

Western Australian Council on Homelessness

MINUTES OF MEETING Wednesday 1 May 2013

Room 8, Level 2
Department for Child Protection
189 Royal Street, East Perth
Meeting commenced at 9:00am

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting:

Present

Mr Richard Aspinall	FaHCSIA
Ms Genevieve Errey	Department of Housing
Dr Paul Flatau	University of Western Australia
Mr Steve Glew	Department for Child Protection
Ms Kathleen Gregory	Foundation Housing
Mr Ross Kyrwood	YMCA
Ms Judi Morris	Mental Health Commission
Mr Tony Pietropiccolo	Centrecare

In attendance

Ms Maureen Flynn	Department for Child Protection
Ms Sandra Flanagan	Department for Child Protection

Apologies

Mr Stanley Jeyaraj	Independent Chair
Mr James Hunter	Drug and Alcohol Office
Ms Nanette Williams	Pilbara Community Legal Service
Ms Kedy Kristal	Pat Giles Centre
Mr Ian Giles	Department of Corrective Services

1.1 Welcome

Mr Glew welcomed members.

Mr Glew advised that Ms Whitton is absent today. As she was going to provide an update on the progress of the State and Regional Plans, this will be deferred to the June meeting.

There are two presentations today, the Inner City Review and the NPAH Evaluation. These will take most of the allocated meeting time today.

The Chair advised that the new NPAH agreement is with the Premier at present for consideration. There has been discussions with the community sector regarding the Fair Work Remuneration Award as a distribution towards this is being built into the new NPAH agreement. At present it only recognised about 75% of the agencies currently contracted. It was also noted that there has been no progress with the Australian Services Union applications with the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission.

2. Minutes of meeting held on 3 April 2013

The minutes of the WA Council on Homelessness meeting held on 3 April 2013 were confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

3. WACH Priority Areas

3.1 State Plans

Item deferred to the June meeting.

3.2 Regional Plans

Item deferred to the June meeting.

3.3 Sector Consultation

Item deferred to the June meeting.

3.4 Policy, advice to the Minister, dissemination of information

Item deferred to the June meeting.

4. Business Arising

4.1 Regional plan progress reports

Deferred due to the absence of Ms Whitton.

5. General Business

5.1 Inner City review

Ms Miskell provided members with a copy of the Inner City Review – *Boxes in the Jungle: A review of inner city homeless services and Perth and Fremantle*.

This report was commissioned to review inner city homeless services in Perth and Fremantle. It emanates from a district regional homelessness plan. Its purpose was to:

- conduct a stocktake of available services
- identify current demands for the various homeless service types
- identify current factors affecting the service system

Ms Miskell provided an overview of the report, highlighting the key recommendations. The report will be available on the website in the near future.

Members agreed to read the report thoroughly before the June meeting to discuss the recommendations that may be best advocated by WACH.

Dr Flatau advised that the AHURI Service Integration report is due for release in the near future, which will provide further valuable information on services in Perth and throughout the south east corridor.

It was suggested that the Inner City Review be circulated to the broader sector. Ms Miskell will coordinate with WACH the feedback and recommendations for further action by WACH.

Action: Members to read the report and provide feedback at the next meeting focusing on key issues to be further progressed by WACH.
Ms Flanagan to disseminate the report to the sector.

The Chair thanked Ms Miskell for her informative presentation.

5.2 Overview of new definition – ABS data collection

Item deferred to the June meeting.

5.3 NPAH evaluation, Ms Rosemary Cant and Mr Colin Penter

The Chair introduced Ms Cant and Mr Penter.

Ms Cant provided an overview of the research and key findings. The report will be available for circulation and on the website later in the month and WACH members will have the opportunity for further discussion at the June meeting.

The following points were raised:

- The evaluation was undertaken over two years from January 2011.
- Fourteen programs were included in the evaluation, involving a variety of evaluative methods and quantitative data. 345 interviews were undertaken.
- The programs evaluated were extremely successful in achieving their goals.
- Most programs were well above targets for aboriginal participation.
- The availability (or lack of) of housing was the biggest challenge, thus the role of the Department of Housing is critical.
- Several programs struggle to operate where there is no available housing.
- The private rental market is a key driver.
- The support required varies considerably from completing forms, provision of furniture, social skills to comprehensive support to maintain the tenancy over a long period.
- Support is only terminated once the person/family is stable.
- Brokerage money assists clients in navigating the system.

The Chair thanked Ms Cant and Mr Penter for their comprehensive presentation.

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 5 June, 2013 at 9am.