

Western Australian Council on Homelessness

MINUTES OF MEETING Wednesday 5 August 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 (teleconference)	Independent Chair
Ms Emma Colombera	Housing Authority
Mr Steve Glew (Acting Chair)	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Dr Robyn Martin	Curtin University
Mr Daniel Morrison	Aboriginal Alcohol and Drug Services
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 Ricky Burges	Western Australian Local Government Association
Ms Helen Grinbergs	Department of Social Services
Mr Don Tunnicliffe	Swan Emergency Accommodation
Ms Kathleen Gregory	Foundation Housing
Ms Maureen Lewis	Mental Health Commission
Ms Anne Moore	The Lucy Saw Centre/ Women's Council for Family and Domestic Violence Services

Acknowledgement to Country made by the A/Chair.

2. Capacity building and Intensive Family Support Housing Program

The A/Chair introduced Ms Mandy Gadsdon, Executive Director, Aboriginal Engagement & Coordination, Department for Child Protection and Family Support, to the meeting.

Ms Gadsdon distributed the Operational Flow Chart for the Intensive Family Support Housing Program and provided an overview. Key points raised included:

- It is a joint program with the Department for Child Protection and Family Support, Housing Authority, WA Police and Corrective Services.
- Commenced in March 2015.
- Twelve month pilot, working with six families.
- Staggered start dates for the six families, first family moved in on 31 July 2015.
- Location of the accommodation is important, for example close to education, sports.

- Agreements are established regarding Income Management and alcohol restrictions.

Ms Gadsdon agreed to provide six monthly updates to WACH on the progress of this program. The Minister is briefed as required and the Child Safety Directors Group is briefed regularly.

Ms Colombera agreed to forward information on this program, as provided to WACH, to relevant units within the Housing Authority.

Ms Gadsdon advised that, in regards to the paper on Capacity Building provided prior to the meeting, WACOSS is currently developing a community consultation forum. Information on this forum will be provided as it becomes available.

Dr Martin discussed the difficulties around employing Aboriginal staff, specifically the *Looking Forward* project in the south east corridor with Michael Wright and Aboriginal Elders. Ms Gadsdon and Dr Martin agreed to discuss, out of session, the various work being done in this area.

The plan forward for the Aboriginal Homelessness Working Group was discussed. It was agreed to terminate the working group, placing Aboriginal Issues on the WACH agenda as a standing item. Ms Gadsdon agreed to attend WACH to discuss issues that may link with the work she is undertaking as required.

The A/Chair thanked Ms Gadsdon for attending the meeting and the information provided.

Action: This item to be included on the agenda in six months (February 2016).
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3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 1 July 2015

The minutes from the Western Australian Council on Homelessness meeting held on 1 July 2015 were confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

Business Arising

4.1 Queensland Wait list – overview

Ms Colombera provided a paper outlining the Queensland model. One notable difference from Western Australia's (WA) model is the on-going eligibility assessment, enabling more flexibility in allocating housing. Queensland is committed to transferring 90% of social housing to non-government organisations by 2020.

In WA, the government is looking to transfer more housing stock to the non-government sector into the future, as the capacity for the sector to manage this increases. Establishing multiple, sustainable pathways, regulation reform and making changes to rent setting policies are priorities. The Housing Authority is working to move towards setting rent at a flat rate of 25% of income.

It was suggested that information on aspects of the Queensland model that may benefit WA, be raised with the Minister for Housing.

4.2 Mental Health 10 Year Plan

Deferred to September.

5. WACH Priority Areas

5.1 State and Regional Plans

Ms Andrea Martin distributed a copy of the latest draft of the State Plan and provided an overview. This document is no longer referred to as a plan. Significant changes have been made since the last draft, incorporating feedback from WACH and the Department. Members agreed to read the document and provide feedback directly to Ms Martin. Ms Martin requested nominations from members for the provision of detailed feedback/advice. Mr Morrison and Dr Martin agreed to meet with Ms Martin to progress. Ms Martin will also be meeting with the Housing Authority and other government departments mentioned in the document. The document to be forwarded immediately after the meeting to WACH members not present today.

Mr Glew thanked Ms Martin for her work on the Homelessness document.

Action:

- Members to provide feedback on the document to Ms Martin
- Mr Morrison and Dr Martin to meet with Ms Martin to provide detailed feedback on the document.
- Document to be circulated to members not present today.

5.2 Sector Consultation

A Roundtable meeting with the broader homelessness sector to be organised once the Green Paper on the Reform of the Federation is formally released.

Action: A Roundtable meeting to be organised once the green paper have been released.

5.3 Policy advice to the Minister.

The A/Chair advised that items as discussed at the last WACH meeting were provided to the Minister in the letter with the Minutes attached.

Members requested that the Minister be invited to the December meeting of WACH.

Action: Minister to be invited to the December meeting of WACH.

6. General Business

6.1 WACH Quorum

The A/Chair discussed the need to establish a quorum for the WACH meeting to proceed. This item to be included on the September agenda for discussion when more members are present.

6.2 Wooree Miya Women's Refuge

The A/Chair advised that the development of the Wooree Miya Women's Refuge is ahead of schedule and is now due for completion by mid to late 2016. The facility will cater for 10 families in self-contained units and includes training facilities improving linkages to training and employment opportunities.

7. Next Meeting

The A/Chair thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 10:10am. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 2 September, 2015 at 9am.