

Western Australian Council on Homelessness

MINUTES OF MEETING Wednesday 14 August 2013

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
Ms Genevieve Errey	Department of Housing
Dr Paul Flatau	University of Western Australia
Mr James Hunter	Drug and Alcohol Office
Ms Astrid Kalders	Department of Corrective Services
Ms Kedy Kristal	Pat Giles Centre
Ms Judi Morris	Mental Health Commission
Mr Tony Pietropiccolo	Centrecare
Ms Nanette Williams	Pilbara Community Legal Service

In attendance

Ms Trina Whitton	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Ms Maureen Flynn	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Ms Sandra Flanagan	Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Apologies

Mr Richard Aspinall	FaHCSIA
Mr Steve Glew	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Ms Kathleen Gregory	Foundation Housing
Mr Ross Kyrwood	YMCA

2. Minutes of meeting held on 5 June 2013

The minutes of the WA Council on Homelessness meeting held on 5 June 2013 were confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

3. WACH Priority Areas

3.1 State Plans and 3.2 Regional Plans

Ms Whitton advised the three key elements for regional plans have been drafted, and requested feedback from members:

- Identify local issues for homelessness.
- Consider prevention strategies and early identification of individuals and families that are at risk of becoming homeless.
- Identify mechanisms or systems to increase case coordination for individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Each region has been requested to provide a brief report on the review of the previous regional plan. While the information received to date has been valuable, the response rate has been low. Ms Whitton is following up with the regions that have not responded. Several regions have homelessness forums which have continued meeting throughout the year, however others have had to reconvene the forums and have not yet met to review the regional plan.

Ms Whitton will meet with the Metropolitan and Country District Director groups separately to discuss the ongoing requirements regarding development of the next regional plans. These meetings will take place in September.

It is intended that the regional workshops regarding the development of local regional plans will take place in November 2013. Once dates have been set, WACH members will be informed and asked to nominate which regional workshops they can attend. These workshops will be locally driven, ideally with a WACH member and a representative from CPFS Head Office in attendance.

3.3 Sector Consultation

The Chair and Mr Pietropiccolo met to explore options with regard to engaging and consulting the sector as part of WACH's priority area. They identified a report by Gallop, focusing on community consultation. It was agreed this report may be useful in determining the best means of engaging the sector in effective consultation. Ms Errey recalled the report and agreed it may be of benefit, she agreed to try to locate a copy of the report for WACH.

Action: Ms Errey to locate the Gallop report, if possible.

3.4 Policy, advice to the Minister, dissemination of information
Deferred.

4. Guest Speaker: Mr Barry Doyle, Community Housing Coalition WA

The Chair welcomed Mr Doyle to the meeting. As requested, Mr Doyle provided a repeat of his presentation provided to the opening of Homelessness Person's Week, including information on the following:

- An analysis of homelessness in WA.
- The changing face of homelessness.
- Homelessness and the housing market failure.
- Tackling Homelessness: What's being done.
- What needs to happen next?

The Chair thanked Mr Doyle for his comprehensive presentation and it was agreed that a copy of the presentation would be circulated to members with the minutes of the meeting.

Action: Ms Flanagan to provide a copy of the presentation to members with the minutes of the meeting.
--

5. Business Arising

5.1 Inner City Review

Ms Miskell advised that the working group met on 24 June 2013 and distributed the minutes from that meeting. The next step is to develop an action list for WACH. The working group convene another meeting to further progress.

Action: Ms Flanagan to coordinate the next working group meeting.

5.2 Big Builds Project Proposal

Ms Miskell advised that the Big Builds project proposal is progressing. A meeting has been scheduled with Lotterywest to clarify project focus and goals.

6. General Business

6.1 National Homelessness Agenda

Ms Flynn provided an update on progress with the national homelessness agenda. While the Commonwealth government is in caretaker mode, the States and Territories have continued to consider what funding arrangements may look like beyond 2014. There is no NPAH funding identified in the forward estimates beyond 2014. The Commonwealth government is resistant to rolling the NPAH funding into the NAHA funding, but are looking at an agreement longer than 4 years.

It was suggested that members discuss with the Minister, when she attends WACH, the States commitment to matching the Commonwealth funding.

6.2 Other business

6.2.1 Health - integrated Plan

Ms Morris reported that the Mental Health Commission and the Drug and Alcohol Office have been directed to develop a comprehensive optimal mix of mental health services plan, including alcohol and other drugs, to the Minister for Mental Health for her consideration. This has come out of a two year national project being undertaken with the States and Territories on a National Mental Health Services Planning Framework. The modelling tool that has been developed is to provide the optimal mix of required services for a population. It incorporates the whole spectrum including promotion and prevention, early intervention, treatment, continuing care, support for employment and housing and other support requirements needed for the individual. This Framework will be released in September, and WA will draw on the methodology developed as part of the National Mental Health Services Planning Framework project. The requirements include engaging/consulting with the sector and identifying marginalised groups, including homelessness. Ms Morris agreed to provide a presentation on this at the next meeting of WACH to gain feedback from members. The report must be completed by 31 December 2013.

Members discussed the importance of integration between homelessness, mental health and drug and alcohol services. It was suggested that there is general interest from the Partnership Forum and the Department for Premier and Cabinet on this issue looking at closer partnerships. It was requested that the possibility of establishing a direct link between WACH and the Partnership Forum be discussed as an action item.

Action: This item to remain on the agenda for September 2013.

6.2.2 Private Sector involvement in Homelessness

Dr Flatau suggested that private sector involvement in homelessness may be appropriate to include on a future agenda for WACH.

A recent example is the United Way Homelessness Coalition project, including Ruah and St Bartholomew's with Bankwest and other private sector agencies. It is encouraging to see initiatives of this kind, building in new ideas and linking in new sectors to tackle homelessness.

There is another project, further down the track, linking in women in homelessness with employment and training. More information on this project will be provided in the future.

The Department of Housing is also developing a prospectus to attract the private sector into public housing.

7. Next Meeting

The Chair thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 10:40am. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 4 September, 2013 at 9am.