

Western Australian Council on Homelessness

MINUTES OF MEETING Wednesday 2 October 2013

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

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed the Parliamentary Secretary, Ms Andrea Mitchell and members to the meeting:

Present

Mr Stanley Jeyaraj	Independent Chair
Mr Richard Aspinall	FaHCSIA
Ms Genevieve Errey	Department of Housing
Mr Steve Glew	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Ms Kathleen Gregory	Foundation Housing
Mr James Hunter	Drug and Alcohol Office
Ms Astrid Kalders	Department of Corrective Services
Ms Kedy Kristal	Pat Giles Centre
Mr Ross Kyrwood	YMCA
Ms Judi Morris	Mental Health Commission
Mr Tony Pietropiccolo	Centrecare
Ms Nanette Williams	Pilbara Community Legal Service

In attendance

Ms Maureen Flynn	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Ms Trina Whitton	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Ms Sandra Flanagan	Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Apologies

Dr Paul Flatau	University of Western Australia
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2. Minutes of meeting held on 4 September 2013

The minutes of the WA Council on Homelessness meeting held on 4 September 2013 were confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

3. Mental Health Services - Development of plan for a comprehensive optimal mix of mental health services

Ms Morris provided a detailed presentation on the development of the plan for a comprehensive optimal mix of mental health services.

Ms Morris agreed to provide a copy of the presentation for dissemination to members.

Action: Ms Morris to forward a copy of the presentation to disseminate to members.

4. BUSINESS ARISING

4.1 Inner City Review recommendations for WACH – update

The recommendations identified for follow up by WACH are being progressed by the relevant government agencies as appropriate. It was noted that the Commonwealth

government is currently undergoing a major shift in the structure and responsibilities of departments thus resulting in a minor delay in progress. FaHCSIA has been replaced by the Department of Social Services.

5. WACH priority areas

5.1 & 5.2 State and Regional Plans

Ms Flynn reported on behalf of Ms Whitton, that discussions have taken place with the District Directors regarding the appropriateness of hosting workshops in each region at this time. Concern was expressed that the uncertainty of ongoing funding may result in the workshops being counterproductive in setting future priority actions.

Western Australia has taken the lead role in developing a position paper on the NPAH in consultation with the other States and Territories.

The Commonwealth has commissioned an independent review of the programs, including NPAH program. This involves looking at all evaluations and reviews completed to date.

The Minister has written to the Commonwealth advising of WA's commitment to NPAH and seeking an open and transparent process for the negotiation of the new agreement.

Non-government members agreed to ensure that concerns regarding the NPAH programs will be discussed at the various committees/boards they are on and that any relevant action taken to support the continuation of the NPAH.

Action: Non-government members to discuss concerns re NPAH with relevant committees with the view to writing letters of support.

5.3 Sector Consultation - consultative framework

The Chair advised that he met with Mr Pietropiccolo and together they developed the draft discussion paper – *Sector Consultation/Roundtables* – tabled at the meeting. Members agreed that this is an appropriate process for consulting the sector on specific homelessness issues. The Chair said he would seek endorsement of the process by the Minister.

Action: The Chair to seek endorsement of the proposed consultative framework from the Minister.

5.4 Policy, advice to the Minister, dissemination of information

Deferred to a future meeting.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 Homelessness Conference 2015

Members discussed the success of the 2012 Homelessness Conference held at the Convention Centre and the potential to host a similar conference in 2015.

It was noted that CPFS limited funds in the current environment to allocate to a conference of that magnitude, nor the capacity to organise it. It was suggested that money be sought from other government departments and the private sector. Ms Gregory agreed to form a working group to progress this event.

Action: Ms Gregory to establish a working group to progress the possibility of a sector wide conference in 2015.

6.2 Post Federal election – update
Covered under 4.1, 5.1 and 5.2 above.

7. Next Meeting

The Chair thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 10:30am.
The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 6 November, 2013 at 9am.