

Housing Update



Identifying Community
Housing Needs

The Community Housing Coalition of WA

Autumn, 2009

Concert crowd exceeds expectations

The organisers of the second year's Gimme Shelter fundraising concert hoped for a large crowd but were more than pleasantly surprised when almost 2,200 turned up to watch the event.

The picturesque Fremantle Arts Centre again came alive to the sound of music on February 21 and the large crowd enjoyed the concert as well as supporting the St Patrick's Community Support Centre.

The immense talents of The Domniks, Mo Wilson and The Drivers, Kavisha, the Dream

State Circus and John Butler were showcased on the night.

The highlight was John Butler who invited an array of special guests up on stage including Grammy Award Winner Lucky Oceans, the legendary Jim Fisher, the sublime Dave Johnson and the talented Phoebe Corke to help him run through some of the unique songs that have made John Butler the successful performing artist he is today.

The combination of the Star Light Hotel Choir and Spirit Of The Street Choir was truly

amazing. The passion and spirit that boomed out from their collective voices really impressed the large crowd that had arrived early to claim a spot on the exquisite south lawn of the Fremantle Arts Centre.

St Pat's says a big thank you to the artists who donated their time for the event, to the sound and lighting crew, to the Walyup elder Marie Taylor for the welcome to the country ceremony, to the Fremantle business community who got behind the event, to the

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Homeless Persons' Week 2009

The Minister for Child Protection, the Hon Robyn McSweeney MLC, will launch the Perth segment of the National Homeless persons' Week in WA on Monday, August 3, 2009, at Forrest Place in Perth's Central Business District.

The Community Housing Coalition of WA (CHCWA) is again organising the Perth event which this year runs from Monday, August 3, to Sunday, August 9.

The aim of Homeless Persons' Week is to raise awareness of homelessness in Australia and this year's theme for the week is "Where do they go?"

As well as celebrating and acknowledging the services offered to homeless people in WA, the event aims to foster a closer collaboration of services which assist homeless people.

CHCWA is enlisting the services of an organisation to stage recreation activities at Forrest Place to promote the event. This year's event will include an opportunity for the public to show their support by taking part in a fun walk in the surrounding area.

The event will also promote healthy eating and each service provider is invited to offer samples of healthy food at their stalls. Two street choirs have again been invited to add to the atmosphere of the event.

The ABC again plans to assist in raising public awareness by hosting another "Drop your Jocks Campaign" in Perth as well as in regional WA.

CHCWA invites community housing providers to showcase their work at the Homeless Persons' Week launch. The event is a unique opportunity for organisations to demonstrate the services



City of Perth Lord Mayor, the Rt Hon Ms Lisa Scaffidi, addresses the crowd at last year's Homeless Persons' Week launch.

they provide on a day-to-day basis. More information on the launch and details of the venue will be made available as it comes to hand.

Community housing providers from all around WA are invited to participate by organising an event in their own area.

CHCWA would also like organisations that plan to host their own event during the week to tell us of the events so they can be included in a special events calendar.

The National Homeless Persons' Week is an initiative of Homelessness Australia which seeks to improve community awareness and understanding of the issues facing the one in every 200 Australians who are homeless.

Homelessness Australia advocates for people who are homeless, aims to represent the interests of more than 1300 homeless assistance services and contributes to

policy development and the evaluation of Australia's homelessness service system.

Homelessness Australia works collaboratively with homeless people's associations, homelessness assistance services, state homelessness peak organisations, national peak organisations from other sectors, governments, business and the broader community to achieve those objectives.

Homelessness Australia represents the single men and women, families, young people and women escaping domestic violence who access the diverse support and advocacy services provided by its founding members.

Homelessness Australia is also encouraging organisations to become involved by holding an event that highlights the diversity of people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

From the Executive Officer...

It has been a particularly busy period for community housing providers in WA. The Global Financial Crisis is manifesting itself in job losses throughout the State with some sectors worse off than others. Families who have lost jobs can no longer afford to pay rent or mortgages so they look for assistance via public and community housing.

Stimulus Package

The Commonwealth Government's Stimulus Package has been well received by the community at large. The opportunity to build 2,700 new social housing homes will assist in reducing the waiting list in WA though great care must be taken to ensure the mix of social housing with private rental and home ownership is maintained.

Past mistakes by government where large clusters of social housing resulted in poor outcomes for individuals who were housed, need to be avoided. By March 18, 2009, under Stage 1 of the Stimulus Package, the Social Housing Coordinators office had received 50 expressions of interest, translating into 300 dwellings units.

The coordinator was encouraged by the number of proposals he has received to date. He also expects this number to increase as we move into April, 2009, when Stage 2 kicks in.

Task Force

CHCWA was invited by the Hon Troy Buswell MLA, to be part of the Housing Minister's, Task Force. The task force is charged with providing advice to the minister on how to expand the supply of social housing in WA.

The task force is required to report to the minister by end of June, 2009, and had to also provide him with an interim report by March 31, 2009.

As part of a consultative process, CHCWA asked for expressions of interest from community housing providers to work with CHCWA in preparing a sector interim report. CHCWA, the Real Estate Institute of WA and WACOSS were allocated the Key Direction, *Current and Future Direction of Social Housing*. Other task force members are allocated Key Directions, *Finance, Land and Development*. Another Key Direction, *Social Housing Policy* will likely have input from all task force members.

The secretariat has been busy preparing and distributing lots of research material to task force members. The members have also been fortunate to have been addressed by Professor Julian Disney. Professor Disney introduced thinking which included aggregating the various funding streams in order to get maximum housing outcomes with an appropriate mix of household types.

Lord Mayor's Affordable Housing working Group

The Lord Mayor, the Rt Hon Ms Lisa Scaffidi, invited CHCWA to be part of an Affordable Housing Project Working Group. The group has representatives of the City of Perth, the Department of Housing (DoH), the Housing and Urban Research Institute of WA, a Project Management company and a development company.

The key objective is, *The City of Perth will increase levels of affordable, secure, appropriate and accessible housing. The Strategic Goals are, Socially Just, Economically Efficient, Environmentally and Socially Sustainable and Diverse and Vibrant*. The first meeting was held in March, 2009, with regular monthly meetings to follow.

Recently CHCWA invited the new Director General of



Colin McClughan

the DH, Mr Grahame Searle, and the new Director of Community Housing, a directorate within the DH, to meet the board and staff of CHCWA. It was an interesting meeting with Mr Searle outlining the importance of community housing and the role of the DH in enabling community housing to grow quickly so that the minister's goal of 20,000 new houses by 2020 can be realised.

Legislative Framework

CHCWA received a letter from the DH acknowledging the submission on behalf of the sector. Recent discussions with DH officers indicated a forum is likely to be held in April or May, 2009, to which all stakeholders, including community housing providers, will be invited.

Welcome to New Policy Officer

On behalf of the board and staff of CHCWA, I want to introduce and welcome our new team member, Gerhard Rousseau. Gerhard has taken on the role of Policy Officer and is eminently qualified having worked in South Africa in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Industry.

Even in the short time he

Shire looks at housing issues

The Community Housing Coalition of WA was invited to attend an Affordable Housing Summit hosted by the Shire of Augusta Margaret River in February this year to put forward its views and understanding of affordable housing issues.

The main objectives of the summit were to:

- ascertain and raise awareness of the level of unmet demand for affordable housing in Augusta -Margaret River for various target groups
- raise awareness of the available sources of State, Federal and possible charitable or philanthropic funding for the provision of affordable housing
- identify successful models for the provision and ongoing management for affordable housing
- identify the opportunities and constraints within Augusta-Margaret River for the provision of affordable housing
- develop and foster relationships between key stake-



State Treasurer and Housing Minister Troy Buswell answers a question from the floor at the Housing Summit. On the minister's right are panel members Kath Roberts of the Department of Housing, Mandurah Mayor Paddi Creevey and CHCWA's BPU Manager Daniel Guise. On his left is Geoff Broad, Planning and Development Director of the Augusta Margaret River Shire.

holders in the development and management of affordable housing

- assist council staff to establish the most urgent priorities in facilitating the development of an affordable housing strategy.

Cr Steve Harrison, the President of the Shire of Augusta Margaret River (AMRSC), opened the summit and gave the AMRSC perspective.

The Treasurer and Housing and Works Minister Troy Buswell gave an overview of the State Government approach to Affordable Housing and what was available to the sector.

CHCWA's Best Practice

Unit Manager Daniel Guise outlined the Community Housing perspective including a breakdown of the National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS).

Other speakers included Geoff Broad, the AMRSC Director of Planning and Development and Mandurah Mayor Paddi Creevey.

Daniel was also part of a panel, along with the Minister, DH representatives, Paddi Creevey and Geoff Broad, which answered questions from the floor.

Brainstorming workshops followed in the afternoon to identify possible solutions to affordable housing issues.

Executive Officer's report...

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has been with us, he has shown himself to be a keen team player and is well liked by his colleagues.

Gimme Shelter Concert

CHCWA was fortunate to be invited to the second annual Gimme Shelter concert run by St Patrick's in the grounds of the Fremantle Arts Centre. There were more than 2000 concert goers who enjoyed good food, refreshments and the fabulous entertainment which included John Butler who is a great favourite of mine.

Apart from St Pat's there

were other community sector agencies including CHCWA and Shelter who had stalls. Agencies were able to interact with the public and through discussion were able to raise public awareness of the services they provide.

Homeless Person Week

A committee has been formed which is chaired by Gerhard Rousseau, CHCWA's Policy Officer. Funding has been received from the Hon Robyn Mc Sweeney, the Minister for Child Protection, Community Services, Seniors and Volunteering.

The Homeless Persons Week launch is on August 3,

2009. More information will be forthcoming about this event and will be broadcast in our weekly e-news bulletin, CHCpen.

Conclusion

I would like to conclude my report by acknowledging the support of the CHCWA board of management who have been particularly helpful and supportive to me during this busy period.

The staff of CHCWA have worked really well together which has allowed us all to work harder in providing a better service for community housing providers in this big and beautiful State of WA.

CHCWA has a new Policy Officer

Gerhard Rousseau is CHCWA's new Policy Officer. Gerhard spent 18 years in Government, working for the Departments of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Industry in Justice in South Africa dealing inter alia with disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation.

This allowed him to spend three years in Bonn, Germany and participate in more than 40 visits to Europe, the US, Canada and Africa.

Gerhard has a BA degree in Political Science and an Honours' Degree in International Politics and Development Studies. His duties in the last 11 years included policy formulation, drafting of legislation and compliance. He served as a Director in two NGOs rendering home-based care and developmental services to under-resourced communities affected by chronic diseases.

Gerhard is looking forward to a hands-on role representing the interests of the community housing groups that are keen to make a difference in the lives of socially disadvantaged people in WA.



Learning about community housing challenges

On joining the CHCWA team early in February this year, I was drawn into the momentum that was created by the recently established Minister's Social Housing Task Force.

The volume of information disseminated by the Task Force offered a newcomer to Community Housing an excellent opportunity to wade through stacks of relevant background information.

CHCWA, as a member of the Task Force, was tasked to consult Community Housing Providers and put forward a response. This offered me a unique glimpse, albeit a compact one, to get a sense of what agendas are important for those providers.

Apart from getting acquainted with initiatives on affordable housing, I was quite fortunate to work through the White Paper on Homelessness "The Road Home"- A National Approach to Reducing Homelessness.

It is clear that deliverables intended by the White Paper call for a new approach by all stakeholders to alleviate overall homelessness in Australia.

Community Housing Provid-

ers as key role-players will be impacted by Government interventions and they should seize the opportunities offered to improve and expand their services and work on closer coordination with Government, corporate and private sectors on the issue of homelessness.

I look forward to being involved in the planning of Homeless Persons Week in WA and specifically CHCWA's hosting of the event on August 3, 2009.

Mastering a new domain of information is challenging enough but keeping track of all the current and historical fiscal and policy interventions and the restructuring of programs and Government structures has surely

stretched me to capacity.

To see the face of what we are dealing with and step away from the sometimes abstract picture painted on paper, I visited St Bartholomew's House in East Perth.

It is again seeing the people that housing providers attempt to assist that makes one realise that all of the planning and social engineering has to have the focus of putting people first.

I look forward to learning more about the Community Housing Sector and its challenges and also capturing ideas and experiences that could have a positive impact on Government interventions to fulfil a common objective.

Gerhard Rousseau
Policy Officer

Access Housing a Growth Provider

Access Housing Australia Ltd has been appointed Growth Provider for the south west region following the lodgement of an Expression of Interest.

But the appointment does not preclude existing providers from also putting forward proposals for projects in the region. The Department of Housing's Community Housing Directorate actively encourages competition for projects that result in innovative and creative social housing growth in the south west. For more information, please telephone Jeanette Barrington, Sector Development Officer, Community Housing Directorate, on 08 9440 2278.

Gimme Shelter concert a success

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Fremantle Herald and RTR FM for their tremendous media support, to the Fremantle Arts Centre for supplying a truly spectacular venue and to Dave Johnson and Phoebe Corke for going above and beyond the call of duty to put on one cracker of a show.

Photographer Hank Kordas of Catchlight Photography kindly donated a host of photographs that captured the spirit of the Gimme Shelter event some of which feature in this article.

The inaugural Gimme Shelter concert was held in February, 2008, also at the Fremantle Arts Centre.

The community support for the event was strong with more than 1,000 people turning up for the concert.

St Pat's and other organisations which provide support for the homeless including Shelter WA and the Community Housing Coalition of WA had information stalls.

The night was an overwhelming success both financially and in terms of raising awareness.



(Top) The combined Starlight Hotel Choir and The Spirit of the Streets Choir sing with passion and the depth of feeling shows on this choir member's face (above left).

(Above) song writer and instrumentalist Jim Fisher and (left) singer, songwriter John Butler pleasing the crowd.

White Paper on homelessness

The Federal Government's White Paper on Homelessness, *The Road Home*, outlines a plan to reduce homelessness in Australia by 2020 with specific goals to halve overall homelessness and provide accommodation for all rough sleepers who seek it.

Homelessness can affect anyone. In Australia, about 105,000 people are homeless on any given night and around 16,000 of them sleep rough. Although the overall rate of homelessness has been relatively stable in the last 12 years, an increasing number of children, families and older people experience homelessness.

Homelessness includes people who are sleeping rough, as well as people staying in temporary, unstable or substandard accommodation. Many people who are homeless cycle between homelessness and marginal housing. People are staying in crisis accommodation for longer because they have nowhere else to go.

Homelessness is not just a housing problem. Homelessness has many drivers and causes, including the shortage of affordable housing, long term unemployment, mental health issues, substance abuse and family and relationship breakdown. Among women, domestic and family violence is the main reason for seeking help from specialist homelessness services.

Just maintaining the current effort on homelessness will see an increase in the number of Australians who are homeless due to the growth in populations at risk of homelessness, such as older people in housing stress and children in care and protection.

Investing in services to prevent and reduce homeless-

ness delivers benefits not only to those vulnerable to homelessness but also to the entire community.

Homelessness is everyone's responsibility. Ending homelessness requires sustained long-term effort from all levels of Government, business, the not-for-profit sector and the community.

The Australian Government, with the agreement of state and territory governments, has set two headline goals to guide the long term response to homelessness:

- halve overall homelessness by 2020
- offer supported accommodation to all rough sleepers who need it by 2020.

The White Paper Strategy tailors the national response to the needs of particular groups within the homeless population, including children, older people, young people and indigenous Australians.

The new National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA), which started in January this year, gives a full picture of the Commonwealth and state and territory effort on housing and homelessness. The Agreement provides \$6.1 billion in the five years from 2008 to 2009 to be spent on social housing, assistance to people in the private rental market, support and accommodation for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and assistance with home purchase.

Under the NAHA, the Council of Australian Governments approved additional funding of \$1.2 billion for five years from 2008-09 as a down payment on the 12-year reform agenda outlined in the White Paper.

\$800 million of that funding will be spent on services to prevent and reduce home-

lessness, delivered through the National Partnership on Homelessness. A further \$400 million will increase the supply of affordable and supported housing for people who would otherwise be homeless, delivered through the National Partnership on Social Housing.

The response to homelessness will be implemented through three strategies:

1. Turning off the tap: services will intervene early to prevent homelessness
2. Improving and expanding services: services will be more connected and responsive to achieve sustainable housing, improve economic and social participation and end homelessness for their clients
3. Breaking the cycle: people who become homeless will move quickly through the crisis system to stable housing with the support they need so that homelessness does not recur.

The White Paper addresses the causes of homelessness and provides a framework for preventing homelessness from occurring in the first place. Among other strategies, it increases support for victims of domestic violence enabling them to stay safely in their own home, it increases public and community housing for people at risk of homelessness, it improves tenancy advice and support services and it introduces a policy of 'no exits into homelessness' from hospitals, mental health and drug and alcohol services and statutory care. These measures are designed to help prevent more Australians from becoming homeless each year.

The White Paper is available on the website www.fahcsia.gov.au or by telephoning **1800 774 055**.

Housing Management Manual to help with policy updates

Time, they say, waits for no man. Global financial emergencies and Governmental fiscal responses to them seem to follow the same rule.

Add into the mix a raft of new policy discussion papers coming out of the Department of Housing (DH) and the beginning of Compliance Reviews on those providers deemed 'high risk' and the first quarter of the year has been anything but quiet for the Best Practice Unit.

We have seen a big increase in the number of organisations seeking help with Regulation and Compliance issues.

To help alleviate the stress of updating policies and procedures, we have been working on a template Housing Management Manual that covers (among other things) housing allocations, establishing, maintaining and ending tenancies, rent collection and arrears management, tenant rights and participation, asset management, filing systems, complaints, appeals and grievance procedures.

The manual comes with a collection of form letters which you can customise to suit your own needs. We are happy to assist organisations to adapt the manual so please do not hesitate to contact us if you are interested in receiving a copy.

Third Tier applications are now opening and Business Planning will definitely be required so CHCWA will be working closely with the DH and consultants to develop training and clear guidelines on exactly what will be required to complete the impor-

tant document.

The Community Housing Federation of Australia (CHFA) is also holding a Capacity Building Forum this year. The forum will showcase the resources available to Community Housing Australia-wide. Please telephone our office or see the weekly e-news bulletin, CHCPen, for more details.

In other news, the BPU has been involved in the review of the National Community Housing Standards.

Following a consultative workshop in Adelaide, the draft update is expected to be released for a seven week consultation period in May. New features at this stage include the addition of a standard on Environmental

Sustainability and greater emphasis on financial probity and planning.

Training in Perth and the regions continues apace with Albany visited in February and Bunbury and Geraldton coming up soon. (April 28 to May 1 in Bunbury and May 18 to 22 in Geraldton).

Also, if your organisation is interested in customised training or facilitated policy writing workshops, please do not hesitate to ask. We are committed to helping you through the Registration process and providing you with the resources to do it effectively and well.

Daniel Guise
BPU Manager

CHCWA has a new Training Support Officer

Alice Hennessy is CHCWA's new Training Support Officer. Alice completed a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies at the University of WA in 2008.

She previously worked as an administrative assistant for a market research company.

It is Alice's first time working in the community housing sector and she is looking forward to the challenge of helping to organise and run the training courses which the CHCWA's Best Practice Unit provides for Community Housing Providers.



2009 Training Calendar

Date	Event	Details
April 28- May 1	Regional Training South West - Bunbury	Training will be tailored to the region based on direct consultation with providers.
May 18-22	Regional Training Mid West - Geraldton	Training will be tailored to the region based on direct consultation with providers.
June 10	Rent Setting	A workshop detailing how to maximise rental income while still providing affordable rents.
Late June		Proposed either Narrogin or Northam
July 1	Developing Policies	A workshop on utilising a policy template to assist in policy development.
July 21	Risk Management	Risk Management for Community Housing Providers
August 12	Asset Management	Learn how to develop an asset management plan that outlines a strategy and budget for long term planned maintenance and upgrades.
August 17-21	Regional training Goldfields- Kalgoorlie	Training will be tailored to the region based on direct consultation with providers.
September 9	Rent Setting	A workshop detailing how to maximise rental income while still providing affordable rents.
Mid-September	Regional training Port Hedland and Broome	Training will be tailored to the region based on direct consultation with providers.
October 8	Developing Policies	A workshop on utilising a policy template to assist in policy development.
October 29	Risk Management	Risk Management for Community Housing Providers
November 11	Asset Management Perth	Learn how to develop an asset management plan that outlines a strategy and budget for long term planned maintenance and upgrades.
November 26	Rent Setting	A workshop detailing how to maximise rental income while still providing affordable rents.
December 10	Developing Policies	A workshop on utilising a policy template to assist in policy development.
Mid December	Networking Sundowner	

For more information on any of the events please contact **Daniel Guise** on **(08) 9221 7933**
or bpu@communityhousing.com.au

CHCWA's response to the Community

Late last year, the Community Housing Coalition of WA was invited by the Department of Housing (DH) to comment on behalf of the Community Housing Sector on a Legislative Framework for Community Housing and proposed amendments to the Housing Act of 1980.

In addition to emailing the Legislative Framework Document and mailing out a briefing paper to all community housing providers, CHCWA arranged a forum to discuss the various issues raised by housing providers. The January forum attracted more than 80 sector representatives.

CHCWA's submission concentrates on the more strategic issues facing community housing providers which is what the DH requested and it also acknowledges there are some details which need clarification by the DH, even at this early stage of the legislative process. CHCWA also felt compelled to comment on critical administrative and operational matters.

Period of change

Given that the role of community housing in meeting the social housing needs in WA is going through a period of significant change, the expectation that the Community Housing Sector will play a far larger role in the future is becoming apparent.

CHCWA believes with any legislative framework, it is necessary to separate the strategic from the administrative. Some of the reasons given for the new legislation are about overcoming deficiencies in the Housing Act and not related to the regu-

lation of the community housing sector.

After consultation with the community housing sector, CHCWA found there was general support for the establishment of a legislatively based regulatory system but there was no consensus about the proposals set out in the DH's briefing paper.

The sector acknowledges the need for public accountability but believes regulatory provisions should be proportionate and handled with a 'light touch.'

The general view is that the proposal is process-oriented.

CHCWA's response to the DH's proposals for the legislative regulation of community housing canvases a range of issues relating to further developing the legislative proposal.

It critiques the proposal and addresses:

- the prevailing community housing policy environment

that supports the proposed legislative framework, including recent national developments

- recent DH community housing policy and program developments

- CHCWA's position on a legislation-based regulatory system

- the basis and need for legislation

- key issues for the community housing sector

- issues for the SAAP providers, coops and other niche providers

- specific comments about the operational and administrative regulatory proposals

- sector comment and feedback

- answers to the DH's questions

- the next steps for progressing development of the regulatory framework.

The community housing sector seeks to work in partnership with the Government



Consultant Michael Thorn addresses the community housing provider organisations' representatives at the forum.

Housing Legislative Framework review

in delivering much-needed social housing to thousands of WA families.

The sector is also keen to see the issue of regulation sorted out properly and in a way that promotes not only growth but also a quality consumer-focused system.

CHCWA agrees that regulation of the community housing sector is a reasonable public policy objective given the need for proper accountability where public funds are concerned.

CHCWA supports regulation that increases certainty for community housing organisations and their tenants, promotes best practice governance and the efficient monitoring of public funds.

The sector is keen to see community housing grow and develop and it sees the need for a system that is fair and equitable and encourages the future development of com-

munity housing as the mainstay of social housing provision in WA.

CHCWA acknowledges that significant action has been taken in recent years to promote and support the increased role of community housing.

CHCWA also acknowledges that the DH has taken positive steps to clarify the policy environment in which community housing is now operating.

Some of those actions include Commonwealth and State Government pronouncements supporting the role of community housing, the DH's support of CHCWA and its Best Practice Unit, development of Community Housing Policy and the investment of \$210 million in community housing.

But the absence of an overarching State Housing Policy reduces the value of that ac-

tion as it is sometimes unclear to providers what the Government and the DH's broader objectives are.

CHCWA believes that a housing policy framework should:

- set clear and transparent policy objectives
- be clear about its purpose and intent
- promote quality outcomes
- encourage and support growth
- promote efficiency and accountability
- encourage flexibility and innovation
- adopt a competitive model for the allocation of funds
- be sustainable.

Arising from consultations with the sector, CHCWA has identified prominent issues that have been raised by the community housing organisations.

Some of the issues are technical and others have significant policy implications which need to be addressed.

They include the scope of the legislative proposals, a clear definition of community housing, definitions of provider classifications, Local Government, shelters and crisis accommodation, cooperatives, the impact on regional providers, indigenous housing issues not fully addressed and rent setting which CHCWA believes should not form part of the regulatory proposals.

The two critical issues about registration are who is and should be registered and the independence of the system that will support registration.

CHCWA broadly supports the scope of the proposed functions of the Registrar but considers the Registrar must be fully independent of the DH and responsible to the Minister.



Forum attendees discuss the various issues of concern raised by community housing providers about regulation of the community housing sector during a workshop session.

Who we are and what we do

The Community Housing Coalition of WA is the peak representative and service body for organisations delivering non-government social housing in WA.

CHCWA's role is to

• **Represent the interests of Local Government and non-government social housing providers in WA.**

We make representations on behalf of the community housing sector to State and Federal Governments and also through our membership of relevant State and national committees including the Council to Homeless Persons (CHP), The Community Housing Federation of Australia and the WA Housing Minister's Forum.

• **Promote and expand Local Government and non-Government social housing in WA.**

CHCWA is intimately involved in the ongoing promotion and expansion of community housing. This includes working with National, State and Local Governments to increase their commitments to community housing.

• **Improve the delivery of Local Government and non-Government social housing in WA.**

CHCWA also works at a grassroots level to improve the delivery of community housing through advice, resourcing and training.

• **Identify unmet social housing needs**

Since merging with the Council to Homeless persons in 1999, CHCWA has become increasingly involved in homeless issues and now works to clearly identify unmet social housing needs.

Becoming a member

Community housing providers are a diverse group of organisations, but there are issues which affect the whole sector and which require a united voice.

Membership of CHCWA ensures that individual providers can make a difference, shaping the political and social landscape in ways that best serve the needs of providers and tenants.

CHCWA speaks with a strong voice for the sector, as well as providing a platform for discussing policy direction and best practice.

Full membership of CHCWA is open to:

- Incorporated non-Government, not-for-profit organisations that have the provision of community housing as their main objective.
- Incorporated organisations that manage or sponsor community housing projects as part of their operations.
- Unincorporated organisations that have the provision of community housing as their main objective.

Other organisations and individuals are welcome to join as Associate Members.

Membership benefits

Improve the operating environment for your organisation by providing input into policies, positions and practices relating to community housing.

We take your suggestions and represent your views to politicians, Government departments, the media, special interest groups and other stakeholders, ensuring that your concerns are heard and resolved.

We also offer members:

- Training in Managing Challenging Behaviour, Introduction to Community Housing, New Workers Induction, Asset Management, Developing Policies, Risk Management and Rent Setting.
- Regular meetings, to enable members to offer input into CHCWA policy.
- Members-only social functions, giving you an opportunity to meet other providers in a social setting.
- Workshops and forums to discuss technical, business and political issues.
- Realistic discounts on training fees.
- Access to research and statistical information.
- Members' section on the web site, where you will find current events, training opportunities and invitations to members-only functions.
- Opportunity for free advertising on our website.
- Free publications

Membership Fees:

Fees are based on the number of dwellings managed by the applicant:

Full membership:

- 0 - 10 = \$ 80
- 11 - 50 = \$190
- 51 - 100 = \$400
- 101 - 250 = \$520
- 251 - 400 = \$750
- 401 - 500 and above = \$1100

(GST included)

Associate Membership:

- Individual = \$45
- Organisation = \$95