CHOGM plan is linked with the Street to Home service providers which is the primary response for people sleeping rough in the Perth Inner City and Fremantle areas. Eight non government specialist homelessness services will work together to provide assertive outreach and housing support. Coordinated responses include:

- UnitingCare West (UCW) will appoint a Response Co-ordinator to ensure final arrangements are in place and be a point of contact for any queries.
- UCW Tranby Day Centre in Aberdeen Street will provide additional services and hours of operation will be outside normal parameters.
- Other Street to Home service providers will support the opening of the 24 hour response with staff from all providers rostered at Tranby over the CHOGM period.
- The Department will allocate additional brokerage funding to Street to Home service providers to increase their capacity to assist people sleeping rough, for instance, assisting individuals to make alternative accommodation arrangements for the period September, October and November 2011 to ensure pre and post CHOGM support.
- The Department's funded specialist homelessness crisis services will be requested to provide priority access for people sleeping rough during the CHOGM period.
- Public Mental Health Services from both South Metropolitan and North Metropolitan Areas are providing additional resources to provide 24 hour support to Street to Home service providers throughout the CHOGM period. The public Mental Health response is being co-ordinated through the Mobile Clinical Outreach Team which forms part of Street to Home.
- Discussion will occur with mobile soup vans regarding the plan for people sleeping rough during the CHOGM period.

## **9. Next Meeting**

The Chair thanked members for their attendance and Ms Williams for participating via teleconference. The meeting closed at 10:29am.

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