

Western Australian Council on Homelessness

MINUTES OF MEETING Wednesday 6 March 2013

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

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting:

Present

Mr Stanley Jeyaraj	Independent Chair
Mr Richard Aspinall	FaHCSIA
Ms Genevieve Errey	Department of Housing
Professor Paul Flatau	University of Western Australia
Ms Kathleen Gregory	Foundation Housing
Mr James Hunter	Drug and Alcohol Office
Mr Ross Kyrwood	YMCA
Ms Judi Morris	Mental Health Commission
Mr Tony Pietropiccolo	Centrecare
Ms Nanette Williams	Pilbara Community Legal Service

In attendance

Ms Sandra Flanagan	Department for Child Protection
Ms Trina Whitton	Department for Child Protection

Apologies

Mr Steve Glew	Department for Child Protection
Ms Kedy Kristal	Pat Giles Centre
Mr Ian Giles	Department of Corrective Services

2. Minutes of meeting held on 6 February 2013

The minutes of the WA Council on Homelessness meeting held on 6 February 2013 were confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

3. Business Arising

3.1 State and Regional Plans

The Chair introduced Ms Trina Whitton, Director, Service Standards and Contracting, to the Council. Ms Whitton will be working on several projects for the Department, including the State and Regional Plans for Homelessness. Ms Whitton advised she is developing a project plan for on-going regional planning for discussion and further development through the Council. Members discussed issues surrounding the development of the next State Plan, including the uncertainty regarding the interim and future NPAH arrangements.

The following are summary points discussed:

- That WACH take on a greater leadership role.

- There was tension around the development of the previous State Plan, as key stakeholders had differing views on what the completed Plan should look like. Despite the differences, it was acknowledged that the final product proved to be a useful document.
- Information sharing - concern was expressed regarding the difficulties of providing sound, timely advice to the Minister and the sector as members only had limited access to information on a wide range of issues.
- It was suggested that information for discussion be provided well in advance of meetings to enable members to formulate ideas/positions for discussion.
- It was suggested that policy papers could be developed/discussed at WACH with the view to providing timely advice or information to the Minister .
- It was suggested that WACH engage more often with the sector via conferences and workshops.
- It was noted that there is a gap in WA regarding leadership for the homelessness sector eg a peak body.

Action: Ms Whitton to contact Mr Aspinall regarding regional planning and the work being undertaken by FaHCSIA.

3.2 Future NPAH arrangements - update

Deferred to next meeting.

3.3 Victorian and Queensland OAG reports

The Chair confirmed that these reports have been provided to members via email.

3.4 Affordable Housing Strategy - update

Ms Errey advised that the *Progress Report – 1 January 2010 to 30 June 2012, on the Affordable Housing Strategy 2010-2020 – Opening Doors to Affordable Housing*, has now been released and is available on the Department of Housing website.

Action: Ms Flanagan to distribute the link to the report with the draft WACH minutes.

4. Priority Areas for WACH

The Chair provided the following summary of the Working Group's agreed key focus areas/priorities for WACH:

WACH will contribute to the review/development of:

- **State Plan;**
- **Regional Plans;**
- **Sector consultation/roundtables**, with subsequent communiqués to the sector;
- **Policy and strategic planning** relating to the provision of homelessness services in WA; and

WACH will provide **relevant and timely advice** to the Minister for Child Protection on matters pertaining to homelessness.

Members agreed with the above and included a specific focus on **housing supply and affordability**.

The Working Group agreed to meet prior to the next WACH meeting to develop actions under each of the above agreed priorities.

Members discussed possible themes for the roundtables and agreed that housing stock and emerging trends, including regional differences, would be valuable.

A view was also expressed that that certain current policy directions may be working against integration of service provision. For example, with the increase in competition, there seems to be less likelihood of agencies working together. Members agreed that this should be explored at some point in the future.

Action: Working group to convene prior to the next WACH meeting to progress the actions of the work plan.

5. General Business

5.1 Experts to be invited to WACH

This item will be covered by the working group in its deliberations regarding actions against the priority areas (see item 4).

5.2 Other Business

5.2.1 Reconnect extended

Mr Aspinall advised that Reconnect has been extended for three years. This has occurred outside the budget process. Providers have been informed.

Mr Aspinall also advised that the *Journeys Home Research Report: Number 2* was released in February.

The final report on *Lifetime and Intergenerational Experiences of Homelessness in Australia* was also released in February.

Action: Ms Flanagan to forward the links to the above mentioned reports to members with the minutes to this meeting.

6. Next Meeting

The Chair thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 10:10am. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 3 April, 2013 at 9am.