



# Sheltershortz

## Homelessness, Health & Housing Expo

Just a couple months to go before the annual Homelessness, Health and Housing Expo scheduled to be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November in Whitmore Square.

**The Homelessness, Health & Housing Expo will be held on November 14 2006**

**Between 10am and 2pm**

**In Whitmore Square, Adelaide**

As many of our readers would know, this event came about after discussions at the 2003 Homelessness, Health and Housing Forum held at the Parks Community Centre. The forum focused on rough sleeping and health issues; entry, exits and barriers to and from hospital, mental health facilities and prison; health promotion through prevention, early intervention and harm minimisation; and communication and service integration between homelessness, health and housing sectors. These issues continue to motivate and influence the direction of this yearly event.



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We have just been notified that the RAH Chest Clinic is unable to participate at this year's event, however the focus will remain on health through the addition of the SA Cervix Screening Program and we are still in discussions with a number of other preventative health programs. Special thanks to the Chest Clinic and the staff involved in previous expos. Your contribution was immeasurable.

The following organisations have already registered their involvement in this year's event: Women's Information Service, No Pulgi, St Vincent de Paul, Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement (LISP Program), Enfield Community Health, Byron Place, Big Issue, Magdalene Centre, Men's Information Support Centre, SA Cervix Screening Program, Asthma Foundation, Red Cross, Homelessness SA, MACHA, OARS, Carer Support and Respite Centre, ICAN, Hutt St Centre, Health and Community Services Complaints Commission, Salvation Army, Aboriginal Housing Services, DASSA, Catherine House and Westcare.



If your organisation is not included in this list but would like to be involved, please contact Cheryl or Margo on 8221 6488.

## Minister's Strategic Housing Advisory Committee

*Following on from last month's Sheltershortz story about the Housing Council – Community Sector coming to an end, Shelter SA believes a new housing advisory body will be set up, similar to the outline below:*

### **Purpose**

The Minister's Strategic Housing Advisory Committee (MSHAC) will be to provide strategic advice to the Minister for Housing on directions and issues across the whole of the housing portfolio. The Committees' specific responsibilities include the provision of advice on:

- SA Government housing policy and related matters;
- Housing priorities and program initiatives as outlined in key strategic policy documents, e.g. *SA Strategic Plan, Housing Plan for SA, DFC Connecting to the Future*;
- Ongoing implementation, monitoring and review of housing reform in SA;
- Social Housing responses, including; Public Housing; Aboriginal Housing; and Community Housing; High Need Housing (including Supported Accommodation and Assistance, Supported Residential Facilities, and Special Needs Housing); and Affordable Housing responses;

- Private Rental and Home Purchase assistance programs;
- Low income and disadvantaged housing consumer interests across tenures;
- Housing need in the community, as identified through various housing forums, consultations and networks;
- Research and development of new policies in areas of housing need;
- Recommendations for policy and program changes regarding issues and advice referred from MSHAC Round Tables and via any standing sub-committees and/or working groups formed under MSHAC; and
- Any matters referred to MSHAC by the Minister.

### **Membership**

MSHAC may be comprised of twelve members appointed by the Minister for Housing, as follows:

- One member appointed as an independent Chair upon the nomination of the Minister for Housing;
- Three members with expertise in Social Housing, including at least one person with expertise in:
  - Aboriginal Housing; and
  - Community Housing;
- Three members with expertise in High Needs Housing, including one person

with expertise in:

- Homelessness and Supported Accommodation and Assistance (Chair or Nominee of the *Supported Accommodation Assistance Program Advisory Group*);
- Supported Residential Facilities (Chair or Nominee of the *Supported Residential Facilities Advisory Committee*); and
- Special Needs Housing, including for people with Disabilities;
- One member with expertise in Affordable Housing;
- One member with expertise in the Private Rental Market;
- One member with expertise and understanding of Consumers of housing services across tenures;
- One member with Academic research expertise in housing and/or social policy;
- One member with broad knowledge across the whole of the housing portfolio.

Members will be invited to provide independent and expert strategic advice. In undertaking this role members may reflect the views of clients and allied service providers. Membership is open to the non-government sector only.

***The role of the committee will be to provide strategic advice to the Minister for Housing.***

***It will have 12 members from the non-government sector.***

## Minister's Strategic Housing Advisory Committee (cont.)

### Appointment of Members

Members will be appointed by the Minister for Housing through an 'Expression of Interest' (EOI) process inviting nominations for membership of MSHAC. EOI's will be assessed in relation to criteria based on current housing expertise and experience.

In accordance with the *SA Strategic Plan* target aiming for 50% on average of women on government boards and committees, women are encouraged to apply for positions on MSHAC.

### Appointment Terms

Members will be appointed for a term of three years each, unless otherwise determined by the Minister for Housing. Any position that becomes vacant will be filled as a 'casual vacancy' until the end of the current term.

### MSHAC Round Tables

In addition to regular MSHAC meetings, MSHAC Round Tables will form part of the process of policy development and review. Attendance at Round Tables will be by invitation of the Committee. Whilst places are reserved on each Round Table for peak bodies and key stakeholder representatives, all other places are not fixed to ensure diversity of opinion. These forums are a key part of hearing the voice of the citizen and will focus on advice from the broader population, including but not limited to issues relating to the following groups who are relatively

disadvantaged within the SA population in terms of housing need: Aboriginal, Ageing, Complex Need, Disability, Homeless, Mental Health, Migrants, People exiting Prison, Refugees, Single Parents, Women, Youth etc.

Recommendations for policy and program changes will be forwarded to MSHAC for consideration and advice then provided to the Minister for Housing. Round Tables will be chaired by the Chair of MSHAC with Executive Officer support and resourcing provided by Housing Policy and Planning, Department for Families and Communities.

MSHAC Round Tables will be held periodically as determined by the Committee. MSHAC may conduct other consultations as it sees fit.

### Protocols and Workplan Reporting

The relationship between MSHAC and the Minister for Housing will be based on a partnership model and recognises that the non-government sector performs a range of functions which contribute to enhancing the infrastructure and quality of service delivery.

MSHAC will establish an annual work plan in consultation with the Minister for Housing. MSHAC will provide advice to the Minister for Housing as required, including an

annual briefing and performance report against the work plan. The Minister will meet regularly with the Chair and Deputy Chair.

Advice provided by MSHAC shall, as far as possible, be on the basis of consensus. Where this cannot be achieved, the majority view and range of views will be reported to the Minister for Housing. MSHAC provides a unique forum for a range of key perspectives on housing policy to come together, inform one another, and provide strategic advice and practical solutions to complex issues.

### Confidentiality and Information Dissemination

MSHAC members are to honour confidentiality of information as follows: Members may report to their relevant structures on the issues under consideration in general terms; Restricted documents are not to be circulated publicly; and No member of MSHAC or his/her organisation is to provide the media with information under consideration.

When policy or programs have been approved and announced by the Minister for Housing and/or the Department for Families and Communities, non-government organisations may make press releases.

**Watch for advertisements in the newspapers calling for Expressions of Interest.**

## Telling Evie's Story Part 3 - Couch Surfing

*This interview is part of a series of housing stories we wish to present to Shelter members in order to explore the impact of government policies and agendas on South Australians. These interviews seek to explore the participants' housing experiences, how they understand, negotiate and respond to situations they are confronted with. Wherever possible we will present updates to our readers on the people in our stories, where they are now and how they are going. Evie's housing story, as a single parent of two sons, raises a number of issues which will be discussed in the conclusion.*

***Evie heard about Community Housing shortly after the family moved for the 13th time.***

Evie's story part 1 (Sheltershortz, September 2005) concluded with a pregnancy at 20 years of age, after living on and off the streets since she ran away from home at 15. Part 2 (Sheltershortz, August 2006) concluded with a final diagnosis of Asperger's Syndrome for her younger son Damien, and the family having moved 12 times in as many years. Part 3 focuses on community housing, couch surfing and teenagers.

Evie heard about community housing shortly after the family moved for the 13th time. A friend told her how a small group of people manage their properties in a collective approach and there were three different co-operatives in the area where she now lived. The idea of painting the walls a colour of her choice and having a garden were very appealing to Evie. Within six months, the family was able to move into a four bedroom home. The property had not had tenants in for a few months and had been poorly maintained for some years. But Evie and her sons were content to do the work themselves.

Evie quickly became involved in the running of

the Co-operative, first working as an Assistant Secretary, then Secretary, Education and Maintenance Officer. Through these positions she was also able to attend forums and training offered through SACHA (now Office of Community Housing in Housing SA) that helped her with the roles she was undertaking. More importantly, the time management skills she had honed over the years as a single parent combined with the skills gained from these positions greatly improved her confidence.

The boys were more or less settled in school and Evie was about to undertake an Honours degree, when she learned that a relative's step-child was having some difficulties at home. Evie was told that Tamara was about to put herself into foster care. Apparently this was the third time in as many years, Tamara's mother was about to be placed in Glenside Hospital for an indefinite period of time. On the previous two occasions, Tamara had managed to look after herself, but this time she had had enough. Tamara was about to start third year in high school and wanted to focus on her studies. The only

warning that her mother was about to have an episode was to arrive home after school and find all of the locks changed. Placement in foster care may have resulted in Tamara having to change schools, which could have adversely affected her ability to do well in her studies. Evie felt compelled to offer their spare bedroom to Tamara.

Tamara's family lived on the other side of town and assured Evie that she would continue to visit every weekend and they offered \$50 per week to cover Tamara's expenses. Not having to worry about weekend activities with Tamara was a relief to Evie and she felt the five day per week commitment would not be too much to deal with. Evie had had limited experience with raising girls but figured it couldn't be any more difficult than raising boys. Once she realised what a tough time Tamara had been having, Evie tried to make Tamara feel especially welcome. They painted her bedroom in Tamara's choice of colour and picked out a new quilt cover. They even stripped and stained some furniture together. Tamara told Evie that she had no idea what her mother suffered from that meant

***Tamara's mother was about to be placed in Glenside Hospital for an indefinite period of time.***

## Telling Evie's Story Part 3 - Couch Surfing (cont.)

she required hospitalization. So Evie called a friend who worked as a psychiatric nurse who could explain to Tamara what was happening with her mother. However, Tamara felt such resentment and anger at her mother for putting her through the past three years that she had little interest in empathizing with her mother. Sam resented the extra time spent with Tamara, and the more Sam showed his resentment, the more Damien supported Tamara. The family was now divided and Sam would deliberately avoid being at home the same time as Tamara. Tamara also stopped visiting her family across town, preferring to stay at her new home.

Evie found it difficult to focus on her studies. She had always managed throughout the children's life to keep a part time job, from tutoring, fast food preparation or retail. But the added expense of another child combined with the strain in the home was getting on top of her. When she was offered another part time job, she jumped at the chance. By the second week of working two part time jobs, studying full time and taking care of three teenagers, Evie knew something had to give. After 8 months of Tamara living with them, Evie told her how difficult she was finding it and asked her if she knew of some other people in town that she

could live with. Tamara said she would talk to her Pastor about it.

Another month went by, but nothing changed. Evie had quit her second part time job, but was still able to do very little work on her Honours thesis. Her Supervisor was concerned she would not be able to complete her studies and would most probably fail. With one month to complete her thesis and at the beginning of the school holidays, Evie told Tamara she had to move out. Evie has never seen Tamara since.

Life went back to normal for a while and Evie worked madly on her thesis. After working throughout the night on the day the thesis was due, Sam introduced his mother to Mark a young friend of Sam's who had been sleeping over for the past couple of nights. Evie had been so focussed she hadn't noticed. After a week or so of Mark sleeping over, Evie asked Sam why he was still here, wasn't his family wondering where he was? Sam asked if Mark could live with the family for a while – he had been arguing a lot with his mother who had a heart condition. Mark believed he was going to give his mother a heart attack if they continued to live under the same roof. With the pressure of study gone, and Mark being a friend of Sam's, Evie agreed to the

arrangement. Mark ended up staying for more than nine months and is considered as an additional son by the family. Because Mark and his family were able to spend some time apart they were eventually able to reconcile. When Evie got her results from her Honours, she was overjoyed to learn she received a First class, which meant automatic acceptance into the PhD program. For Evie, who had been expelled from school at fifteen, combined with her other life experiences, this meant a great deal.

*Although the roofless population is generally considered the most vulnerable, it is perhaps more useful to consider this population as the tip of the iceberg. There is a paucity of research concerning the experiences of the secondary homeless. Secondary forms of homelessness or 'couch surfing' account for some 5,251 of the homeless population in South Australia, according to the 2001 Census count. This equates to 69% of the total homeless population or 5,251 people who were staying with other households, constantly moving between relatives and friends. The story of Tamara and Mark provide an insight into the experiences of this group, how they ended up requiring assistance and why.*

***By the second week of working two part time jobs, studying full time and taking care of three teenagers, Evie knew something had to give.***

***Secondary forms of homelessness or 'couch surfing' account for 5251 of the homeless population in SA .***

## Telling Evie's Story Part 3 - Couch Surfing (cont.)

***..there is very little assistance available to a young girl under 16 with a parent suffering a mental health issue.***

***Similarly, in Mark's case, he was very unsure of where to go for help and seemed quite content to simply drift from friend to friend until his mother's health improved, which may have taken years if at all. In the mean time, Mark dropped out of school and was in and out of employment***

*In Tamara's case, there is very little assistance available to a young girl under 16 with a parent suffering a mental health issue. Foster care may very well have been her only option; however Tamara was unsure of whom to approach about this and what it may have involved. Given her particular circumstance, she may have found some support through Carers SA (Tel: 8271 6288 country callers 1800 815 549). They have resources and supports that she may have been able to tap into including Young Carer Information Kits, and access to the Youth Pathways Program that aims to assist the most at-risk young people including young carers to make a successful transition through to completion of Year 12. There are also camps, retreats and network activities that could have helped Tamara to feel supported, share her experiences with other young carers and ensured she was able to complete her studies.*

*Similarly, in Mark's case, he was very unsure of where to go for help and seemed quite content to simply drift from friend to friend until his mother's health improved, which may have taken years if at all. In the mean time, Mark dropped out of school and was in and out of employment. The*

*breakdown of the family unit, health concerns, and non-completion of schooling are just some of the important events this young person was left to contend with at 15 years of age.*

*In both instances, these young people were unable to sign a lease, and therefore secure their own accommodation. In Tamara's case, she didn't receive any income. Further, at 14-15 years of age, it is unrealistic to imagine these young people have the skills to manage their own home, budget the household finances, do the shopping, their homework, get to school on time and have some kind of social life. Let's face it, many adults with years of experience are having difficulty with this kind of workload.*

*So where are these young people supposed to go? The statistics tell us that the majority of young people are going to their friends or other family members for support, rather than access a SAAP service. Yet statistically SAAP serves just 15% of the homeless population who are experiencing secondary homelessness. In reality this means that individuals like Evie are supporting thousands of couch surfers! And as Evie's story illustrates, this support not always sustainable or in the best interest of the child. Evie*

*contends that she offered assistance to Tamara and Mark as a result of her own experiences and a belief that no-one should have to go through something like that. Indeed, it is unlikely that she would have been able to offer any support had she been a tenant of the Housing Trust (her rent would probably have risen) or renting privately. However, to this day she wonders what became of Tamara.*

*As this story suggests, Community Housing enabled a low income family to stabilise their accommodation, maintain connection with a local area (this was the longest period of time the family lived in one area), and progress their individual successes (i.e. further study, high school, friendships and so on). Perhaps even more importantly, participating in a co-operative housing model enabled Evie to gain some skills, build on others, develop her self confidence, and even offer help to others. Having been so often on the receiving end of assistance and supports, being able to offer help to someone else in need can have a profound impact.*

## International Tenants' Day - October 2 2006

Imagine being the father of a family with five children and at 2 am you are woken up by loud strange voices over a loud speaker demanding that you leave your home now. Military and police officers or local thugs pound at your door. You race to get your children and grab a few possessions. Your evictors enter your home. Any resistance is met by beatings with wooden bats. You stand outside in the darkness with your few belongings watching your house being bulldozed. How would you feel?

- 800,000 people may have been rendered homeless in Nigeria through evictions in 49 settlements from 2003-2006.
- In England 26,000 tenants were evicted by local authorities and housing associations in 2002/03, and 93 % of evictions resulted from rent arrears.
- In New York, the marshals complete about 25,000 evictions each year, about one for every five eviction warrants.
- 700,000 Zimbabweans from last years' evictions are still struggling to find shelter.
- In Italy more than 200,000 families have been threatened with eviction, 80 % for rent arrears. 15,000 families were evicted the first six months in 2005.
- In Prague, tenants who have been told, by the landlord, to leave their flats must themselves show proof to the Court that the order is without a valid reason – the landlord does not need to show proof in the first instance.
- In Poland, effective ways of getting rid of "troublesome" tenants are: dismantling of railings, disconnecting electricity and cutting off the water supply and heating.
- In Pakistan, the construction of the Lyari Expressway in Karachi, will have rendered over 250,000 people homeless.
- In Osaka, Japan, an estimated 10,000 homeless people who find shelters in streets, parks and on riversides are threatened with eviction.
- Australia: Approx. 12,000 police-assisted evictions, and 100,000 evictions take place annually.

**Do we need more examples, fact and figures?** (Ok, please go to [www.iut.nu](http://www.iut.nu) and [www.habitants.org](http://www.habitants.org))

Of course, the circumstances under which these evictions occur are not comparable, but behind the figures, behind every one and each of them, lay a personal tragedy, irrespective of country and political doctrine.

**Also, all available figures give evidence that evictions are increasing worldwide, which completely contradicts the UN Millennium Development Goal, Target 11: *Improve the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020.***

**Such evictions violate human and housing rights and should be executed only in rare circumstances, and should not be executed at all before alternative and acceptable accommodation has been found.**

### International legal treaties which speak against evictions and embody the right to housing:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights, article 25 (1): Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for health and well being, including....**housing**...
- The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, article 11 recognises the **right to adequate housing**, and the right to be **free from arbitrary forced evictions**.
- General Comments IV and VII, adopted by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, paragraph 18 of General Comment IV states: "Instances of **forced eviction are incompatible** with the requirements of the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and can only be justified in the most exceptional circumstances, and in accordance with the relevant principles of international law." Paragraph 16 of General Comment VII reads: "**Evictions should not result in individuals being rendered homeless** or vulnerable to the violation of other human rights.
- The UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, article 17.1 complements the right **not to be forcefully evicted without adequate protection**.
- African Charter on Human and People's Rights (African Charter), The American Convention on Human rights (American Convention) and the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (European Convention), all **protect persons from forced evictions**.
- European Social Charter, article 31 : **Right to Housing**
- Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, article 8: **Right to respect for private and family life**. Several more international treaties which include the right to housing are found on [www.iut.nu](http://www.iut.nu) and [www.habitants.org](http://www.habitants.org)

## Issues at the Coalface - Rooming House Workers

This month I met with Rooming House Support Workers, they spoke about the general difficulties they had with assisting residents in private rooming houses, especially when problems arose with their residency. For example, the workers provide advocacy around tenancy issues in the absence of a 'Tenants Information and Advice Service'. However, because the regulations are limited, the avenues for redress are restricted. The workers spoke of how they used Shelter's Rooming House Kits but often use the kits in a very covert manner for fear of repercussions from the proprietor. The current review of the Supported Residential Facilities Act and sector as a whole, which includes rooming houses, really needs to incorporate an education program for private proprietors. Conversely, empowering the residents could also be a strategy, although this is probably not an option because it would be far too labour intensive.

Rooming house workers also spoke about the general demographic of the rooming house population and how the general environment within the sector has changed. Previously, workers were dealing with the 'happy drunk' who was potentially harmless and would fall asleep before causing too much

disturbance or damage. The workers raised their concerns over the increased number of young people who were living in the rooming house sector. In addition to this, they spoke of the significant change to the nature of substance abuse: they don't often see the 'happy drunk', now they deal with young people whose personality becomes altered as a result of the myriad of drugs available. The young people are fine until 'pay-day', when they go out and get their next supply. After this the worker's role becomes even more challenging as they deal with altered egos. Anecdotal evidence suggests that until recently, due to the cost, the substance of choice was mainly marijuana. However the use of Methamphetamines, or certainly 'speed' as one of its commonly known derivatives, is becoming an increasing problem. There appears to be a lot more 'speed' around and, unlike marijuana, speed has far greater noxious consequences for people coming down from its effects.

According to the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, 'speed' is 'typically of low purity' and is laced with other substances such as glucose. Substances other than glucose can be used and so the detrimental affects of these unknown

substances can be particularly harmful. Further, Methamphetamines can "induce brief psychosis consisting of paranoia and hallucinations and can also worsen symptoms among people who have schizophrenia or other chronic psychotic disorders" (National Drug and Alcohol Council Research Centre, 2006\*). In addition to this, research conducted by McKetin, McLaren and Kelly, on behalf of the National Drug and Alcohol Council Research Centre, found that over three quarters of dependent Methamphetamine users suffer from poor mental health and half suffer from poor physical health. This means symptoms can include aggression, depression, disturbed sleep and loss of appetite, all of which will impede recovery from a psychotic episode\*.

These are some of the issues rooming house support workers are dealing with, which makes their job particularly difficult every time payday comes around. These workers are to be admired for their tenacity, dedication and commitment to rooming house residents, because despite the problems, the workers spoke about residents with respect and compassion. Hats off to them!

\*Source: <http://www.ndar.med.unsw>

***Shelter SA  
has produced a  
Rooming House Kit,  
detailing the rights  
and responsibilities of  
tenants.  
If you would like  
copies of the kit  
please contact Shelter  
SA on 8221 6488***

## Across My Desk

To give our readers a better idea of the types of activities we are involved in, the kinds of requests we are asked each week, and to promote greater accountability to our members, we thought it might be useful to feature a new section – ‘Across my Desk’. We are often asked questions or receive requests for information on a broad range of issues and from a broad range of people/requirements. As some of our responses will show, we don’t always know the answer, but we will do everything in our power to find out. Readers are also encouraged to respond to queries

**Question:**

***A Social Worker was advocating for a recent amputee and their partner. They were in dire need of accommodation. The property they had been sharing was no longer available and they would be needing some place to go after being discharged from hospital, and it would need to be wheelchair friendly.***

This was a tough one! After a ring around to many of our contacts, we suggested WACHA (Wheelchair Accessible Community Housing Association) and gave a contact number. A colleague also suggested pursuing a support organisation targeted at the person’s specific illness (i.e. the reason for the amputation, for example Diabetes SA). A week later we learned that WACHA no longer exists! They are now Disability Housing SA and can be contacted on (08) 8351 8466.

As organisations change location or staff, contact details are often overlooked and as a result connections between organisations are lost. We urge anyone new to a position, or recently experiencing a name or location change to let us know. Then we can be sure to pass on accurate and timely information to those in need.



**Question:**

***An Honours student is looking at critiquing an ethnography on working class life in Newcastle. They needed floor plans of working class homes and or contact details of our sister organisation ShelterNSW.***

We were able to suggest the ARCHICENTRE ([www.archicentre.com.au](http://www.archicentre.com.au)), and the NSW Department of Planning as potentially suitable sites for finding floor plans. We also gave the contact details for Shelter NSW ([www.sheltersnsw.org.au](http://www.sheltersnsw.org.au)).

**Question:**

***Student of community welfare specialising in mental health issues requested further information regarding housing and mental health.***

We responded to this student’s request with the Mental Health Coalition website ([www.mhcsa.org.au](http://www.mhcsa.org.au)) and our website ([www.sheltersa.asn.au](http://www.sheltersa.asn.au)) as both of these sites have information regarding our recent collaborative forum on Mental Health and Housing. The March edition of Sheltershortz also featured an interview concerning housing and mental health.

Footnote: We also recommend ‘The Mental Health Needs of Homeless Young People (Bright Futures: Working with Vulnerable Young People)’, a report commissioned by the Mental Health Foundation and Barnados, August 2002.

## Anti Poverty Week Events October 15 - 21 2006

Here are some of the events being held around the State during Anti Poverty Week.  
For more events please visit: [www.antipovertyweek.org.au](http://www.antipovertyweek.org.au)

### On Monday 16 October

*Launch Event*  
*Low Cost Cooking Demonstration*  
*Rundle Mall*  
12pm

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*Cross Road Forum*  
*Welfare to Work Policy*

7.30–9 pm  
The Monastery, Cross Road

Speakers:  
Glen Watson (Centrelink)  
Elspeth McInnes (ACOSS Board & Council for  
Single Mothers & Their Children)  
John Haren (St Vincent de Paul Society)

### Wednesday 18 October & Thursday 19 October

*Spotlight on Social Justice—SACOSS*  
Symposium  
Shores Function Centre  
  
Speaker: Dr Mark Peel

### Thursday 19 October

*Tent City*  
Loxton

To highlight issues of those experiencing  
homelessness and requiring emergency  
accommodation

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*Nature of Poverty*  
Milang

### Tuesday 17 October

*Avoid the Money Trap*  
Para West Adult Campus

Launched by Nick Xenophon MP  
Including Expo, Cooking Demonstrations &  
MoneyMinded workshops

### Wednesday 18 October

*Education & Awareness on Poverty*  
Hackham South School  
11.am –1.30pm

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*ETSA Mobile Kitchen*  
Colonnades

### Friday 20 October

*Mind Over (Money) Matters*  
*The relationship between Mental Health*  
*& Poverty*

10am–2pm  
Pilgrim Hall

Speaker  
Geoff Harris  
Mental Health Coalition of SA

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*Closing Event*  
*Education: Pathway out of Poverty*

3pm  
St Mark's College, North Adelaide

Host: Dr John Bannon

## ASHRA Update

We have just completed our fourth edition of the ASHRA Newsletter! If you haven't received a copy but would like to receive one electronically simply give us a call and we can include you on our email list. Alternately, they can be viewed be on the website [www.sheltersa.asn.au](http://www.sheltersa.asn.au)



Our current focus remains on getting our multicultural directory published and to this end, we have just completed an application to the Multicultural Grants.

Applications will also be made to the Premier's Community Initiatives Fund (applications close on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October) and East Web (applications close on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September). For those of you that may be searching for funding and would like to know more about these opportunities, go to [www.premcab.sa.gov.au/dpc/community\\_initiatives.htm](http://www.premcab.sa.gov.au/dpc/community_initiatives.htm) for the Premier's Community Initiatives Fund. For more information about East Web, go to [www.eastweb.org.au](http://www.eastweb.org.au) or email [eastweb@communityfoundation.org.au](mailto:eastweb@communityfoundation.org.au)

We believe our directory will ensure the greater utilisation of services. We are frequently told of cases where people are desperately in need of a specific form of support and despite requests they are unable to secure appropriate support. This does not mean there are insufficient supports available, but that with organisational name changes and staff changes, the networks breakdown. To more effectively ensure consistency in service provision, we need to stop assuming that everyone is aware of our individual organisations and our activities. In an environment where we are continually asked to achieve more with reduced resources, our networks can be one of our most valuable tools. From attending a meeting or a forum, to responding to an email, these moments are vital in developing and MAINTAINING our networks. In addition, these networks need to expand beyond the personal. So often, once an individual leaves a job, the connection with that particular agency becomes severed. Participating in this directory, as with the suggestions outlined above are simple yet fundamental examples to ensuring your organisation and its activities are genuinely meeting its target audience.

These themes are key areas of the ASHRA membership and are intrinsic principles of our vision statement. ASHRA seeks to actively engage with as many groups, organisations and activities as possible and promote them initially through the directory. As our network becomes more established we will incorporate other activities to continue this work. We will keep our readers informed as to our success with our funding application.

## Homelessness SA AGM



Homelessness SA will hold its Annual General Meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September at Pilgrim Hall and will be followed by a Forum. The theme of this quarter's forum is "Working Partnerships - the benefits and pitfalls". We felt that with so much discussion around collaboration, it would be a timely discussion to present to our members and interested parties. What are the processes involved? How do

successful working relationships occur? And what is involved? Speakers will represent a broad range of projects – from the more recent Housing Legal Clinic, to Self Build Projects in regional South Australia. Everyone is welcome! Contact Margo or Cheryl for further details (8221 6488)

## The Women's Housing Caucus

The Women's Housing Caucus is fast approaching its first birthday. The first 'official' birthday is the date we passed the Caucus Constitution in October 2005. We will be holding a forum, in conjunction with our AGM, during the week of the 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> of October to mark the occasion. Keep a look out for further details of this event. In August, the Women's Housing Caucus hosted a forum in conjunction with Shelter SA, the YWCA and Homelessness SA with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing, Mr Miloon Kothari. To read his preliminary report on the right to adequate housing in Australia, please visit the Shelter SA website: [www.sheltersa.asn.au](http://www.sheltersa.asn.au)



# Upcoming Events

**16-17 November**

***Homelessness and  
SAAP Reform  
Conference***

**Homelessness SA**

Morphettville Function  
Centre

*details coming soon*

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 25 September    | <i>The Women's Housing Association AGM</i>   |
| 27 September    | <i>Housing Spectrum AGM</i>  |
| 29 September    | <i>Homelessness SA AGM &amp; Forum<br/>Successful Collaborative Partnerships</i><br>1pm - 4pm, Pilgrim Hall, Flinders St, Adelaide                               |
| 8 - 14 October  | <i>Mental Health Week</i><br>more information: <a href="http://www.mhcsa.org.au">www.mhcsa.org.au</a>  |
| 10 October      | <i>Margaret Tobin Mental Health Awards</i>   |
| 12-13 October   | <i>National Shelter Meeting</i><br>Darwin  |
| 15 - 21 October | <i>Anti Poverty Week</i><br>more information: <a href="http://www.antipovertyweek.org.au">www.antipovertyweek.org.au</a>   |
| 18 - 19 October | <i>Spotlight on Social Justice<br/>SACOSS Symposium</i><br>Shores Function Complex<br>more information: <a href="http://www.sacoss.org.au">www.sacoss.org.au</a> |
| 25 October      | <i>Affordable Housing Seminar</i><br>Australasian Housing Institute<br>more information: <a href="http://www.housinginstitute.org">www.housinginstitute.org</a>  |
| 14 November     | <i>Homelessness, Health &amp; Housing Expo</i><br>10am-2pm, Whitmore Square, Adelaide  |



**Shelter SA**

Housing: a basic human right

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