

Western Australian Council on Homelessness

MINUTES OF MEETING Friday 14 October 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
Mr Richard Aspinall	FaHCSIA
Mr Greg Cash	Department of Housing
Mr Steve Glew	Department for Child Protection
Ms Kathleen Gregory	Foundation Housing
Mr James Hunter	Drug and Alcohol Office
Mr Ross Kyrwood	YMCA
Ms Judi Morris	Mental Health Commission
Ms Helen Miskell (<i>proxy</i>)	Department for Child Protection
Mr Tony Pietropiccolo	Centrecare
Mr Steve Robbins	Department of Corrective Services
Ms Nanette Williams	Pilbara Community Legal Service

In attendance

Ms Suma Govindan	Department for Child Protection
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Apologies

Ms Rosemary Bradbury	Department for Child Protection
W/Professor Paul Flatau	University of Western Australia

2. Minutes of meeting held 9 September 2011

The minutes of the WA Council on Homelessness meeting held on 9 September 2011 were confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

3. Guest Speaker – Mr Ian Carter, CEO, Anglicare WA

The Chair welcomed Mr Ian Carter, CEO of Anglicare WA, to the meeting.

Mr Carter provided a presentation on the:

- International Alliance to End Homelessness;
- Prime Minister's Council on Homelessness;
- Study Tour to UK; and
- Establishment of the Oxford Foyer.

The PowerPoint presentation was provided as a handout for member's information.

The Chair thanked Mr Carter for his informative presentation.

4. Update from Department of Housing

Mr Cash provided a brief update regarding the NPA allocations. The flow of allocations for the NPAH programs is progressing well. The Commonwealth has allocated 2300 properties under the National Rental Affordability Scheme bringing the State total to 5,000. The Department of Housing is currently negotiating for additional properties. These properties are to be managed by the private or community sector and will be rented at 80% of market rental value. The Department of Housing has also been successful in receiving funding through the Royalties for Regions accommodation for NGO workers in the north east communities. Successful applicants will be notified soon.

5. Development of Regional Plans to Reduce Homelessness

Ms MacWilliam provided an update on progress with the regional plans.

All discussion papers and workshops in the regional areas have been completed. Priority Action Plans for 2011-2012 are at different stages of development depending on the region.

Country Regions

Wheatbelt

- Priority Action Plan for 2011-2012 – final draft is being disseminated for feedback.

Great Southern

- Priority Action Plan completed.

Peel

- Priority Action Plan for 2011-2012 – final draft is being disseminated for feedback.

Pilbara

- Priority Action Plan for 2011-2012 – final draft has been disseminated for feedback. Meeting to be called for sign off.

East Kimberley

- Priority Action Plan for 2011-2012 to undertake greater regional consultation.

West Kimberley

- Centacare has arranged and will facilitate the workshop and will assist in drafting the Plan.

Murchison

- Workshop completed 16 August. Geraldton Resource Centre facilitated and disseminated the final draft. Feedback has been received and incorporated. Intend to hold meeting for sign off and first project meeting in November 2011.

Goldfields

- Red Cross has drafted and disseminated the Plan for feedback. First meeting of participating agencies was held in September.

Bunbury

- Accordwest facilitated the workshop and is drafting the plan for dissemination in the week beginning 17 October for feedback.

Metropolitan Regions

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

Midland

- Workshop completed on 2 September 2011. The Chair attended and opened the workshop. The draft Plan is being compiled by the Midland District Office.

Fremantle and Rockingham

- Workshop completed on 26 September 2011. The Chair attended and opened the workshop. Facilitated by Zonta CEO. Draft Plan is being compiled by District offices

Joondalup

- Workshop held 5 October 2011. Chair attended and opened the workshop. District Office is drafting the plan for dissemination in the week beginning 17 October, 2011.

Mirrabeeka

- Workshop 5 October 2011. District Office is drafting the plan for dissemination in the week beginning 17 October, 2011.

Perth

- Workshop completed 3 August 2011. Focus on rough sleepers and inner city issues. Shelter WA completed the plan.

Armadale - Cannington

- Workshop completed 4 October 2011. Chair attended and opened the workshop. Draft plan is being drafted for dissemination in the week beginning 17 October for feedback. Intention is to meet with the next Human Services Managers Group meeting.

Common Themes from the workshops included development of an ongoing homelessness action or reference group to project manage the priority actions of plans; Some regions were keen to develop business plans for new accommodation services; One stop shop concepts were emerging with opportunities to build on existing facilities, The creation of a collaborative model for case management assisted by an interactive web-site was also a popular action.

Mr Glew, Executive Director and the Chair acknowledged Ms MacWilliam with regard to the success of the workshops and the good will expressed by participants for the process.

Mr Aspinall suggested that discussions be pursued between DCP and FaHCSIA initially to explore the feasibility and extent of information sharing in an environment of collaborative case management and website applications.

6. Future Agenda Items

- 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 to be discussed at a future meeting.
- Social Innovation Grants – Ruah has received a grant involving an employment program. Mr Francis Lynch, CEO, Ruah to be invited to a meeting to provide an overview.

7. General Business

7.1 Inner City Homelessness

Ms Miskell provided an update on the Inner City Homelessness.

There are a number of developments relating to the inner city services. Some of these are:

- There are a number of new builds: Lentarra, St Bart's, the Oxford Foyer, and soon the new Acute Homelessness Night Shelter;
- The Street To Home program has changed the way the homelessness service system operates;
- The Perth Day Centres are experiencing higher numbers and complexity of clients; and
- There are high numbers of park present people who seem to be staying for longer periods of time.

These developments are changing the service system. In addition, a key strategy under the NPAH is to promote better integration across services. The Safe at Home program has been a key factor in the Domestic Violence service sector and has facilitated looking at the whole sector. The integration project run by the Women's Council has formalised this.

There has been some discussion on getting a consultant to bring the inner city sector players together to map the existing system, look at the changing needs and gaps and make recommendations.

It would be appropriate for WACH to oversee this project. This would involve a couple of members on a steering committee, to develop Terms of Reference, choose a consultant and oversee the project.

WACH members were interested in the role of overseeing the project and asked Ms Miskell to develop a more detailed project plan before making a decision.

Action: Ms Miskell to develop a project plan for the above to present to members.
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7.2 Proposed Homelessness Conference – incorporating NPAH and NAHA Services

Ms Miskell spoke to this item.

Since the commencement of NPAH, the Department has held two forums and a conference for the NPAH services. These have been very successful and an excellent way of bringing services together to develop the service system and facilitate the smooth implementation of the programs.

To date, the NAHA services have not been included in those gatherings. For a number of reasons, it is now timely to hold a homelessness conference which would include NAHA and NAPH services.

The reasons include:

- NPAH services are now fully implemented and becoming an integral part of the homelessness service system.

- The National Quality Framework is now on the agenda nationally and work will be commencing soon on what will be a very large project.
- A conference will be a workforce development opportunity
- It will be an opportunity to get the sector together and promote the further integration across the NAHA and NPAH services.

It has been suggested that the conference be held in late May.

Resolution: *WACH to host the Proposed Homelessness Conference in 2012.*

7.3 Other Business

Nil

8. Next Meeting

The Chair thanked members for their attendance and the meeting closed at 10:30am.

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