

Western Australian Council on Homelessness

MINUTES OF MEETING Wednesday 4 March 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 and advised members that Ms Genevieve Errey has retired from the Department of Housing. The time, effort and contribution made by Ms Errey to the Council and the sector was acknowledged.

Present

Mr Stanley Jeyaraj	Independent Chair
Ms Ricky Burges (departed at 10am)	Western Australian Local Government Association
Mr Eric Dillon	Mental Health Commission
Ms Kathleen Gregory	Foundation Housing
Dr Robyn Martin	Curtin University
Mr Daniel Morrison	Aboriginal Alcohol and Drug Services
Mr Don Tunnicliffe	Swan Emergency Accommodation
Ms Julie Yusop	Albany Youth Support Association

In attendance

Ms Andrea Martin	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Ms Sandra Flanagan	Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Apologies

Mr Steve Glew	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Ms Genevieve Errey	Department of Housing
Ms Helen Grinbergs	Department of Social Services
Ms Anne Moore	The Lucy Saw Centre/ Women's Council for Family and Domestic Violence Services

Acknowledgement to Country made by the Chair.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 February 2015

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

3. Business Arising

3.1 Meeting length and focus

Members discussed the length of the WACH meetings, as concern had been expressed that, on occasion, items were being deferred due to time limitations and issues other than NAHA/NPAH, and the other standing items, have not yet been included on the agenda.

Discussion ensued on the role and focus of the WACH and it was agreed that the meeting time would not be extended beyond one and half hours. Instead, working groups would be

established, with the view to meeting out of session, to discuss pertinent issues as they arise and report back to Council. It was suggested that guest speakers be limited at regular WACH meetings and be featured at Roundtable sessions.

Discussion on this issue continued under item 4.2 and 4.3.

3.2 Scenario Planning Options

Ms Martin provided an overview of the draft paper, an outcome of the Homelessness Roundtable meeting held in February, outlining the Departments view on options for NPAH services based upon various scenarios regarding possible NPAH funding decisions of the Federal Government.

The intention was to provide the paper in the first instance to the Roundtable members seeking feedback, then to WACH members for comment, as agreed at the Roundtable meeting. Members discussed the role of WACH in providing advice to the Minister and believed it appropriate that this type of document be reviewed for feedback by WACH in the first instance. Members proposed that this paper be circulated simultaneously to both the Roundtable members and WACH for feedback.

Action: Ms Martin to discuss this issue with Mr Glew.
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4. WACH Priority Areas

4.1 State and Regional Plans

Ms Martin advised that responses have been coming in from the Department's District Directors regarding the Regional Plans as well as appropriate photos for inclusion in the State Plan. These items are progressing.

4.2 Sector Consultation

Linked to the discussion under item 3.1

Members discussed issues concerning Aboriginal homelessness, including:

- Wellington Square and homelessness issues arising when Aboriginal people leave the regions for medical treatment in Perth. Often they have nowhere to stay in Perth and no means to return home.
- Lack of knowledge of the range of services available.
- Lack of coordination of services both in the regions and in the metropolitan area.
- The need for a clear framework for the allocation of funding and coordination of services.
- It was noted that the Aboriginal Affairs Cabinet Sub-Committee (AACSC) – has the purpose of setting policy directions and ensuring coordination across government in Aboriginal Affairs.

Members agreed that a working group be formed to discuss Aboriginal homelessness issues and:

- Identify the key issues;
- Consider funding issues, including how existing funding may be better utilised and areas where additional funding may be required, with due consideration to the current economic climate;
- Meet monthly on the same day or day before the WACH meeting;
- Report to WACH each month;

WACH is to consider the recommendations and provide advice to the Minister as appropriate.

Agreed working group members are:

- Julie Yusop
- Kathleen Gregory
- Daniel Morrison
- Eric Dillon
- Robyn Martin
- Department for Child Protection and Family Support representative to be advised.

Other areas impacting homelessness to be addressed:

- Supply of affordable housing.
- Transition from crisis housing into long term housing.
- Overcrowding.
- Alternate housing supply options.

Ms Martin advised members that the *WA Affordable Housing Development Summit 2015* was held in February. Information from this Summit will be circulated to members if available.

Actions:

Aboriginal Homelessness Working Group meeting to be organised.
Ms Martin to circulate information from the Housing Summit if available.

4.3 Policy advice to the Minister.

The Chair advised he met with the Minister for Child Protection and Family Support in February and discussed the outcomes of the Roundtable meeting. The Minister appreciated the feedback and that the sector would like participate in the decision making processes regarding the future of homelessness funding and programs. A letter to formalise this discussion has been drafted and will be forward to the Minister in the near future.

Action: The Chair to finalise the letter to the Minister.

5. General Business

5.1 AIHW Annual report 2013-14

Ms Cvetkoska provided an update on the AIHW Specialised Homelessness Services Collection, 2013-14 Annual Report. A handout was provided to members.

It was noted that Case Management Plans were down by 9% in WA, while they are going up nationally. This needs to be investigated to determine the reasons. It could be a change in recording or a change in practice. Agencies that do not provide case management such as day and meal centres, are included in this data, which skews the data. Reviewing the agency level will assist in understanding this issue. Ms Cvetkoska will speak to AIHW seeking more detailed analysis if it is available.

Ms Cvetkoska will provide the results of further analysis on the Case Management Plan data to WACH.

Action: Ms Cvetkoska to provide further analysis on Case Management Plans to WACH.

5.2 Other business

Nil.

6. Next Meeting

The Chair thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 10:30am. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 1 April, 2015 at 9am.