

\$3.5b for Public Housing to Improve Rental Affordability



Speaking at a national forum in Melbourne on August 28th, Chairperson of National Shelter, Adrian Pisarski, called for an urgent increase of \$3.5b in national public housing funding over the next three years.

Mr Pisarski said that public housing underpins the entire Australian housing system and a benefit of investing in public housing is that it does not have an inflationary affect on the economy. "Affordable housing, including public housing, needs to be part of every new development in Australia," he said. "Public housing supply has been plummeting during the housing affordability crisis. The National Affordable Housing Agreement is the government's opportunity to deliver to low and middle income Australia," Mr Pisarski added.

The forum heard that the supply of affordable housing is the base problem. The Rudd government has committed to measures to improve rental affordability; however, the affordability crisis cannot be improved without investment in public housing as well. "You can track declining housing affordability against the loss of public housing stock. Providing more public housing allows greater choices for low income earners and has the benefit of putting downward pressure on all rentals."

The forum highlighted how the National Affordable Housing Agreement could work and that as it currently stands, public housing is the necessary but missing element. The forum kicked off a month long national campaign to boost affordable and public housing supply.

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sheltershortz

Advance Notice

Shelter SA Annual General Meeting

**Afternoon of
October 28 2008**

**Guest Speaker:
Hon Tanya Plibersek
Federal Minister for Housing**

Time and Venue to be advised



National Affordable Housing Agreement

by Gary Wilson

The Commonwealth/State Housing Agreement expired June 30th 2008, but was extended to December 31st 2008. States, Territories and the Commonwealth Government are currently drafting the National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA), to take effect from January 1st 2009.

It is Shelter SA's understanding that the current funding levels of the CSHA will remain in place until July 1st 2009, as indicated in the Federal Budget for 2008-09.

However, from the 2009-10 Federal Budget onwards, there is opportunity for the Commonwealth to dramatically increase funding for affordable housing, public and community housing to begin to meet the needs of people on low and moderate incomes.

The new NAHA will roll together a number of payments, as part of the larger Government Reform Agenda. NAHA will not be for a set period of time (CSHA's were for 5 year periods), but instead will be a rolling agreement, with regular reviews. This means the NAHA could phase in a number of components over the coming years.

It is unlikely that everything can be negotiated and agreed to before the COAG meeting October 2nd 2008. Therefore, it is important that the NAHA consider which components are included in which phase (probably budget years). Shelter SA would argue that a priority in the 2009-10 budget should be:

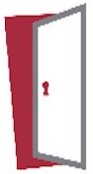
- Putting in place a plan to restore, over several years, the \$3.5 billion the Howard Government stripped out of the CSHA during its time in power. These funds would be directed specifically towards public and community housing, and are in addition to Labor's election platform.
- Specifying growth targets and funding arrangements for all affordable housing programs that are in part funded by the Commonwealth Government
- Specifying outcomes to meet the needs of homeless people
- Specifying outcomes to meet the needs of Indigenous people.

Phase 2 (the 2010-11 Federal Budget) could consider:

- Setting up detailed reforms in planning and infrastructure, to assist with the quicker provision of affordable housing
- New strategies for a restructuring of Commonwealth Rent Assistance
- Reforms to negative gearing, capital gains taxes, land taxes and stamp duties.

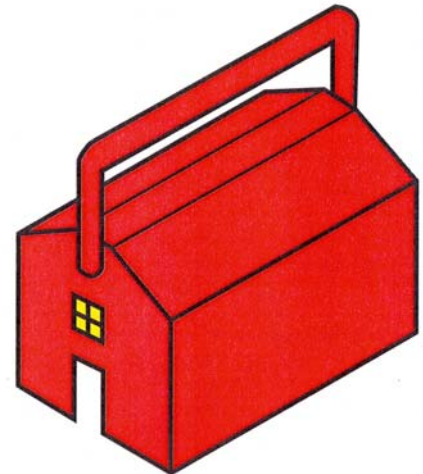
It is of concern to Shelter SA that we are hearing there will be no requirement of State/Territory Governments to provide matching funds; so it is vitally important that the targets and outcomes expected by the provision of Commonwealth funding are clear, specific, related to timelines, and hold the States/Territories accountable for meeting them.

The overall aim of the NAHA should be to significantly reduce the proportion of low and moderate income households who are in housing stress (paying more than 30% of their income on housing). Currently there are about 750,000 low-income households in housing stress. The way this would be achieved would be through **the building of at least 250,000 new "affordable" homes, mostly for rental, by the year 2020.**



Sharehouse Toolkit by Margo Johnson

The need for a South Australian-specific sharehouse tenancy resource was first signalled by Shelter SA upon completion of a youth regional housing strategy in 2006 (*Transitions: Housing and related support for young people in regional South Australia*). The basic tenet underpinning the *Transitions* project was the fundamental change in circumstances that have severely limited the ability of young people to smoothly transition to independence. As Kerr and Savelsberg (2003:4) argue, 'It has been widely accepted that Australian young people can no longer assume access to employment, a smooth transition from adolescence to adulthood or full social and economic participation in their community'. In 2007, Shelter SA began work on examining the issues related to sharehousing with the aim of producing a South Australian-specific resource for tenants.



This South Australian-specific resource, informed by South Australian experiences, aims to better support:

- vulnerable groups experiencing difficulty accessing the private rental market,
- current tenants in the private rental market,
- regional young people needing to access metropolitan based services and resources,
- low income households to access and utilise available supports, and
- better prepare school leavers transitioning to independence.

Identifying the need

The typical housing pathway followed in Australia is a progression from the parental home, to rental accommodation, to home purchase and ultimately home ownership¹. However, young people are facing increasing barriers and limitations in their ability to transition to independence. Young people are staying longer in the family home², face considerable difficulty accessing the private rental market and are less able to enter home ownership arrangements³.

This situation is further exacerbated by the current housing affordability crisis. The private rental market is extremely competitive with vacancy rates below 2% for the past three years. Both public and community housing have strict eligibility criteria and long waiting lists. Issues of affordability are expected to continue to impede the ability of young people to transition to independence, with the median weekly rent more than doubling in the past ten years⁴. For example, in 1996 the median weekly rent for a two bedroom unit was \$94 per week. The current median rent for a 2 bedroom flat in the metro area is \$225 per week⁵.

The increase in part time work, and decrease in full time work, especially for this age range, has also reduced the capacity of young people to live independently. The SACOSS report on *Social Disadvantage in South Australia 2001* found that 12.3% of young single households in SA aged 21 - 25 were in after-housing poverty – that is, after the cost of their housing was taken into consideration, their remaining income placed them below the poverty line, with less money available for good nutrition⁶, health and well being, education and so on. A recent AHURI study also revealed that tenants will often go without food or that children are often unable to attend school excursions due to costs⁷. Taken in combination, young people seeking to live independently in this current environment are extremely vulnerable to insecure accommodation, and are at risk of homelessness, both of which

¹ Baum, S. and Wulff, M. 2005

² According to the ABS 006, the proportion of people in the 15 -24 age group staying in the family home has increased by 8.9% over the past 10 years (ABS Media Fact Sheet Census Population and Housing 2914.0.55.002)

³ Home ownership among 18-34 year olds has fallen from 48% to 44% over the decade leading up to 2004 (ABS 2006 Australian Social Trends *Housing for Young Adults* Cat No. 4102.0)

⁴ The ABS estimates the weekly median rent at \$94 in 1996; \$114 in 2001; to \$150 in 2006

⁵ 2007 Office of Consumer and Business Affairs

⁶ For example, the cost of food has increased by 6.2% over the past year according to the ABS 2008 Year Book

⁷ Experiencing the housing affordability problem: blocked aspirations, trade-offs and financial hardship. AHURI 2007



Sharehouse Toolkit (cont.)

impact negatively on the health and well-being, education and stability of young people. As YACSA commented in their response to the State Housing Plan, 'As a society, we appear to have accepted that young people will generally have reduced incomes, and yet young people continue to pay the same as everyone else for essential goods and services including housing'⁸.

There is also very little information available regarding sharehousing, particularly concerning early intervention and education. However, there were a number of resources aimed at specific aspects of tenancy, e.g., ending a tenancy, or starting a tenancy. They were aimed at specific age or life circumstance (students, public housing tenants, leaving care or rooming house tenants). No site or resource covered all aspects of tenancy. The most effective resources had web support with documents and information fact sheets available for download.

The need for additional resources and supports is best exemplified by a recent ACOSS⁹ report that estimated 132,000 people eligible for assistance were turned away in 2005 because community services were already operating at capacity and needed to ration access. In South Australia this equated to more than 28,000 people not being able to access services they were eligible to receive, as a result of the increasing demand for services. ACOSS states that over a third of these requests were for housing services. Gaps in the delivery of service support may be alleviated by the development and availability of targeted resources such as the Sharehouse Toolkit outlined here.

Shelter SA believes that in the current housing crisis, attention and support will need to be paid to alternate housing tenures such as share housing. Many of the opportunities and responses to the current housing crisis are long term with outcomes expected to reach fruition in years to come. Immediate and urgent attention must be given to the needs of low income individuals and families who are already experiencing difficulty.

Who lives in sharehousing?

A large number of young people (15-24) who live independently live in group households. The median age of an adult living in a group household was 28 years. According to the ABS, group households make up a small proportion of the total population (around 3% or 666,000 people); however, these figures are expected to increase to 785,000 to 915,000 by 2026. The ABS estimates there are approximately 9,835 group households in South Australia representing around 19,000 people.

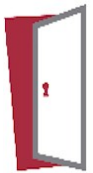
It is also important to note that 'group households' are defined by the ABS as households consisting of two or more unrelated people where all are aged 15 years and over. Research carried out for the Sharehouse Toolkit drew on households that fitted these criteria; however some households were also made up of same sex couples, and siblings with friends. Therefore, it could be suggested that the ABS figures are an underestimation of the numbers of South Australians involved in and requiring support for their respective shared tenancies.

Findings from the research conducted by Shelter SA identified sharehouse tenants spanned the 15-35 age groups, (although the majority were in their late teens to early twenties) and that this form of tenancy is as much dependant on life circumstance as age. Half of the participants were employed full time, or studying and working part time, and the majority stated that at least one tenant was in receipt of a Centrelink income. Income earned from study and part time work does not provide secure or sufficient income to allow young people to live independently in single accommodation. Centrelink income entitles members of the household to receive concessions on utilities, such as telephone, gas connection and electricity; however none of the respondents were aware of these entitlements.

Most sharehouse arrangements tended to be made up of 2 - 3 people, with the majority made up of three people per household. Findings also suggested that these tenancies tended to last for 12 months or more and two thirds of the households surveyed had a tenant leave, not always giving the household appropriate notice. This had a negative impact on the remaining tenants, who were often left with final bills, having to pay extra rent if they were unable to find a replacement tenant in time, and in one instance the household was dissolved completely.

⁸ YACSA Response to State Housing Plan 2001

⁹ Australian Community Sector Survey 2006 ACOSS paper 143



Sharehouse Toolkit (cont.)

It was alarming to find that when asked if sharehouse tenants were aware of where to go for help if they had problems with their tenancy, the majority did not know.

Despite the negative experiences identified in the research, the majority of real estate agents with sharehouse experience would consider letting a property again to people wanting to live in a sharehouse arrangement. Similarly, the majority of tenants in sharehouse arrangements describe the overall experience as positive, stating that the skills and lessons learned were valuable and that it allowed tenants to build their independence slowly. Social benefits, for example, included 'having someone to talk to about personal issues', or 'someone to talk to when you get home', to 'bigger social network, good contacts and you get to meet people working in different fields'. A number of respondents also highlighted 'learning people skills', 'learning to live with others', and 'patience and responsibility'.

After leaving the sharehouse, the majority of respondents had moved into their own place or into a place with their partner, while some continue to live in a sharehouse arrangement. This strongly affirms the notion that sharehousing is a valuable pathway to developing independent living, social skills, pooling and developing their resources and thereby reducing their vulnerability to homelessness.

The breadths of age and life experience are important considerations for the way the final Sharehouse Toolkit will look and the style of language employed. Information covered in the Toolkit will also be of value to tenants in general, especially as a preventative/educative tool. In addition, the Sharehouse Toolkit can complement the work of those teaching independent living skills and others working in housing and tenancy support.

The Toolkit walks potential tenants through the entire process of renting in the private rental market and includes topics such as: working out what you can afford, where to look for properties, where to look for flatmates, where to get references, tenancy databases and black listings, leases explained, how to apply for Bond assistance, how to claim concessions for utilities, help with setting up a home (furniture, white goods), finance, templates for rosters for household chores, flatmate agreements, how to report maintenance issues, maintenance of property, inspections, ending a tenancy, evictions and getting a reference. There is also a trouble-shooter section covering issues such as resolving conflict in the house or with your neighbours, where to get help with tenancy issues, Residential Tenancy Tribunal information and much more. Many of these templates will also be available for download from the Shelter SA website.

The resource will be made freely available across the state and is scheduled to be launched on October 7th 2008 for International Tenants Day. If you would like to pre-order your copy, just contact Margo on 8221 6488 or email: margo.johnson@sheltersa.asn.au

References

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2914.0.55.002 *Census reveals many young adults still live with their parents* Media Fact Sheet 2006

Baum, S & Wulff, M. 2003 *Housing aspirations of Australian households* Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute: Queensland Research Centre & Swinburne-Monash Research Centre

Goddard, Kessles and Associates and Stamatellis 1998 *The Fair Share: Reform of residential tenancies law in NSW as it relates to share housing* Australian Region Media: Tenants Union of NSW



Wrestling with Definitions of Family Violence by Cate Jones

The concept of family has taken on a multiplicity of meanings in the last ten years in Australia. We all experienced, during the 2007 political campaign, Kevin Rudd's emotional references to supporting 'working families' and earlier John Howard's steady proposals that we restore 'traditional family values'. It is however, unclear what either Howard meant by 'traditional' in relation to families and what Rudd precisely means by 'working families'. The word 'family' has become an emotive political catchphrase designed to further political agendas rather than examine what defines 'family' in the 21st Century. The word family, for all its cultural, political, emotional and academic significance becomes more and more difficult to define.

While we all understand that the traditional stereotype relating to family is embodied by fairy tale weddings, happily ever after myths and other illusions, the intersection between society and the concept of family continues, in the West, to presuppose a traditional definition. When we hear reference to a 'family friendly' restaurant we are more likely to assume that the restaurant welcomes, mum, dad and the kids rather than a lesbian couple and their child, or a single mum and her five rowdy children. If divorce rates continue to soar and the number of children born out of de-facto relationships rises, as is the current trend in both the USA and Australia, the odds that most children will grow up in a single parent household will also increase. So, why is it that we cling to mythologised notions of family when evidence around us is mounting very quickly to suggest that most of the social problems that plague our society, for example, high divorce rates, homelessness, teenage pregnancy, poverty, inter-generational dependence on welfare, health and the aging population are problems that regularly relate to family?

The term 'family violence' is mostly used to describe violence that occurs within a significant relationship between partners, however that family is composed. According to the Review of the Family Violence Act, Tasmania 2004, relationships were defined as:

"2.2 Definition of relationships

A decision was made at the time of drafting that this legislation would focus on intimate partner violence and as such, the definition of 'relationship' would be limited to current or past *intimate* relationships, between adults, but inclusive of people aged 16 – 18 years. The Act provides this guidance:

family relationship means a marriage or a significant relationship within the meaning of the Relationships Act 2003, and includes a relationship in which one or both of the parties is between the ages of 16 and 18 and would, but for that fact, be a significant relationship within the meaning of that Act. (s.4) "

At this point, you may be wondering how this article relates to housing and why I am talking to a Tasmanian definition of family violence. I attended a forum on the 18th of August called *Safe at Home*. It is a Tasmanian program initiative designed to decrease the impacts of domestic violence and after implementing the program four years ago the Tasmanian Justice Department and the Police are beginning to see a drop in incidents of family violence.

"The *Safe at Home* strategy has sought to firmly establish that family violence is criminal in exactly the same way as violence in any other context. By introducing dedicated legislation in 2004 the State Parliament of Tasmania (The Parliament) made a clear statement that a new response was required, and that a new effort and resources would be invested. The *Family Violence Act 2004* (Tas) (the Act) has as the stated object:

In the administration of this Act, the safety, psychological wellbeing and interests of people effected by family violence are the paramount considerations. (s. 3)."

The new legislation provided a legal framework that police officers and organisations, such as Child Protection Services, involved in the provision of services to the victims of domestic violence are now required by law to report information involving the perpetrators of family violence. This has created an integrated flow of communication between services that meet monthly to exchange information, review and evaluate their progress. It has also functioned to move blame to the perpetrator of violence rather than the victim/victims.



Wrestling with Definitions of Family Violence (cont.)

One of the outstanding components of this program is that women and their children are encouraged to stay in the family home where ever possible rather than be forced into shelters or sometimes onto the streets. The trained Family Violence Police Officers play a huge role in advancing this option for women as they have the authority to place Police Family Violence Orders on the perpetrator that operate in the same way as restraining orders in South Australia, but they are in Tasmania much more pro arrest and therefore the orders are to a great extent more legally enforceable and if breached, have serious consequences. Also, the Family Violence Police Officers work to ensure the family home is secure, locks are changed, entry points checked, security lighting organised and also offer the victims other safety measures such as, personal alarms or 000 alarms that can be worn on the wrist 24/7.

Women's Shelters in Tasmania are reporting that while the numbers of women and their children arriving have not decreased, the length of stay has definitely lessened. It may take the Family Violence Officers three or four days to ensure a victims house is secure enough for her and the children to return but they are returning and this is impacting positively on women's emergency accommodation in Tasmania. The truly amazing aspect of these practical security measures is that they are a free service for victims.

Again, you may be wondering what this all has to do with my earlier definitions of family, issues of family violence and housing and yes, I have digressed. I was struck at the forum by what I believe to be the strongest flaw in the Tasmanian model, *Safe at Home*, and that is, that I do not consider that a definition of family violence should be limited to partners in, or ex-partners of, a relationship. I think we need to adopt a holistic approach to family violence, in terms of the impacts on all members of a family. Dr. S. M. Packer, AM Community Pediatrician, ACT Community Care who works in the clinical area of child abuse supports the research when she states, "Almost a quarter of children we see for sexual abuse come from chaotic and abusive families with a high incidence of domestic violence. We know this is an underestimate." Yet, children who are sexually abused are not defined as victims of family violence according to the relatively progressive Tasmanian Family Violence Act.

I believe that we have a lot to learn from other cultures in regard to viewing the 'family' holistically. Mostly all successful service provision to Aboriginal families has a holistic approach as Aboriginal people themselves don't use a Western framework to define or understand family. If we explore the roles and social order that existed in traditional Aboriginal cultures we must acknowledge that prior to white invasion Aboriginal groups were custodians of land that characterized, "their very being and spiritual existence." (Howard, 2001:2) The roles of men, women and children clearly defined and harmoniously incorporated into the lifestyles of distinct Aboriginal groups. These integrated systems of social order were, and continue to be, completely devastated by colonization.

Additionally, Aboriginal child rearing practices were based on a very long history of collective social tradition and Aboriginal Lore designed to support and maintain the cohesive lifestyle of all members of a group. An exploration of the Aboriginal 'traditional' way of raising children reveals that pre-invasion each Aboriginal group has its own very distinct social, spiritual and cultural practices concerning bringing up children. Fundamentally, according to Jeremy Beckett, who discusses Torres Strait Islander customs:

"Childrearing practices, patterns and beliefs are based on a culturally-bound understanding of what children need and what they are expected to become." (Beckett, 1989: 45)

The Tasmanian *Safe at Home* model is investigating whether mandatory reporting should be legislated giving the Family Violence Police Officers additional powers particularly in situations where children are effected by physical or sexual violence and also where concerns about children's safety requires that under the *Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997* mandatory reporting is already necessary. This provision to the Family Violence Act would prevent avoidable duplication.

But ultimately, however the family is constructed; all families have distinct cultures, dynamics, ways of seeing and being that is defined by each family's particular social reality. Each member of a family impacts on the other, especially the violence of members that have power over those who don't. I believe that if a single mum is raising a son and he is abusive or violent towards her – that constitutes family violence. If a father sexually abuses his children but does not beat their mother – it constitutes family violence. And while a perpetrator of violence should clearly be removed from the family home what is left



Wrestling with Definitions of Family Violence (cont.)

of that family after the removal of the perpetrator, needs to be looked at holistically and supported because the violence has impacted, and will continue to affect, every member in a specific way.

Finally, a holistic framework to looking at 'family' ensures that each individual is considered unique. While family members do not exist within a vacuum or in isolation from each other, when considering the impact of family violence or abuse it is critical that each individual's well-being is examined within the context of their particular life situation. It is only from that understanding that we can hope to support the individual and ultimately, the family.

References

Dr S M Packer, AM. Community Pediatrician, ACT Community Care (2003) *Child Sexual Abuse: A Medical Model*. Paper presented at the Child Sexual Abuse: Justice Response or Alternative Resolution Conference convened by the Australian Institute of Criminology, Adelaide, May.

Beckett, J. (1989) *Torres Strait Islanders: custom and colonialism*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK

Howard, Sue. (2001) *Fathering and Indigenous families – a North Queensland community Partnership*. paper presented at the *Helping Families Change Conference*, Melbourne 22–24 February 200, Commission for Children and Young People, Queensland

The Shelter Network—Alan Moore



Alan Moore is a member of the Shelter SA Board, and is pictured on a recent holiday with his siblings. (*his words!*)

Alan was employed for nine years by the Paraplegic and Quadriplegic Association of South Australia and retired last year from the position of PARAQUAD SA Manager of Property and Accommodation Services. His duties involved working with people who use a wheelchair for their mobility to provide advice about their housing options and then support in getting that housing. Alan also assisted other disability organisations in the provision of wheelchair accessible accommodation and provided advocacy and advice on wider access issues. An

additional role was raising access issues with policy makers, and participating in forums within the Government and the community on access matters, particularly about housing.

Prior to retirement Alan was overseeing a PARAQUAD SA project The Ramsay Rebuild in association with the Archicentre, to develop a number of wheelchair accessible houses near the Spinal Unit at Hampstead.

Alan has assisted in the education, growth and development of three community housing organisations and has had responsibility for the development and construction of over 48 wheelchair accessible houses and units. As well, he was involved in the preparation of the South Australian Community Housing Authority (SACHA) DDA Plan, SACHA Disability Modifications Policy, Associations representative to the SACHA Appeals Policy Review Working Party and was a Judge for the State Community Housing Awards.

Alan's prior experience includes 12 years with a large charitable/religious institution establishing and administering youth housing programmes, family housing programme, Skillshare Project, welfare service, thrift shops etc. During the time with that organisation, Alan was responsible for a number of large emergency housing projects and a number of innovative housing initiatives with the SAHT. Previous board experience includes 2 terms on the SACHA Board, Comhouse Board and the Board of Shelter SA., CHCSA Associations Forum, CHCSA Disability Focus Group and the Coalition for Adaptable Housing.



Homelessness, Health & Housing Expo Update

11 November 2008 by Margo Johnson

Plans are well underway for this year's Homelessness, Health and Housing Expo! This multi agency event aims to improve the health and wellbeing of those who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness using a primary health care approach.

The event looks just like any other community fair. There is live entertainment, a barbeque, games and activities for all ages. What sets this event apart from a community fair is the services and information offered by the stall holders. As reported in previous editions of Sheltershortz, the health issues of those who are homeless or at risk of homeless are as varied as the people themselves. People who are homeless or at risk of homelessness experience the same health concerns as the rest of the population, only more acutely. A simple cold can develop into pneumonia quite quickly when sleeping rough, and even tinea can require hospitalisation if not treated. But where do you store your medications when you are homeless? And where do you change dressings when you don't have a home?

The city of Adelaide has a variety of health and housing support programs and initiatives who work with limitations every day. Unfortunately, demand tends to exceed the capacity of many services to deliver and staff are over-stretched and under-resourced. This has meant that staff sometimes have to turn people away as the services are already operating at capacity.

The Homelessness, Health and Housing Expo provides an opportunity for organisations and services working across the three sectors to network with one another, showcase their organisation's activities and catch up with clients they may have lost contact with. For those experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, the event is a great way to find out about services that can help, meet the staff and chat about their individual concerns. And most importantly, the event is a great way to get together and have fun while sharing a meal and getting involved in any of the activities on offer. You may even win a prize!

Every year, stallholders go out of their way to find interesting ways of attracting people to their stalls. Some offer a fruit toss (to teach nutrition), others offer face painting for the children (and thus give parents time to speak one on one to staff). Hand massage, quizzes and raffles and bead making are just some of the other ideas that services have incorporated to promote their message and service to some of our most vulnerable citizens.

You can support the event and help people who are experiencing homelessness by:

- Volunteering at one of the many homeless services across the state. Simply give us a call and we can suggest the service closest to you. Whether its once a year, or a couple hours a week, the skills and commitment of volunteers make such a difference
- Invite Shelter SA to come and speak to your community group or school about homelessness
- Next time you are having a spring clean, donate good quality household items to any one of the various charity stores. Or better yet, have a garage sale and donate the funds raised to services that work with and support people who are homeless.
- Organise a fund raiser at your workplace or school. Funds raised can help support these services and you will also be raising awareness about homelessness at the same time.
- Get your service to register to participate in the Homelessness, Health and Housing Expo
- Volunteer at the event. We currently need help with a mail drop in the lead up to the event and we need people to help with the barbeque on the day. We also need health professionals (podiatrists, dermatologists, massage therapists, nutritionists and so on) and alternative health professionals. If you have a skill – we can find a use for you!

Together we can make a difference!

Registrations to participate in the event will continue to be accepted until the 1st of November. Registration forms are available on the Shelter SA website; simply call Margo on 8221 6488 or email margo.johnson@sheltersa.asn.au or download from the Shelter SA website www.sheltersa.asn.au complete and post or fax us the form (8221 6292) and don't forget to include your organisation's insurance certificate of currency.



Vertical Sprawl by Gary Wilson

I recently attended a seminar organised by the Hon Sandra Kanck, MLC on Vertical Sprawl – the Government's Plan to Supersize Adelaide. Architect Paul Downton spoke on the ecological damage of continuing to build outwards in quarter-acre blocks across decent farmland.

John Hanlon, Acting Chief Executive of Planning SA said Adelaide needs 40,476 over the next 5 years and another 42,820 from 2013-2018. At least half of these homes need to be infill (increasing density) and near transport – but the railway to the western suburbs will not be electrified before 2018. Along with this extra housing will be the need for job creation and location across the metropolitan area and in regional centres. It appears SA will reach its population target of 2m not in 2050 but in 2028! *(Note: this will require SA to DOUBLE its housing construction for each of the next 20 years! GW)*

Lorraine Rosenberg, Mayor of Onkaparinga said her Council has a 30 year plan. She wants definitions of "infill and TOD's (Transport Oriented Developments)" and public transport to Aldinga. Her region already has 158,000 people, and an increasing number of couples and female lone-person households. Water management, the economy, agriculture and tourism are key elements for the area.

David Brown, Senior Planner at the City of Unley is also seeing an increase in the number of singles and couples in Unley, but is more concerned about the increases of people aged 50+ and 70+ in the future. The City wants to increase population but a better balance in the demographics. They are looking at infill on currently non-valued sites. He is reviving an "old" concept of "villages" – corridors and centres, with housing and mixed use buildings – in targeted growth locations. Surprisingly, 70% of the buildings in Unley are the original ones.

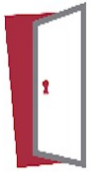
Pam Moore, activist from Love your Backyard, organised people to stop an inappropriate 2-storey development in Port Adelaide neighbourhood of single storey homes. Her group's tactics worked, with Council rejecting the development application and the court putting a number of restrictions on any developments for that site.

David Pisoni, MP for Unley, said the 2006 state election was the first to raise urban infill/ character as an election issue. Ben Moretti, from Save Adelaide's Character and formerly of Friends of City of Unley Society, gave suggestions on how to lobby. The new proposed State planning regulations mean Councils MUST approve residential developments, so long as they:

- Are on a minimum 350m² block (car parking is not required)
- Cover no more than 60% of the site
- Have walls no more than 6m high (= 2 storey)
- And are set back from the footpath by a minimum of 90cm.

He argued that these regulations remove planning control from Councils and undermine zoning, character and sustainability features. He would urge people to make planning regulations an issue in the 2010 state election.

Stephen Fisher, a Mitcham Councillor said most homes in Mitcham were built on 700-800m² blocks; the new planning regulations mean 14,000 of the 18,000 on the Mitcham plains can now be subdivided, without Council approval, and will ruin the quality of the suburbs. Richard Thorne, current Mayor of Unley said there need to be such regulations, or else let the developers do whatever they want. He believes there is a 20 year supply of properties suitable for urban consolidation within the ring 4-8km from the city.



The aims of the ASHRA network are to provide an informal and collegial network of those who are working directly and indirectly with refugees and migrants to better support and ease the process of settlement. Everyone is welcome to join our membership, attend our bi-monthly meetings, or contribute as frequently or infrequently as they are able.

In 2007, in collaboration with Shelter SA, the ASHRA network published the Multicultural Directory. This resource aims to promote the breadth of services on offer across the state of South Australia. Settlement concerns extend beyond simply having a home and can include access to English language classes, help with getting a drivers licence, removalists, tenancy support to find a home and where to go for assistance during your tenancy.

The 2007 edition of the Multicultural Directory was aimed particularly at those working indirectly with refugees and migrants: for example, community development workers, youth workers, home tutors, and ESL teachers, local councils and so on. However, the resource has also proven useful to those undertaking research around settlement issues and or those wanting to engage with specific cultural groups. Libraries and TAFE's have also ordered multiple copies for students. So it is becoming clear that connecting up services that support new arrivals has a number of follow on benefits and outcomes.

With only 500 copies published, the Shelter SA office was inundated with requests and was out of stock within six months. Even when the document was added to the Shelter SA website, we received nearly 500 hits for this document alone within 2 months! Clearly, we have underestimated the demand for a South Australian-specific resource of this type.

This year we plan to publish 1000 copies and the resource will also be available for download from the website. We are currently going through the painstaking process of checking and rechecking contact details of services listed. **If your service was not listed in the previous edition and you would like to be included this year**, please contact Margo on 8221 6488 or email margo.johnson@sheltersa.asn.au We are also interested in including more affordable removalists, multi-lingual tradespeople, educational opportunities (training/work experience), lobby groups, informal and local English language learning and literacy and numeracy classes, language learning /language maintenance classes, community and culturally specific groups, sporting groups (or come and try sports), and events (cultural days, celebrations, and so on).

Alternately, **if you would like your entry amended** to include an additional service you now offer or to change the contact details, simply drop us a line or telephone. Forms are also available from the Shelter SA website www.sheltersa.asn.au

Aboriginal Homelessness and Housing Support Branch Update

The Aboriginal Homelessness and Housing Support Branch is holding its next meeting in September. We are in the process of developing Terms of Reference for the Branch and would like to give the Branch an appropriate Aboriginal name. We are also looking at formulating an action plan for the group's focus. At the next meeting two senior staff members from the Aboriginal Services Division of Housing SA are giving a presentation about their work, their aims and concerns. At the following meeting Phillip Saunders from Homestart will be giving a presentation about a new proposal to establish an Aboriginal Housing Company. There has been significant interest in the Branch and the network is constantly growing. I receive phone calls or emails regularly from people wishing to attend meetings and be added to the mailing list. As we progress as a group, I can see this Branch taking on a powerful energy of its own and becoming a real force in promoting Aboriginal housing concerns in South Australia. Call Cate Jones on 8221 6488 for more information

Upcoming Events

Creating a new partnership between the Commonwealth Government and the Not-for-Profit Sector

12 September, 9am –1pm Marjorie Black House, 47 King William Road, Unley (enter via Young Street)

The Not-for-Profit Sector and the Commonwealth Government are exploring ways to develop a new and stronger relationship with each other, based on partnership and respect. One way to do this is through the development of a National compact. The Sector and the Government want to know what you think about the proposal to develop a National compact. We want to know what you think the value of a compact is, what a compact should focus on, and what should be in one.

Places are limited so register as soon as possible. Registration forms can be downloaded from www.acoss.org.au, or you can telephone 02 9310 6209, or email amy@acoss.org.au.

Go to www.acoss.org.au, to download a copy of the consultation discussion paper.

Equity Fair - a showcase of equity tools and action

23 September 2008, Education Development Centre, Hindmarsh

An opportunity to showcase current good practice in equity action. The emphasis will be on practical tools and a broad range of case examples of interventions to redress "unfair and remediable inequalities" in access and opportunities for wellbeing. Learn about and see programs that demonstrate successful approaches to addressing inequities. Meet other people who are interested in equity issues.

If you are interested in setting up an equity stall please go to: <http://som.flinders.edu.au/FUSA/SACHRU/>, contact Julie Johns on 8204 6692, or email julie.johns@flinders.edu.au for details.

More Information: <http://som.flinders.edu.au/FUSA/SACHRU/default.htm>

Presented by Flinders University, SACHRU and Department of Public Health

Population-level Action for Community Wellbeing

24 and 25 September, 9am—2.30pm, Education Development Centre, Hindmarsh

Innovation in policy and action is necessary to address complex population wellbeing issues such as food security, water quality, community safety, early childhood development and management of long-term chronic disease conditions. The challenge is to develop settings and service systems which effectively support people to make 'healthy choices' and address persistent patterns of inequalities in access to opportunities and resources. Participants will explore practical application of key theoretical concepts, research evidence and good practice examples to their own setting. Presenters: Miranda Roe – 8204 6418 or Angela Lawless 8204 5979

More Information: <http://som.flinders.edu.au/FUSA/SACHRU/default.htm>

Anti Poverty Week

12 –18 October 2008

More Information: <http://www.antipovertyweek.org.au/>

Shelter SA Annual General Meeting

28 October 2008

More details to come!!



Shelter SA

Housing: a basic human right

Torrens Building
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ADELAIDE SA 5000

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Mobile: 0410 663 225

Fax: 08 8221 6292

Email: sheltersa@sheltersa.asn.au

Web: www.sheltersa.asn.au

Shelter SA is a peak housing organisation representing housing consumers' views to Government, the housing industry and the community. It is primarily concerned with the availability and adequacy of low cost housing, and that people on low incomes have access to secure, affordable and appropriate housing.

Please contact Shelter SA if you are interested in becoming a member, or would like further information.

Secretariat

Executive Director: Gary Wilson

Sector Development Officer: Margo Johnson

Project Officer: Cate Jones

Clerical Officer: Cheryl Shepley



Housing Legal Clinic Opens in Port Adelaide by Bill Manallack

Free legal advice for Port Adelaide's homeless is now available with the opening of a Housing Legal Clinic at UnitingCare Wesley Family and Support Services. This is the fifth legal clinic to be opened since the establishment of the Housing Legal Clinic (HLC) in July 2006. In the year 2007/08 volunteer lawyers with the HLC provided \$770,000 worth of pro bono legal services to homeless people and those at risk of being homeless. The Port Adelaide clinic, at 58 Dale Street, operates from 5pm to 7pm on Thursdays.

Towards the end of the first year we had the project evaluated – two observations of the consultant:

1. Overall, it is clear the establishment of the Housing Legal Clinic has been a transforming experience – for the clients, for the volunteer lawyers, for the centres which support the homeless and for the law firms providing pro bono services.
2. Feedback from clients is that as a result of seeing the lawyers at the clinic:
 - Their living conditions are more stable
 - For most of them the lawyers have helped solve their problems
 - They feel much more relaxed with a considerable reduction in anxiety
 - The experience has opened the way for them to get on top of seemingly insurmountable problems and they can begin to take control of their lives.

The legal clinic does not work in isolation. Clients often present with multiple issues and problems that need to be addressed by our lawyers and other professionals. It is not unusual for clients to see the lawyers, a housing worker, a financial counsellor and a caseworker all in the one visit. We encourage caseworkers and others to sit in with their clients when seeing the lawyers and we work closely with other agencies such as Street to Home. We collaborate by supplying joined-up, integrated services to individual clients.

Combining our resources and expertise in this way is a sure way of finding solutions that really make a difference - assisting clients wishing to exit homelessness, and helping people who are at risk of being homeless to stay in their homes. The devastating consequences of homelessness for those who experience it, and the broader social implications for our society, are well known. In partnership we strive to make significant inroads into reducing and preventing homelessness.

Contact: Bill Manallack bill-m@wrcsa.org.au



Pictured: Ms Libby Craft UnitingCare Wesley Port Adelaide with Representatives from the Housing Legal Clinic