

# Western Australian Council on Homelessness

## MINUTES OF MEETING Wednesday 3 June 2015

Department for Child Protection and Family Support  
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
Ms Ricky Burges	Western Australian Local Government Association
Ms Emma Colombera	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
Mr Don Tunnicliffe	Swan Emergency Accommodation
Ms Julie Yusop	Albany Youth Support Association

#### In attendance

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

#### Apologies

Ms Helen Grinbergs	Department of Social Services
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Acknowledgement to Country made by the Chair.

### 2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 May 2015

The minutes from the Western Australian Council on Homelessness meeting held on 6 May 2015 were confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings with one minor amendment to item 3.

#### Business Arising

##### 3.1 Family and Domestic Violence - service system response

The Chair welcomed Ms Collins, Manager – Homelessness, Department for Child Protection and Family Support, to the meeting. Ms Collins and Ms Moore provided an overview of the recent system review and the model established, to be implemented from 1 October. The review was undertaken in partnership with the Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services (WA) and built on findings from the Andrea Pickett Coroner's inquest released in June 2012. An important component of the reform is that three specialist 24/7 emergency response services will take a lead coordination role across the Perth metropolitan area. Key referral points will include WA police, Crisis Care and the Homelessness Referral Service. The following refuges will be involved:

- North - Lead Agency: Pat Giles Centre, 24/7 Emergency Response Referral Response; Kamarang Place; Byanda/Nunyara; Rebecca West House; Harmony House; Stirling Refuge; Ellenbrook Refuge
- South - Lead Agency: Lucy Saw Centre, 24/7 Emergency Response Referral Response - Pat Thomas Memorial Community House; Warrawee Refuge; Wyn Carr House; Zonta Refuge; Tuart House
- East - Lead Agency: Starick Services, Mary Smith Refuge; 24/7 Emergency Response Referral Response - Starick House; Koolkuna Refuge; Nardine Refuge; Orana Refuge; Wooree Miya Refuge; Kira House.

Another essential component of the review in remote WA is an on-call system in various remote safe houses, incorporating outreach services and brokerage to be tailored to the specific needs of the regions.

Independent members discussed the timing (of the State Election) regarding approaches from constituents to the major political parties to discuss these issues and what may be provided beyond 2016.

Mr Morrison advised that the Wooree Miya Women's Refuge has received funding, in addition to Department for Child Protection and Family Support funding, from the Department of Housing, Lotterywest and the Indigenous Land Council to increase service provision to cater for 10 families in self-contained units. This includes facilities for larger families and families with older boys. Training facilities will also be incorporated thus improving linkages to training and employment opportunities.

Mr Glew advised that work has begun on the Ellenbrook refuge, with completion scheduled for January 2016.

### **3.2 State Budget**

Mr Glew reported that the Departments overall budget is similar to the previous year, with a slight increase allocated to specific programs. The budget allocation is impacted by required efficiency measures. In previous years the sector has been quarantined from these measures but this is not a viable option this year.

### **3.3 Department of Housing – Housing Budget**

Ms Colombera discussed the current challenging fiscal environment. The Government has announced that there will be an additional \$560 million in social housing investments. This will provide for 1000 social housing dwellings by 2017.

Members discussed the Queensland model for the public housing waitlist. Ms Colombera agreed to investigate the Queensland model and discuss it at the next WACH meeting.

<b>Action:</b> Ms Colombera to discuss the Queensland waitlist model at the July meeting.
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## **4. WACH Priority Areas**

### **4.1 State and Regional Plans**

Ms Martin provided a brief overview of the format of the draft State Plan and the external processes impacting the content and timing of the Plan, including the Commonwealth White Paper process.

The following suggestions were discussed:

- Consultation processes incorporating regional/remote locations is required. WALGA offered to provide support for the consultation processes in the regions, if required.
- The difficulty in incorporating policy and program linkages with other government departments as most are undergoing reform due to the efficiency requirements at both State and Commonwealth levels.
- The benefits of a *statement* of what has happened over the last few years and current status before planning for the future.
- The potential to incorporate recommendations for the future.
- The benefits in identifying gaps in service delivery that still need to be addressed.
- Incorporate principles of collaboration, intervention, etc - the principles that enable a successful homelessness system.

Questions:

- Can it be called a 'plan' given the current lack of recommendations / forward planning?
- How does the plan align with Commonwealth initiatives/requirements?
- How does it compare to other jurisdictions?
- If recommendations are made – who are they for?
- What value will the government gain from the system over this period of time?
- How are we going to address primary homelessness, Aboriginal homelessness, loss of services to regional/remote locations?
- Should the development of the State Plan occur after the Public Sector governance has been announced to enable a better understanding of where the gaps may be and where effort should be focused?

Two studies commissioned by WALGA, the Systematic Sustainability Study and Affordable Housing: Opportunities for Local Government were suggested as good references for these issues - <http://www.walga.asn.au/LGReform/SystemicSustainabilityStudy/FinalReport.aspx>  
The PDF for the Affordable Housing paper to be circulated with the minutes.

Ms Burges advised that WALGA would be prepared to provide a report on homelessness issues from the Local Government sector perspective to a future WACH meeting. Members agreed that this would be valuable and appreciated.

**Actions:**

Members to provide formal feedback to Ms Flanagan by Friday 12 June 2015.  
WALGA Housing Affordability paper to be made available to WACH members.  
Ms Burges to request WALGA prepare a report on homelessness issues from the Local Government sector perspective.

**4.2 Sector Consultation**

Deferred.

**4.3 Policy advice to the Minister.**

**4.3.1 Aboriginal Homelessness Working Group**

Mr Morrison advised that the working group discussed the following items in the first meeting:

- Family Homelessness
- Parks issues/ Patient Assistance Transport Scheme (PATs) Review
- Lack of services in remote Communities

The working group is meeting today immediately following WACH.

Members were advised that an Intensive Family Support Housing Program (pilot) has been established to work with families who have children at risk of entering care due to homelessness following an eviction from a Department of Housing property.

Up to six families who agree to the strict conditions of income management, taking out a liquor restricted premises order for the home, and participation in the Department's Responsible Parenting programs, will be able to participate over the 12 month pilot period.

The program is limited to people in metropolitan Perth and is being led by the Department's Aboriginal Engagement and Coordination (AEC) directorate. Other partners to this program include the WA Police, Department of Housing, Corrective Services, and Noongar Mia Mia Limited.

## **5. General Business**

### **5.1 Youth Homelessness**

The Chair discussed a story he recently viewed on a youth homelessness initiative in South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria. He asked that this be followed up and information provided at the next WACH meeting.

<b>Action:</b> Ms Flanagan to source information on the above mentioned program.
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## **6. Next Meeting**

The Chair thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 10:35am. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 1 July, 2015 at 9am.