

# Western Australian Council on Homelessness

## MINUTES OF MEETING Wednesday 3 December 2014

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
Mr Eric Dillon	Mental Health Commission
Ms Genevieve Errey	Department of Housing
Mr Steve Glew	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Ms Helen Grinbergs	Department of Social Services
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
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#### Apologies

Ms Ricky Burges	Western Australian Local Government Association
Ms Kathleen Gregory	Foundation Housing
Dr Robyn Martin	Curtin University

Acknowledgement to Country made by the Chair.

### 2. Guest Speaker: Mr Bryan Palmer, Group Manager Housing, Homelessness and Gambling, Department of Social Services

The Chair welcomed Mr Palmer via Video Conference. Mr Palmer discussed the current status of NPAH negotiations and the White Paper process for the Reform of the Federation and the Taxation Review.

It was reiterated that there is no funding for NPAH in the forward estimates for the 2015/16 budget. No decision has been made to date. The ERC will finalise a decision no later than the April ERC meeting and announce the decision in May. If the NPAH is rolled over for another year, it is envisaged that there will be scope to make changes to existing programs as required. Essentially the sector is in a similar position of uncertainty as occurred in the previous two years.

Discussion ensued on the significant constraints, such as staff retention, service capacity, loss of corporate knowledge, loss of years of government investment and increased homelessness, as a result of this continued uncertainty. It was also noted that this uncertainty is also creating issues for government in its ability to abide by its own agreements. This is not limited to homelessness. Other government departments

managing agreements in various sectors, such as mental health and drug and alcohol, are experiencing similar uncertainty.

The Housing and Homelessness Issues Paper has not yet been released. This is due to be released before Christmas 2014. A series of consultations will take place throughout the country from February 2015. The White Paper is scheduled for completion and release by mid-2016.

The White Paper on taxation reform has similar timelines to the White Paper on the reform of the Federation.

The Chair thanked Mr Palmer for speaking to the Western Australian Council on Homelessness.

### **3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 November 2014**

The minutes from the Western Australian Council on Homelessness meeting held on 5 November 2014 were confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

### **4. WACH Priority Areas**

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

Ms Martin distributed the draft State Plan and provided an overview. Members were asked to provide detailed feedback via email, directly to Ms Rebecca Kafetzis - [Rebecca.Kafetzis@cpfs.wa.gov.au](mailto:Rebecca.Kafetzis@cpfs.wa.gov.au) before February. A more comprehensive draft will then be presented at the February meeting of WACH.

It was suggested that the section on *Demonstrating Outcomes* should include learnings on what has worked well, linking to future directions.

#### **4.2 Sector Consultation**

Mr Glew and the Chair distributed the draft and provided an overview of the draft plan for sector roundtable meetings. It was proposed that the first roundtable meeting be held on 3 February 2015, with a focus on scenario planning. This will focus specifically on the current NPAH programs/funding and management of the range of possible outcomes resulting from a change to or cessation of funding.

The proposed focus questions for this roundtable meeting need to be reworked and tightened. Members to consider the questions and list of sector representatives to be invited.

<b>Action:</b> This is to be progressed, invites sent and the date to be locked in.
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#### **4.3 Policy advice to the minister.**

The Chair discussed the issue of alternate housing options. Ms Errey is organising for a Department of Housing representative to attend the February meeting of WACH to provide an overview of alternative housing options currently being considered by the Department of Housing. Members discussed the importance of connecting the not for profit sector to the housing industry and that WACH may have a role initiating this connection.

<b>Action:</b> Ms Errey to confirm the representative from the Department of housing to attend the Feb WACH meeting to discuss alternate housing options.
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### **5. General Business**

#### **5.1 Specialist Homelessness Services Guidelines**

Ms Martin advised that these guidelines or protocols, as they had been termed in the past, have been developed by the Department on behalf of the homelessness services and government departments. They have been in place and utilised for many years. Recently they have been under review with consultations occurring with the sector and all relevant government departments. There have been several changes to practice and legislation since they were first developed.

It was requested that several WACH members nominate to participate on a working group to provide feedback and input into the review and updating process. The nominated members will be contacted by Ms Rebecca Kafetzis. Feedback/input can be provided over the phone and by email. Nominated members are: Julie Yusop, Daniel Morrison, Anne Moore and Don Tunnicliffe.

**Action:** The above mentioned members to be consulted and provide feedback into the review of the Specialist Homelessness Services Guidelines

**5.2 Release of the 10 Year Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Services Plan**  
The Western Australian Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Services Plan 2015-2025 has now been launched for consultation. It is focused on achieving system-wide changes over the next ten years to help the sectors better meet the needs of Western Australians with mental health, alcohol and other drug problems and support their families and carers.

**5.3 AHURI/Minister Andrews meeting**  
Mr Glew advised that Mr Ian Carter is meeting with Minister Kevin Andrews today and will put forward the views of the Western Australian non-government sector on the on-going funding of NPAH programs.

**6. Next Meeting**  
The Chair thanked members for their time and input in to the Western Australian Council on Homelessness this year. It is exciting to see the shift from ideas into action with the roundtable meetings schedule for 2015 and the first draft of the new State Plan for Homelessness. While it has been a tough year, members contribution to this Council and the sector is valued. The Chair wished members a happy and safe festive season.

The Chair thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 10:00am. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 4 February, 2015 at 9am.