

Western Australian Council on Homelessness

MINUTES OF MEETING Wednesday 6 May 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. The Chair advised that Mr Eric Dillon has resigned from the Council as he is no longer with the Health Department, having taken a position with the Department of Corrective Services. The Chair acknowledged the considerable time and effort and valuable contribution Mr Dillon made to the Council.

Present

Mr Stanley Jeyaraj	Independent Chair
Ms Ricky Burges	Western Australian Local Government Association
Ms Caoimhe Finn	Department of Housing
Mr Steve Glew	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Ms Kathleen Gregory	Foundation Housing
Ms Helen Grinbergs	Department of Social Services
Mr Don Tunnicliffe	Swan Emergency Accommodation

In attendance

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

Apologies

Ms Emma Colombera	Department of Housing
Mr Eric Dillon	Mental Health Commission
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
Ms Julie Yusop	Albany Youth Support Association

Acknowledgement to Country made by the Chair.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 1 April 2015

The minutes from the Western Australian Council on Homelessness meeting held on 1 April 2015 were confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

3. GUEST SPEAKER: - FOYER OXFORD, Jethro Sercombe, Manger, Foyer Oxford, Anglicare

The Chair welcomed Mr Sercombe to the meeting

Mr Sercombe provided a detailed overview of the Foyer Oxford from its inception to current status. Discussion ensued on the following points:

- The Foyer Oxford is operating at full capacity (98 apartments).
- Each tenant enters a contract with the Foyer, with both parties committing to specific responsibilities/actions.
- The Foyer is not a 'dry' site, however there are clear policies that must be adhered to such as no parties are permitted, entry to the site is monitored 24/7.
- Approximately half of the tenants are referred from NPAH services.
- All tenants are assessed as both prepared and suitable to engage in this type of tenancy.
- There is a 10 year NRAS commitment to this facility, which makes a substantial difference to the viability of the facility.
- Approximate cost per head is \$21,000pa, which is significantly less than the cost per head in alternate models of supported youth accommodation.
- The Foyer Oxford has a target of 12% Indigenous occupancy, currently running at 17%.
- Rent is set at a flat rate each for individual, parent and "penthouse" apartments.
- Current funding from BHP and CPFS. Anglicare is aware that BHP funding is 5 year limited and corporate support is required to continue the same level of operation beyond this agreement.

Mr Sercombe suggested that if members would like a tour, they contact Ms Gregory or go to the website for contact details: - <http://oxfordfoyer.com.au/>

4. Business Arising

4.1 Commonwealth ER funding

Ms Grinbergs provided an update on the recent round of grant allocations.

The ER program was redesigned, aiming for a more consistent framework, improved service delivery to clients and alignment with more interventionist support services where required (a shift towards a case management approach). The process utilised a new index for identifying regions (low SEIFA scores targeting the most vulnerable in areas where there is greatest need). Since the first round of funding offers a gap analysis has been undertaken resulting in some additional grants being offered. The grant period is two years. The majority of contracted agencies have begun to provide the service.

Members discussed the anticipated impacts of next week's Budget release and the Reform of the Federation in relation to shifting State/Commonwealth responsibilities.

Action: Ms Grinbergs to forward the list of approved agencies for members information.

4.2 NPAH Update

Mr Glew advised that the draft Ministers Agreement is due next week. WA has confirmed it is able to meet the required focus on Family and Domestic Violence and Youth.

The Department is working through the significant impact of the agreement excluding the CPI and increases agreed to via the SACS agreement.

The Department is working with its non-government Street-to-Home working group on the required changes to the Street-to-Home program, as was discussed at the Homelessness Roundtable meeting initiated by WACH. The focus is on developing options for redesigning the program for improved outcomes over the next two years, with the reduced funding levels.

Members asked that this item be highlighted with the Minister, for her information.

Action: Ms Flanagan to highlight this issue in the letter to the Minister that accompanies the minutes.

4.3 Aboriginal Homelessness Working Group

Deferred to next meeting.

5. WACH Priority Areas

5.1 State and Regional Plans

Mr Glew advised that the draft State Plan will be circulated to members in the very near future, seeking detailed feedback at the next WACH meeting.

Action: Draft State Plan to be circulated for members consideration prior to the next meeting.

5.2 Sector Consultation

NIL

5.3 Policy advice to the Minister.

NIL

6. General Business

Nil

7. Next Meeting

The Chair thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 10:25am. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 3 June, 2015 at 9am.