

Western Australian Council on Homelessness

MINUTES OF MEETING Wednesday 3 September 2014

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 and thanked them for accepting the invitation to join the Western Australian Council on Homelessness (WACH):

Present

Mr Stanley Jeyaraj	Independent Chair
Ms Ricky Burges	Western Australian Local Government Association
Mr Eric Dillon	Mental Health Commission
Ms Genevieve Errey	Department of Housing
Mr Steve Glew	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Ms Kathleen Gregory	Foundation Housing
Dr Robyn Martin	Curtin University
Ms Anne Moore	The Lucy Saw Centre/ Women's Council for Family and Domestic Violence Services
Mr Daniel Morrison	Aboriginal Alcohol and Drug Services
Ms Julie Yusop	Albany Youth Support Association

In attendance

Ms Andrea Martin	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Ms Sandra Flanagan	Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Apologies

Ms Helen Grinbergs	Department of Social Services
Mr Don Tunnicliffe	Swan Emergency Accommodation

Acknowledgement to Country made by the Chair.

2. Induction Papers

2.1 Statutory Declaration

Members each provided the required Statutory Declaration.

2.2 Code of Conduct

Members acknowledged the Code of Conduct.

2.3 Terms of Reference

The Chair provided an overview of the Terms of Reference and how they were determined, including the work of the previous Western Australian Council on Homelessness (WACH) members.

The process regarding the provision of advice to the Minister and confidentiality issues were also discussed. It was noted that issues discussed at the WACH meetings are considered confidential until the minutes have been provided to the Minister and endorsed at the following meeting. The minutes are then placed on the

Department's website for public viewing. Items must not be discussed out of context and individual members are not to make public statements on behalf of the WACH.

Members noted that if a conflict of interest should arise, it should be brought to the attention of the Chair and noted in the minutes as appropriate.

2.4 Paper: Future Funding Arrangements of Homelessness Services in WA and Attachments 1 and 2.

Ms Martin and Mr Glew provided a brief overview of the papers, including the current status of funding negotiations and the impending Issues Papers soon to be released by the Commonwealth Government as part of the Reform of the Federation White Paper. An overview of the structure and purpose of the joint State/Commonwealth National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH) and National Affordable Homelessness Agreement (NAHA) programs was provided. It was noted that there is no funding in Commonwealth forward estimates for the NPAH program. Points of discussion included the following:

- NAHA provides funding for a range of crisis and medium term accommodation and support services, meals and day centres.
- NPAH, includes funding for a range of new programs, including expanded support for women and children experiencing domestic violence, additional housing support workers, services for rough sleepers, and a development to provide supported independent accommodation for young people.
- The funding uncertainty is causing stress for staff working in agencies and organisational planning issues such as retention of staff.
- The Hon. Helen Morton MLC, Minister for Child Protection and Family Support and her department are acutely aware of the above issues and have been undertaking discussions with the Commonwealth Government at various levels toward reaching a decision on ongoing funding of the sector.
- Remuneration – the State has provided the State component of 7.5%. Still waiting for the Commonwealth component.
- The success of NPAH in WA can be at least partly attributed to the way government and non-government have worked together to reach common goals improving client outcomes.
- The current NPAH transitional agreement does not include a component for capital work.

2.5 Paper: Homelessness Data Summary

Ms Martin provided an overview of the paper provided prior to the meeting.

Members queried the availability of a regional/metropolitan split of the data. It was agreed that this could be provided at the next meeting.

Action: Additional data to be provided at the next meeting.
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3. WACH Priority Areas

3.1 State and Regional Plans

Mr Glew advised that the development of the new State Plan had been put on hold due to the funding negotiations with the Commonwealth. However, it will now go ahead removing reference to NPAH and NAHA. It is envisaged that it will include key achievements and integrate NAPH and NAHA into 'specialist homelessness services'. A draft outline will be provided at the next meeting for discussion and input. Relevant government departments will be consulted as required. Consultation will also occur with the Ministers Office.

Regional plans will be updated across all districts throughout Western Australia. The aim of regional plans is to implement/maintain an integrated service system responding to homelessness at a local level. The various mainstream services, government departments, community service sector agencies and specialist homelessness services will again be invited to contribute to the development of these plans. Regional plans focus on local priority issues that may be achieved by services working together.

It is envisaged that WACH members will participate in regional forums for the development of the regional plans.

3.2 Sector Consultation

The Chair explained that the planned approach to sector consultation is to host a series of roundtable discussions on specific issues pertaining to homelessness. The outcomes from these sessions will be provided to the Minister.

3.3 Policy advice to the minister.

As above. Further discussion at the next meeting.

4. General Business

4.1 Invitation to the Minister to attend a future meeting

The Chair advised that the Minister will attend the next meeting of WACH. Mr Glew requested members forward items for discussion with the Minister by 11 September 2014.

Action: Members to forward items for discussion with the Minister by 11/9/14.
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4.2 Proxies

The Chair noted that there are to be no proxies at WACH.

4.3 Leadership and Partnership Forum

Mr Glew advised that the purpose of the annual Leadership and Partnership (L&P) Forum is to contribute to the development and implementation of an integrated state-wide child protection, placement and secondary services system that supports families and individuals at risk or in crisis.

Membership of the Forum includes the members of the Community Sector Roundtable, thirty additional management level community sector representatives and senior executive members of the Department for Child Protection and Family Support. Members of WACH will be sent an invitation to attend the Forum.

The theme for this year's L&P Forum is New visions of Civil Society and the impact of inequality and disadvantage in Western Australia. This will focus on the role of the sector, tight fiscal environment and mutual responsibilities of governments and the sector.

5. Next Meeting

The Chair thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 10:15am. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 1 October, 2014 at 9am.