

Western Australian Council on Homelessness

MINUTES OF MEETING Wednesday 10 February 2016

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 Maureen Lewis	Mental Health Commission
Dr Robyn Martin	Curtin University
Mr Daniel Morrison	Aboriginal Alcohol and Drug Services
Mr Don Tunncliffe	Swan Emergency Accommodation
Ms Julie Yusop	Albany Youth Support Association
Ms Ricky Burges	Western Australian Local Government Association

In attendance

Ms Pippa Monger	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Ms Andrea Martin	Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Apologies

Ms Kathleen Gregory	Foundation Housing
Ms Janine Kingston	Housing Authority
Ms Anne Moore	The Lucy Saw Centre/Women's Council for Family and Domestic Violence

Mr Tunncliffe arrived at 9.40am

Acknowledgement to Country made by the Chair.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 December 2015

The minutes from the Western Australian Council on Homelessness meeting held on 2 December 2015 were confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

3. Business Arising

3.1 Mental Health 10 Year Plan

Ms Lewis presented a video used in the launch of the Western Australian Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Services Plan 2015-2025 (the Plan). An overview of the Plan:

- The Plan was endorsed by Cabinet in November 2015.
- \$1.92 billion required over the ten years, however this is subject to the fiscal capacity of the State Government.
- The Plan is a national based modelling tool. The Implementation Plan is currently being developed and will be completed by March. This will outline who needs to do what, by when and who will be involved.

- The Implementation Plan has three time horizons: by 2017, by 2020 and by 2025. The first phase is looking at preparation in recognition of the current fiscal environment.
- References to homelessness in the Plan:
 - recognised further work required in modelling funding investment;
 - many actions in the Plan need to look at housing and accommodation to treat people holistically;
 - an Accommodation Strategy is being developed as a priority looking at the Commission and other agencies' role in make sure there are accommodation options for all people across all ages. This will be finalised by the end of the year.
- It was noted that the launch video had a lack of child, adolescents and Aboriginal people represented.

Action: Ms Lewis to provide an overview of the Implementation Plan and items that relate to WACH at the April meeting.

Discussion of the Plan included:

- the 5th National Mental Health Plan is due at the end of the year, this may bring Commonwealth Government announcement on funding for mental health;
- mental health and other areas may be impacted by funding required for NDIS. This is a priority area in the 5th National Mental Health Plan;
- the Accommodation Strategy is in the project scoping stage and feedback from key stakeholders will be sourced. Ms Lewis is able to distribute a copy of the project scope to WACH members for feedback;
- the Plan only had two pages addressing Aboriginal mental health issues. Ms Lewis advised that Aboriginal people were consulted in the development of the Plan and the Commission acknowledge that there is more work to do in this space; and
- other areas of complexity include working with refugees and families where children are at risk of being removed and have housing needs.

Mr Morrison noted concern regarding the consultation process with Aboriginal people if the result was only two pages in the Plan. He expressed concern that the Plan had a very mainstream focus and informed members he had provided this feedback to the Mental Health Commission at different forums. It was noted that mental health and drug and alcohol are two drivers for children coming into care and Aboriginal children represent 52% of children in care. Concern was raised by members regarding the Implementation Plan being based on the Plan and therefore how Aboriginal issues can be appropriately addressed.

Members discussed the role of WACH in providing information to the Minister regarding these concerns. The Chair agreed to write to the Minister to outline these concerns. The Chair also added that his correspondence will point at the opportunity to address Aboriginal Mental Health concerns through the Implementation Plan.

Action: WACH Chair to send a letter to the Minister outlining the concerns raised by WACH members at the lack of representation of Aboriginal specific mental health and drug and alcohol issues and strategies to address these issues.

Action: Ms Lewis to provide WACH members ongoing feedback on the Mental Health Commission's strategies to address Aboriginal mental health and drug and alcohol issues in the Implementation Plan.

3.2 Comparison of 2014 and 2015 data re Three Strikes Policy

Deferred.

3.3 Focus Issues for 2016

The Chair, Mr Glew and Ms Martin met with the Director General to outline priorities for WACH in 2016 and a timeline was drafted for consultation with WACH members.

Discussion of the WACH 2016 Timeline document included:

- clarification of the purpose of the NGO forums and consultations, NGO forums will be WACH driven and provide advice to the Minister as per the Terms of Reference and regional consultations will be department driven;
- the Snapshot of Homelessness paper is back with Corporate Communications to include updated data and amendments to the policy section to include COAG activities;
- the Snapshot of Homelessness paper outlines a consultation process the Department will undertake which will pick up on the NPAH and NAHA and coordination of these services with/or without confirmation of the funding;
- no growth funding in NPAH Commonwealth funding for 2015-16 and 2016-17. Through advice from key stakeholders last year, including WACH, the decision was to provide increased funding to cover indexation and Equal Remuneration Order costs through reduced brokerage, ceasing three metro public tenancy support services and reducing two regional public tenancy services from 2FTE to 1FTE. Approximately \$1.7 million is required to cover these costs for 2016-17;
- significant work needs to be undertaken with the sector to rationalise those services by the end of March, this will ensure services get adequate notice of any changes to arrangements;
- meeting with the peak bodies in February to ensure they have a common understanding of these issues, particularly around the NPAH. The meeting to be held on 25 February with the heads of the peak bodies and the Chair of WACH, with feedback provided to WACH members at the March meeting;
- regional consultations are a key activity within the consultation process. Regional Human Services Management Groups will have a key role in the consultations, however they have a broad range of matters to look at with different levels of capacity and focus on homelessness. Still need to develop the role WACH will take in the regional consultations, especially in the metro area;
- other activities include the mobilisation discussion with sector peak bodies and a survey with service providers to look at what we are going to do in the future;
- Members agreed to invite Shelter to March WACH meeting to provide an overview on who they are; where they have come from and where they are currently (including priorities) and where the organisation is going. It was recommended to invite Chantal Roberts and Shae Garwood; and
- first NGO forum in March, members agreed to have a theme of Aboriginal homelessness. Ms Burges and Mr Morrison to work together on the forum with secretariat support from Ms Monger.

Members to provide information to Ms Monger if they wish to see other aspects included in the timeline for 2016.

Action: Ms Monger to arrange feedback to service providers participating in the last NGO Forum on the discussion at WACH with the Minister.

3.4 Mental Health representative

Ms Lewis confirmed that she will be representing the Mental Health Commission on WACH.

3.5 Department of Social Services representative

Members were informed the DSS WA State Manager position is currently being advertised and the recruitment finalised by the end of March. There is a current restructure and an Area

Manager responsible for WA, SA and NT will commence 16 February. DSS will advise by the end of the month who is the appropriate person to attend WACH.

4. WACH Priority Areas

The Chair deferred these items.

5. General Business

5.1 Other Business

The Chair reminded members that WACH concludes in August. Members will wait to hear from the Minister in regard to the future of WACH.

The Chair informed members that he will be away May, June and July.

6. Next Meeting

The Chair thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 10:37am.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 2 March, 2016 at 9am.