

# Western Australian Council on Homelessness

## MINUTES OF MEETING Wednesday 7 October 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.

#### Present

Mr Stanley Jeyaraj	Independent Chair
Ms Ricky Burges	Western Australian Local Government Association
Ms Kathleen Gregory	Foundation Housing
Ms Helen Grinbergs	Department of Social Services
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
Mr Don Tunnicliffe	Swan Emergency Accommodation
Ms Julie Yusop	Albany Youth Support Association

#### In attendance

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

#### Apologies

Mr Steve Glew	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Ms Maureen Lewis	Mental Health Commission
Ms Emma Colombera	Housing Authority

Acknowledgement to Country made by the Chair.

### 2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 August 2015

The minutes from the Western Australian Council on Homelessness meeting held on 5 August 2015 were confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

### 3. Business Arising

#### 3.1 Meeting Quorum

Members discussed an appropriate meeting quorum. It was agreed that 50% plus 1, would be the minimum for the meeting to proceed. Within this quorum, there must also be 50% plus 1 non-government representatives. This equates to a minimum of 7 members including 4 from the non-government sector. It was also agreed that if members miss three consecutive meetings, their membership would be reconsidered.

Members also discussed need for a greater sense of purpose for members to fully engage in the committee. This is continuing to develop as the committee moves forward with pertinent issues. It was agreed not to wait on the resolution of issues such as funding or the release of the Green Paper, but to move forward with robust discussion regarding the future directions for improved/innovative service delivery within the current constraints.

It was advised that Ms Colombera has taken extended leave from the Housing Authority, a replacement representative is to be nominated by the Housing Authority.

Ms Grinbergs advised that the Department of Social Services is currently undergoing another restructure. Her position may not exist in the new structure, therefore Commonwealth representation on WACH may change. Once the restructure is complete, advice can be sought on this issue.

**Action:** Ms Flanagan to follow up with the Housing Authority on the replacement representative for WACH. Ms Grinbergs to advise if she will no longer be representing DSS on WACH. Ms Flanagan to forward to members the code of conduct/ethics and TORs.

### **3.2 Mental Health 10 Year Plan**

Deferred to November.

## **4. WACH Priority Areas**

### **4.1 State and Regional Plans**

Ms Martin advised that the Homelessness paper is progressing well and thanked members for their input. The various divisions within the Department have either provided input or are in the process of providing feedback. Once all feedback has been incorporated, the paper will be progressed through Corporate Communication and to the Director General, before being provided to the Minister.

Members agreed that the paper is a useful reference document and status report on the sector and will assist in forward planning and the recontracting of services.

It was suggested that a brief snapshot paper be developed from the larger document to reach broader audiences.

Given the larger proportion of Aboriginal children in care the focus on partnerships with Aboriginal community controlled organisations is vital.

It was suggested that a list of all service providers be provided on the back of the paper.

The paper will be provided on the Departments website.

Regional planning is also progressing. Meetings will be coordinated, either face to face or video conferencing, seeking formal updates on progress regarding homelessness planning and actions in each region. Most regions have continued the work initiated by WACH several years ago. The focus will be on identifying challenges, blockages and innovative solutions.

It was requested that members consider attending at least one of these regional planning meetings. It was suggested that a couple of regional groups be invited to a meeting of WACH to discuss their regional homelessness plan.

Ms Burges advised that she may be able to attend some regional meetings in regional/remote locations if the timing can be coordinated with other regional meetings she

attends. Ms Gregory advised she may be able to attend regional homelessness meetings in the Pilbara and Kimberly.

A draft paper identifying meeting timeframes in regional areas to be compiled by the next WACH meeting.

Contract Mangers are to be consulted with, and included in, the process.

Consultation regarding the Green Paper may be incorporated into the regional homelessness meetings.

**Action:**

Two regional homelessness groups to be invited to attend a future meeting of WACH.  
Timelines for regional meetings to be developed.

#### **4.2 Sector Consultation**

Ms Moore, Ms Gregory and the Chair to meet out of session to plan the way forward, including the framework and expected outcomes regarding a Homelessness Roundtable meeting to focus on current issues, trends and other appropriate information to provide to the Minister for her consideration.

It was agreed to hoist the Roundtable meeting on the morning prior to the WACH meeting in November.

**Action:** Roundtable meeting to be progressed.

#### **4.3 Policy advice to the Minister.**

The Chair advised that the Minister will be attending the December meeting of WACH. Items for discussion to be discussed at the November meeting.

#### **4.4 Aboriginal Homelessness Issues**

Deferred to next meeting.

### **5. General Business**

#### **5.1 50 Lives, 50 Homes**

Ms Gregory discussed the 50 Lives, 50 Homes project, including the following points:

- The 50 Lives 50 Homes Project targets homeless people who are sleeping rough and who are assessed as being the most vulnerable based on their health needs and the length of time that they have been homeless.
- The 50 Lives 50 Homes Project will identify homeless people and prioritise them for housing and support using a Housing First approach.
- An ongoing Register will assist in tracking progress with permanent long-term housing, as well as the adequacy of support to enable retention of the housing.
- The collaboration team then works to find them homes, support them to maintain their tenancies and connect them to the healthcare services and other supports that they may need.
- Ms Gregory is meeting with the Housing Authority to discuss the possibility of a subsidy to assist in getting people into homes.

#### **5.2 Leadership and Partnership Forum**

Members agreed the Leadership and Partnership Forum was a valuable event which highlighted the commitment to the Regional Reform.

It was suggested that Mr Searle, or a representative, be invited to a future meeting of WACH to discuss homelessness in regards to the reform and progress of the reform.

### **5.3 Items for discussion with the Minister at the December WACH meeting**

Covered under item 4.2 and 4.3.

### **5.4 Other Business**

Ms Moore provided an update on the implementation of the new FDV service system. There is a strong commitment by all agencies to engage in the new system with good collaboration and innovation.

Ms Grinbergs to provide a paper by the Federal Government on domestic violence. Further information can be found at: <http://plan4womenssafety.dss.gov.au/>

<b>Action:</b> Ms Grinbergs to provide paper for circulation.
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### **6. Next Meeting**

The Chair thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 10:40am. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 10 November, 2015 at 9am.