

# Western Australian Council on Homelessness

## MINUTES OF MEETING Wednesday 2 December 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
Mr Steve Glew	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Ms Kathleen Gregory	Foundation Housing
Ms Janine Kingston	Housing Authority
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 Ricky Burges	Western Australian Local Government Association
Ms Maureen Lewis	Mental Health Commission

Acknowledgement to Country made by the Chair.

### 2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 November 2015

The minutes from the Western Australian Council on Homelessness meeting held on 4 November 2015 were confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

### 3. Business Arising

#### 3.1 Mental Health 10 Year Plan

Deferred.

The Chair discussed the lack of representation from the Mental Health Commission on WACH and it was agreed that this would be discussed with the Minister at today's meeting.

#### 3.2 Housing Authority and Commonwealth representatives

Ms Grinbergs has formally resigned her position on WACH as she no longer works for the Department of Social Services. A nomination for a new Commonwealth representative will be provided in the near future.

### 3.3 Roundtable – outcomes

Members discussed the outcomes from the Homelessness Roundtable meeting held in November including the following focus issues:

- Issues concerning risk management and the increasing complexity of clients.
- Aboriginal Homelessness and over representation of Aboriginal people.
- Collaborative work of Government. A recent example was provided whereby the Mental Health Commission released a Request for Tender, giving applicants one month to respond, including the requirement to develop a partnership with a Community Housing provider.

Other issues discussed:

- Housing Authorities three strikes policy – it was agreed to provide a comparison of 2014 and 2015 data at the next meeting. Members discussed the benefit of differentiating the reasons for the ‘strike’ in cases of domestic violence. In these cases it is often not the woman’s ‘strike’ but they are penalised for it.
- Lack of ‘peak’ body for homelessness in Western Australia – no opportunity for the sector to come together, particularly for rural/remote services.
- The State Plan/Report on homelessness is progressing well. The Minister has been briefed; it will go to the Department’s Corporate Executive before going to the Minister for sign off.
- The regional meetings incorporating homelessness issues/items have been progressing, although will break from mid-December, resuming in February.
- Metropolitan homelessness meetings to discuss the regional homelessness plans will begin early 2016.
- \$100 million funding package from the Federal Government allocated to address domestic violence nationally.

<b>Action</b> : Ms Kingston to provide data on the Three Strikes Policy for 2014 and 2015.
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### 4. Hon. Helen Morton, MLC, Minister for Child Protection

The Chair welcomed the Minister and Mr Shane Bennett to the meeting and provided an update on the activities of the WACH over the past year.

The Minister acknowledged the achievements and effort of the sector working in a complex environment.

The following items were discussed with the Minister (in addition to those identified under item 3.3):

- The lack of affordable housing and the impact across the community services sector.
- Interconnectedness of issues regarding alcohol and drug, mental health, homelessness and domestic violence and the consequent challenges for service provision.
- Overcrowding
- Minister Morton has been appointed the lead Minister for Regional Services Reform. Homelessness is a priority for the Remote Services Reform Unit.
- The success of the Intensive Family Housing Support Program pilot.
- The need for improved training.
- Visa 457 issues – domestic violence policies to enable the women to access assistance. Collaboration and regular meetings with the agencies concerned are required to ensure awareness of the issues and determine/implement solutions.
- Benefit and success of 50 Lives 50 Homes program.
- Growing number of older women in homelessness.

The Chair thanked the Minister for attending the meeting.

**5. General Business**

**5.1 Other Business**

NIL

**6. Next Meeting**

The Chair thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 10:40am.  
The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 3 February, 2016 at 9am.