

Western Australian Council on Homelessness

MINUTES OF MEETING Wednesday 1 June 2016

Department for Child Protection and Family Support
189 Royal Street, East Perth
Meeting commenced at 9:05am

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

Present

Mr Don Tunnicliffe	Acting Chair/ Swan Emergency Accommodation
Ms Ricky Burges	Western Australian Local Government Association
Mr Stuart Clarke	Housing Authority
Ms Kathleen Gregory	Foundation Housing
Ms Anne Moore	The Lucy Saw Centre/ Women's Council for Family and Domestic Violence Services
Ms Julie Yusop	Albany Youth Support Association

In attendance

Ms Pippa Monger	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Ms Rebecca Kafetzis (for Ms Andrea Martin)	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Ms Suma Govindan	Department for Child Protection and Family Support (via teleconference)

Apologies

Mr Steve Glew	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Mr Stanley Jeraraj	Independent Chair

Acknowledgement to Country made by the Chair.

The Chair welcomed new member, Mr Stuart Clarke from the Housing Authority.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 March 2016

The minutes from the Western Australian Council on Homelessness meeting held on 6 April 2016 were confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

3. Business Arising

3.1 Housing Authority Disruptive Behaviour Management Strategy

Mr Clarke presented the Disruptive Behaviour Management Scheme data on the number of strikes 2013-14 and 2014-15 (refer to handout). Mr Clarke reported there was anecdotal information regarding a change in behaviour reducing the number of strikes. Currently there is no data collected on the reasons for the strikes.

Members discussed issues around the three strikes policy including need for early engagement and intervention, prior to commencement of tenancy. Foundation Housing has developed a Wellbeing Index undertaken at the commencement of tenancy, which measures the impact of a safe and secure home on a person's overall wellbeing.

Ms Moore asked about the Housing Authority's maintenance efficiency as anecdotal information indicates there is considerable housing stock being unused due to maintenance requirements.

ACTION: Mr Clarke to enquire about this issue with the relevant person at the Housing Authority.

Members discussed the barriers people experience when exited from public housing with no housing options or people with entrenched behaviours that require intensive support, and the impact this has on the homelessness sector.

4. WACH Priority Areas

4.1 State Plans and Regional Plans

Ms Govindan provided an update on the regional planning forums. The purpose of the forums is to identify agreed local priority issues around homelessness to inform the development of new service models.

Dates have been confirmed in Pilbara, West Kimberley and Goldfields regions, with tentative dates for Wheatbelt and Great Southern. Forums will target local, state and federal government representatives, funded services, development commissions, Aboriginal corporations, Regional Human Services Managers and any other relevant stakeholders.

WACH members are interested in attending forums and requested clarity around dates of forums and if costs would be reimbursed for attendance at regional forums.

ACTION: Ms Govindan to email WACH members of confirmed forums dates and as other forum dates are confirmed.

Consumer survey with funded services and departmental staff is still being finalised. 190 responses were received, 145 from funded services and 45 from departmental staff. The report will be ready for the next WACH meeting.

Ms Kafetzis provided a background of homelessness funding arrangements and an update on the Homeless in Western Australia paper released by the Minister. The paper is the start of the reform activities, which includes the regional planning forums.

4.2 Sector Consultation

Sector consultations planned throughout the year included the Aboriginal Homelessness consultation forum held in March 2016, another NGO consultation forum planned for October 2016 and a larger Homelessness Forum identified for August 2016.

ACTION: Add Homelessness Forum to July agenda for discussion.

Ms Gregory informed members that Ruah are leading a Homelessness Roundtable on 15 June 2016, with invitations to all the political parties to talk about their commitments towards homelessness. The local roundtable will feed into the national conversation around homelessness. The Liberal party have not confirmed if a representative will be attending.

4.3 Provision of Advice to the Minister

Mr Tunnicliffe encouraged members to look at the research briefing paper for the Cost of Youth Homelessness in Australia report (refer to attachment). The paper provides comparative costings in regard to health and justice issues with the general youth and the long term unemployed youth populations. The link between young people having a period in care and

experiencing youth homelessness was discussed. This report is the first of a series of reports into youth homelessness.

ACTION: Advise the Minister of the report and research briefing paper via the WACH minutes and provide a copy to the Minister.

4.4 Aboriginal Homelessness Issues

WACH members requested a representative from the Aboriginal Engagement and Co-ordination Division to provide an update on the Intensive Family Housing Support Program pilot.

ACTION: Ms Monger to invite AECD representative to the next meeting to provide an update on the Intensive Family Housing Support Program pilot.

5. General Business

5.1 The Cost of Youth Homelessness in Australia

Refer to item 4.3 – Provision of Advice to the Minister.

5.2 WACH Membership

WACH membership expires on 31 July 2016. The Department is still waiting advice from the Minister's office regarding the future direction of WACH.

6.3 Other Business

Ms Monger tabled a letter from Minister Mitchell to the Chair, in response to the issue raised with the Minister by the Chair regarding inconsistent representation at WACH by some Government departments.

Ms Monger will be requesting invoices from members eligible for sitting fees.

7. Next Meeting

The meeting was closed at 10:26am.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 6 July, 2016 at 9am.