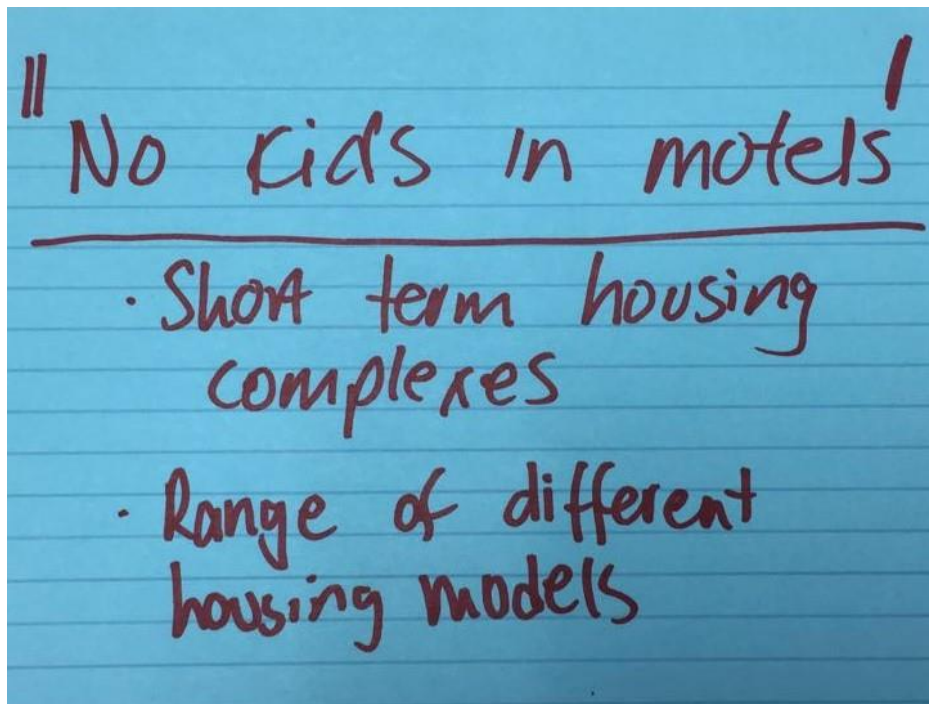




## **“No Kids in Motels” – Shining a Light on the North Workshop Report**

Playford Civic Centre, Elizabeth

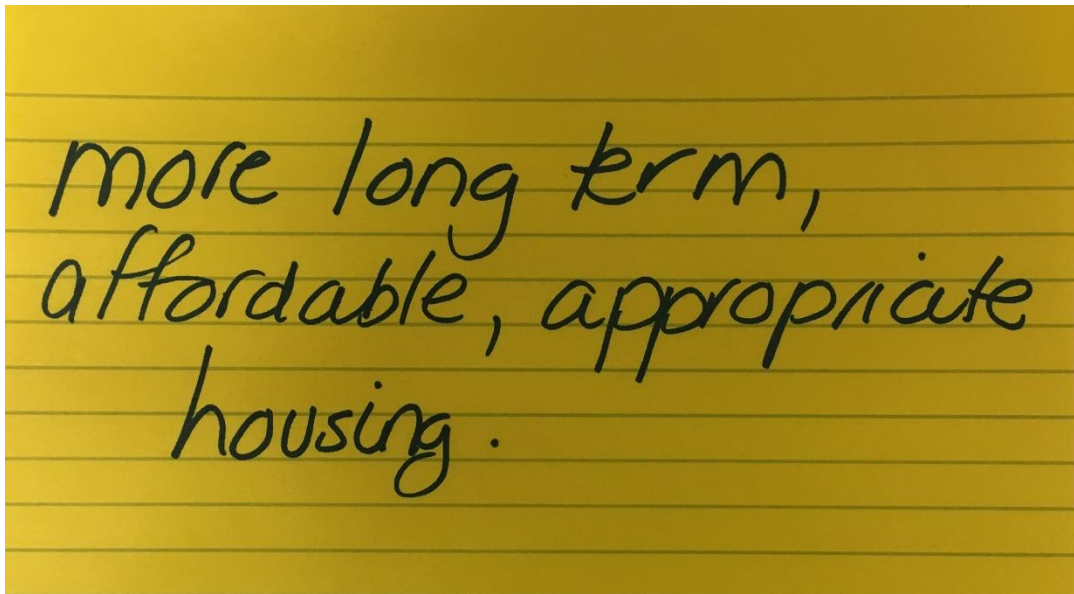


Contact Shelter SA [sheltersa@sheltersa.asn.au](mailto:sheltersa@sheltersa.asn.au) or (08) 8223 4077

## Key messages for State Government

Our workshop participants discussed several key issues facing the outer northern suburbs of Adelaide, ranging from housing to cultural awareness. It is the State Government's responsibility to take action on the following solutions arising from this workshop:

### 1. Housing



Post-it note from Activity One of the Workshop: "How do you want the North to look?"

#### An increase in appropriate crisis accommodation

*"South Australia needs more crisis housing with a focus on children"*

*"We need long term, affordable and appropriate accommodation for families and individuals"*

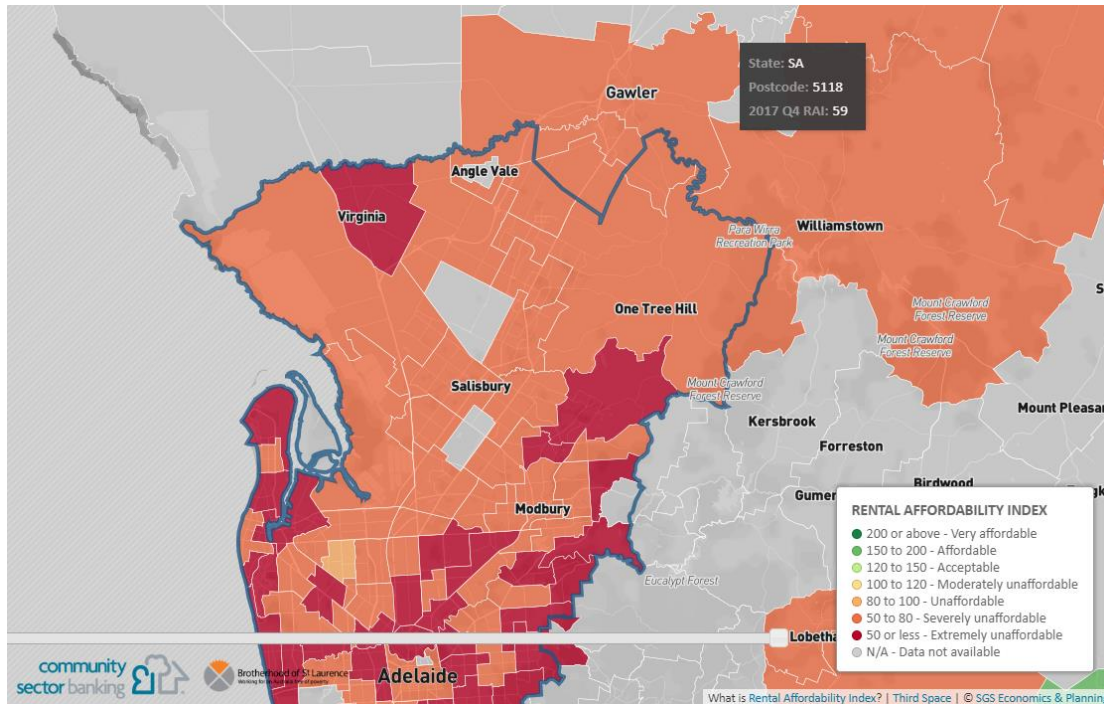
Workshop participants identified a high number of families and children living in motel accommodation. Some agencies reported that 30 families and 100 children per month were being housed in motels in the form of crisis accommodation, for several months at a time. Motels are not a suitable place for children. There needs to be a redevelopment of housing options for crisis situations, designed to house families escaping domestic violence or experiencing homelessness. Anglicare SA presented at the workshop about the Turning Point program, which provides safe, stable accommodation for women and children fleeing domestic violence. If we are serious about supporting clients out of domestic violence situations, we must reinvest in short, medium and long-term public housing options. We need increased funding for the Turning Point program and similar services, to offer safe and appropriate crisis accommodation to families.

#### An increase in affordable and social housing

There are high levels of unemployment and poverty in the North of Adelaide, which means that private rental accommodation is unaffordable for many residents. According to the National Rental Affordability Index<sup>1</sup>, a household renting in Elizabeth would need to achieve

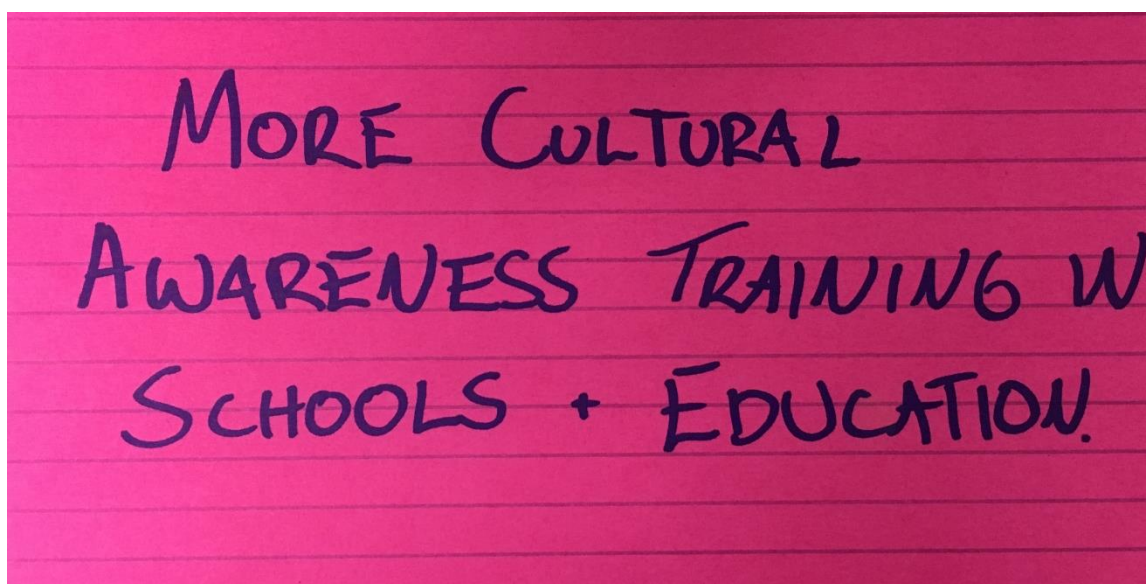
<sup>1</sup> <http://www.sgsep.com.au/maps/thirdspace/australia-rental-affordability-index/>

an annual income of at least \$65,000 to secure an affordable rental property. The gap between what is affordable, and private rents, means that we urgently need a reinvestment to increase public and community housing in the Northern suburbs to create homes where families and individuals can afford to live. Shelter SA again asks for State Government to cease the sell-off of public housing, act to ensure the vacant tenantable Housing SA properties in the Northern suburbs are habitable, and grow the total stock.



Snapshot of the National Rental Affordability Index, showing that a household with an annual income of 30,000 would struggle to find a home in the North on the private rental market

## 2. Cultural awareness

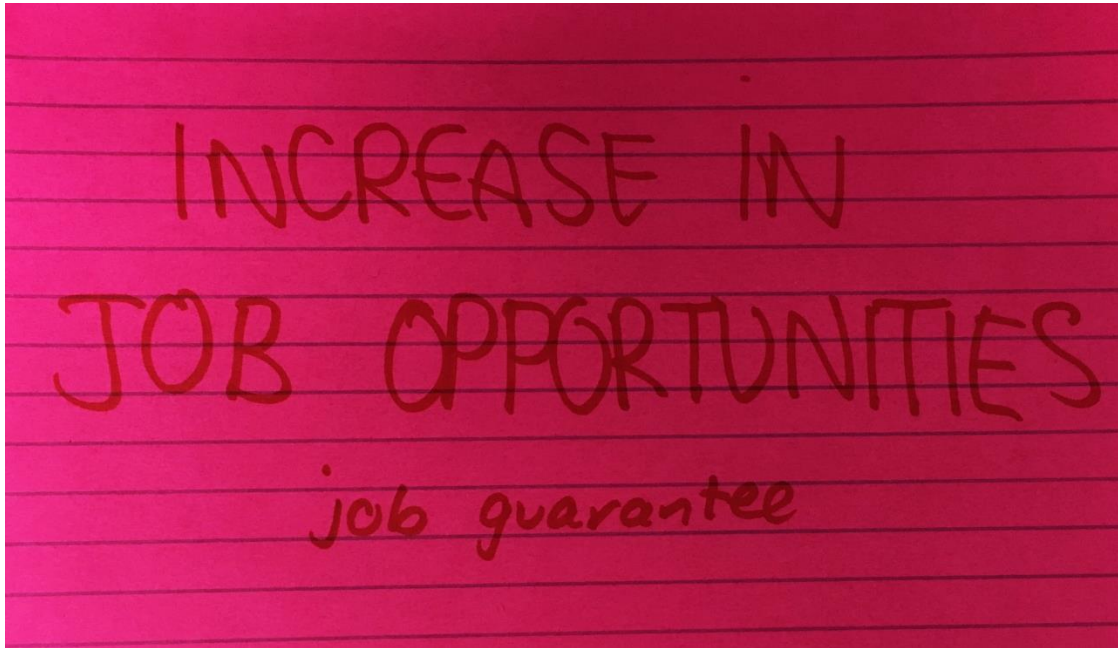


Post-it note from Activity One of the Workshop: "How do you want the North to look?"

### Deliver cultural education programs

Participants identified a lack of cultural awareness programs in schools and said that children must be taught from a young age about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. We would like a strategy for all schools, especially in the outer northern region, to receive age-appropriate cultural awareness lessons.

### **3. Employment**



Post-it note from Activity One of the Workshop: “How do you want the North to look?”

### Tackle generational unemployment

The Building Family Opportunities<sup>2</sup> program delivered by the Department of State Development targets families experiencing generational unemployment and supports them into securing work to increase their financial independence. This program has a high success rate and shows considerable cost savings to governments. Shelter SA asks for the program to be adequately funded to be delivered, specifically in the outer northern suburbs of Adelaide, in order to improve outcomes for families facing generational unemployment.

### Advocate to Federal Government the need for a Job Guarantee pilot

*“Job Guarantee is a great initiative”*

After hearing a presentation about Job Guarantees<sup>3</sup>, participants agreed that a local Job Guarantee pilot program should be established in the outer Northern suburbs. It is State Government’s responsibility to convey the importance of this relatively new economic model to Federal Government to raise awareness and potentially receive funding for its implementation. Alleviating poverty and increasing employment in the North are critical to reduce homelessness.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://statedevelopment.sa.gov.au/skills/building-family-opportunities>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.levyinstitute.org/publications/public-service-employment-a-path-to-full-employment>

#### 4. Services

##### An investment in domestic violence prevention

Shelter SA research and community engagement activities show that prevention and early intervention are the only logical steps forward to reduce the current crisis approach to domestic violence, and the strain on the shelter system. Cultural and social norms about gender must be challenged as early as possible through educating our children. Organisations like Power Community Ltd<sup>4</sup> deliver crucial programs to school students across South Australia. We need increased funding for this program so that it can be delivered in every school in the outer Northern region in order to inform and educate children about the importance of respectful relationships.

##### An increase in funding for culturally appropriate domestic violence services

*“We need better funding for social issues in the North”*

Kornar Winmil Yunti<sup>5</sup> delivers behavioural change programs, working with both the perpetrators and the victims of domestic violence in a culturally sensitive and appropriate manner. Kornar Winmil Yunti is funded to provide support to the northern suburbs of Adelaide, but have identified an urgent need to employ an additional social worker and a specialist child worker to meet the needs and high demand in the area. Workshop participants would like to see this need met through funding from State Government.

##### Community development funding

All funding provided to deliver services to people who are experiencing homelessness should provide a percentage of total funding, specifically for community development services, which are proven to increase the safety and connectedness of individuals and families.

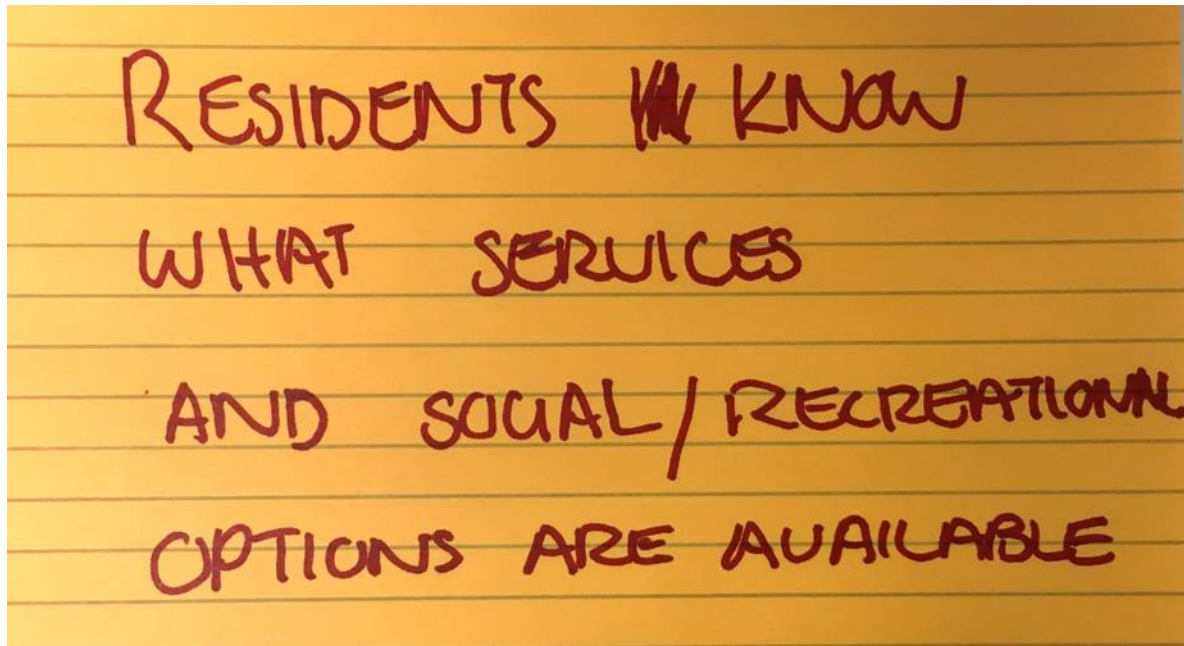
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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.portadelaidefc.com.au/community/programs/P2EVAW>

<sup>5</sup> <http://kwy.org.au/kwy-mens-services/accountability-responsibility-to-change-a-r-c-program/>

## Key messages for Local Government (City of Playford, City of Salisbury, City of Tea Tree Gully)

### 1. Community

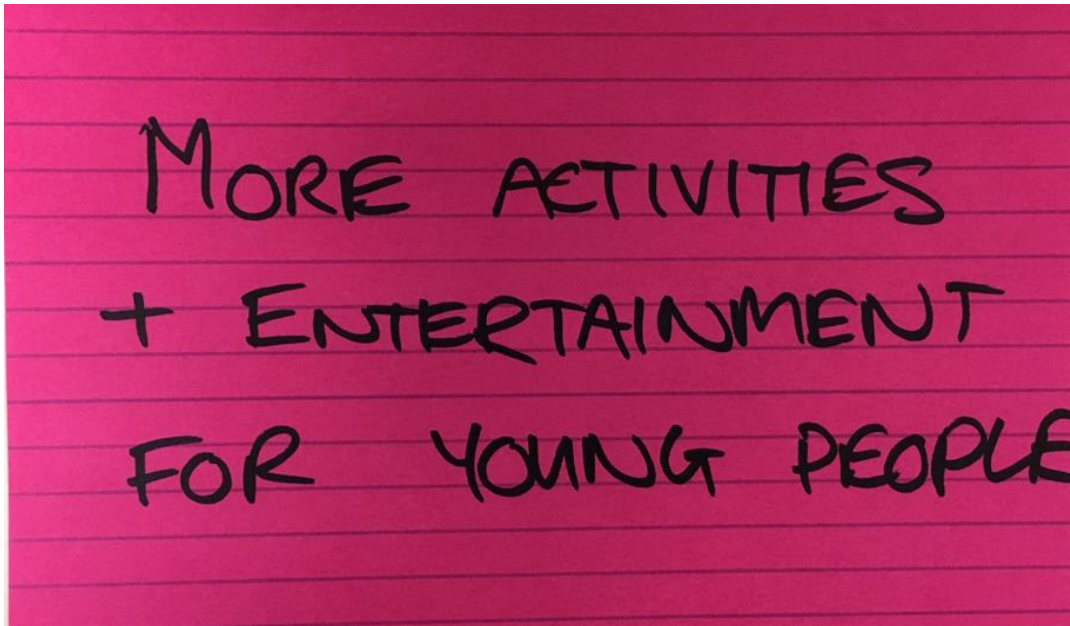


Post-it note from Activity One of the Workshop: "How do you want the North to look?"

#### Improvement in community hubs and groups

Participants agreed that social outcomes in the North would be greatly improved by strengthening communities through investing in local community development projects. Another issue concerning participants was a lack of residents' awareness of the help and support available to them. Local Governments must work with surrounding social services to increase residents' knowledge of where to go for help. Increasing awareness of the directory of social and community services in every community centre would be a good starting point.

## 2. Young people



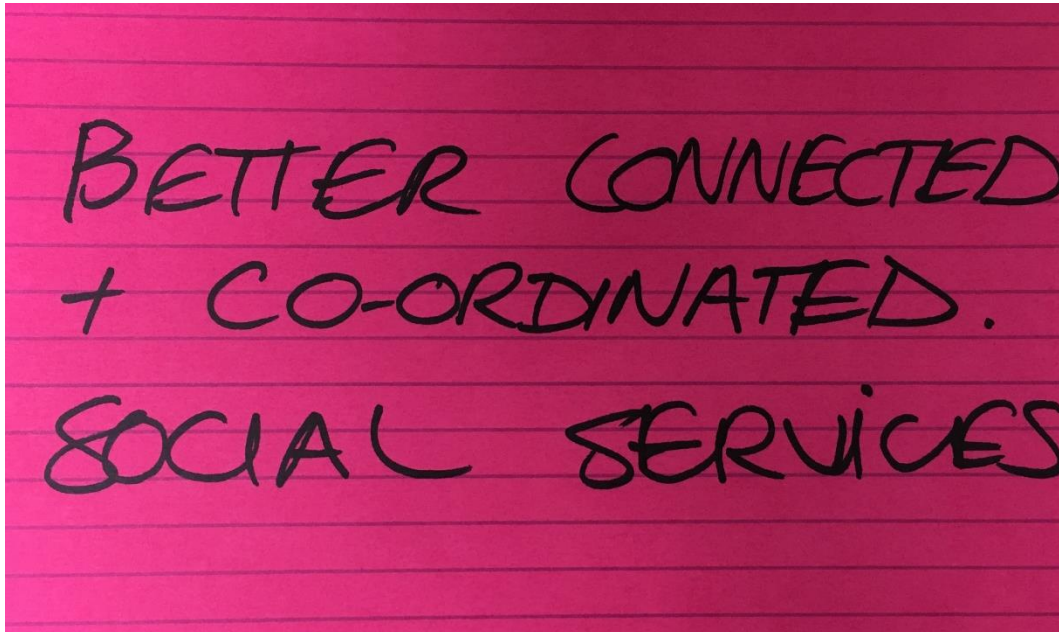
Post-it note from Activity One of the Workshop: "How do you want the North to look?"

### Engage young people in community programs

Most suggestions from participants involving community were directed towards young people. Many discussed the need to engage with young people, especially through the establishment of mentoring programs, and more community education around the effects of drugs and alcohol. There was also discussion about the difficulties some young people experience in obtaining a driver's licence when they are living on low incomes. Young people without a licence may experience isolation and find it harder to find employment; having community programs to help those achieve a driver's licence would increase engagement of young people in employment and community.

## Key messages for government and non-government services

### 1. Services



Post-it note from Activity One of the Workshop: "How do you want the North to look?"

#### Better coordination and communication between services

Workshop participants agreed that there must be improved collaboration and communication between services. One idea was the establishment of a Northern Housing Roundtable, mirroring the Southern Housing Roundtable, as there is a lack of opportunities for workers in the sector to meet and discuss issues and potential advocacy for the sector.

#### **Background**

As the peak body for housing in South Australia, Shelter SA advocates for improved housing conditions for people in need, across the State. Shelter SA has a regional engagement strategy and aims to undertake consultations with regional areas at least twice a year to better inform our housing policies and advocate on their behalf. However, after meeting with service providers in the outer Northern suburbs of Adelaide, Shelter SA was made more aware of the social issues that are highly prevalent in the area, and the isolation felt by some workers who see the CBD gaining more attention when it comes to poverty, unemployment and homelessness.

The objective of the forum was to bring together workers in the North and hear from speakers on creative, innovative programs that are currently working to alleviate poverty in the area. There was a wide range of topics covered, including job guarantees, domestic violence prevention programs in schools, and community development programs (see Appendix 1 for speaker and program details).



## Workshop format and presentations

The workshop featured seven speakers from varied backgrounds, including the community services sector, Government departments and academic institutions. Speakers presented on programs or initiatives either currently being delivered in the Northern suburbs, or have the potential to be implemented.



From left to right: Trish Buhagiar, Leonie Fuchs, Jake Battifuoco, Steven Hail, Kate McGarry, Dianne Richter and Tod Stokes

Both speakers and attendees then took part in two activities to help guide our advocacy. The first activity was a small group discussion, answering the question, “how do you want the North to look?”. The groups wrote ideas and answers on coloured post-it notes and chose one table representative to report back to the whole room. The next discussion was focussed on what actions they could take to achieve their vision of the North. Again, groups discussed, wrote ideas on coloured post-it notes and nominated a table representative to report back to the whole room. Activity one proved to be most helpful to our advocacy work; we identified major themes after the workshop, which in turn helped develop our key asks for State and Local Governments.



Workshop attendees participating in Activity 1

The Shining a Light on the North Workshop was held at Playford Civic Centre in Elizabeth with approximately sixty people in attendance, including community service workers and those living in the northern suburbs of Adelaide. The key messages from the forum will be used by Shelter SA to promote public debate and advocate for change, to make a difference for those living and working in the North.

## Results

Upon analysing the responses for activity one and two, we realised that the primary activity was the most beneficial for our advocacy. By identifying the main themes emerging from the responses, we were then able to form key asks directed to Local and State Governments. The themes below are ranked by priority and quantity of notes from participants:

### 1. Housing

Participants agreed that increasing the supply of social housing is their number one priority in the outer Northern suburbs of Adelaide. They wanted to see an end to children being accommodated in motels and the sell-off of public housing, and an increase in appropriate emergency accommodation, rental affordability and long-term housing. The National Rental Affordability Index<sup>6</sup> shows that a single person receiving Newstart Allowance, looking for a one-bedroom home, could not find anything affordable in the private rental market.

### 2. Cultural awareness

Several participants made it clear that we must work harder to eliminate racism against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the North. There were suggestions of increased

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<sup>6</sup> <http://www.sgsep.com.au/maps/thirdspace/australia-rental-affordability-index/>

cultural awareness training in schools, especially since children may start to develop racial bias from a young age. There needs to be greater education about diversity and culture.

### **3. Employment**

Unemployment rates in the North are one of the highest in the entire country. Youth unemployment alone is the ninth worst rate in the nation, according to a report by the Brotherhood of St Laurence released this year.<sup>7</sup> After hearing about job guarantees, most participants were enthusiastic about a pilot program being established in the outer Northern suburbs. The Building Family Opportunities program delivered by the Department of State Development was also of interest, as it targets families experiencing generational unemployment and helps them into securing work and increasing financial independence. Access to employment is crucial to alleviate poverty in the northern suburbs.

### **4. Community**

Participants agreed that outcomes in the North would be improved by strengthening community. This includes establishing more tenant-led community groups, an increase in community hubs, better programs to engage with residents, and fighting the stigma surrounding the northern suburbs. There must also be a way for residents to easily access and know what community centres and programs are available around them.

### **5. Young people**

Young people were mentioned particularly in regard to community programs. Many participants discussed the critical need for increased efforts to engage with young people. The establishment of mentoring programs, and more education programs around the dangers of drugs were mentioned. One participant suggested building on school homework clubs and using school facilities for community engagement after hours.

### **6. Services**

In terms of government and non-government services in the North, all participants agreed that there needed to be increase in collaboration. A few participants discussed Power Community's domestic violence prevention program, and how that should be expanded to all schools in the North in order to educate children about respectful relationships. There was also a brief discussion on increasing funding agreement lengths from State Government to at least five years, to provide stability and security in the sector.

### **7. Transport/driving**

One table of participants wanted all young people to have better access to obtaining their drivers licence. As a result of a lack of transport options for young people wanting to explore employment or other opportunities outside their region, young people may feel isolated and disconnected. Having services to help people living on low incomes achieve a driver's licence would allow more young people to have better access to different jobs across Adelaide.

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<sup>7</sup>[http://library.bsl.org.au/jspui/bitstream/1/10573/1/BSL\\_Unfair\\_Australia\\_Mapping\\_youth\\_unemployment\\_hotspots\\_Mar2018.pdf](http://library.bsl.org.au/jspui/bitstream/1/10573/1/BSL_Unfair_Australia_Mapping_youth_unemployment_hotspots_Mar2018.pdf)

## **Conclusion**

Workshop participants heard about programs that are currently existing or could potentially be established in the Northern suburbs of Adelaide. Through small group discussions, participants were able to get their own idea across about what is currently working in terms of community services and programs, and what we need more of.

Being able to identify the key concerns and issues in the outer Northern suburbs is invaluable to our advocacy. By establishing major themes, we then assigned them to key asks for either Local or State Government.

This workshop report is shared via our e-news, website, mainstream and social media to encourage public debate on the important issues discussed at the workshop. Please contact us with any questions or comments [sheltersa@sheltersa.asn.au](mailto:sheltersa@sheltersa.asn.au) or (08) 8223 4077.

## **Appendix 1 – Speakers’ names, organisations and programs**

1. Jake Battifuoco from Power Communities Ltd

In collaboration with Centacare Catholic Family Services, Power Community Ltd delivers this program to school children to raise awareness around the issue of violence against women, and promote positive relationships to young men within our community.

2. Dianne Richter from Department of State Development

Building Family Opportunities is a program that helps long-term jobless families by providing intensive support and assistance, working with local community organisations, government services and employers to find solutions to complex social issues that prevent people from participating in employment.

3. Kate McGarry, Trish Buhagiar and Leonie Fuchs from Anglicare SA

Anglicare’s Turning Point program provides safe, dignified and stable short-term accommodation for single parent families experiencing homelessness and domestic violence. Better Places Stronger Communities is another program run by Anglicare SA that works with their tenants and the broader community to support placemaking activities that build a sense of pride and belonging, among other things.

4. Tod Stokes from Kornar Winmil Yunti

Kornar Winmil Yunti has a holistic response to domestic and Aboriginal family violence, and provides a culturally safe space to promote a safer family and community environment. This behaviour change program is a culturally appropriate service designed for Aboriginal men.

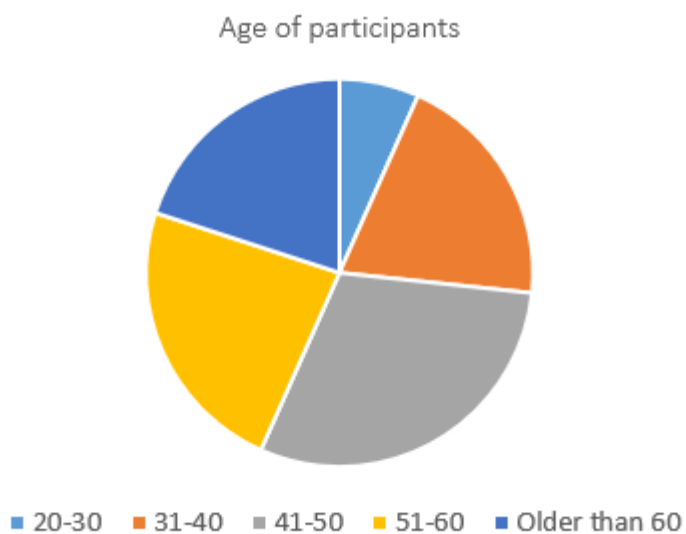
5. Steven Hail from the University of Adelaide

Dr Steven Hail, an economist from the University of Adelaide, spoke about Job Guarantees, the relatively new idea that has the potential to address poverty and unemployment, and benefit the economy simultaneously.

## Appendix 2 – Participant evaluation

*Of the participants who completed evaluation forms:*

|                                                                 |     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Participants who would recommend the workshop to others         | 96% |
| Rated the workshop as Extremely Valuable or Moderately Valuable | 76% |
| Advice Rating                                                   | 78% |
| Advocacy Rating                                                 | 83% |
| Policy Rating                                                   | 62% |
| Research Rating                                                 | 77% |



Participant quotes:

*“The speakers were very motivating and inspiring”*

*“We need better funding for social issues in the North”*

*“It was really interesting to hear the presentations, they were informative and relevant”*

*“Great forum – the North needs to be helped”*

*“The speaker and the various program run within the North were great”*

*“All of it was amazing. Hearing from services and planning for the future”*

## **Appendix 2 – Organisations in attendance**

*Anglicare SA*  
*Barkuma*  
*Centacare*  
*City of Salisbury*  
*Cos We Care*  
*Department for Industry and Skills*  
*Department of State Development*  
*Housing SA*  
*Junction Australia*  
*Kornar Winmil Yunti*  
*Neami National*  
*Northern Domestic Violence Service*  
*Northern Economic Plan*  
*Northern Futures*  
*Northern Health Network*  
*Power Communities Ltd*  
*Relationships Australia SA*  
*Salvation Army*  
*Sharkatax Bookkeeping*  
*Skylight*  
*Service to Youth Council (Helping Young People Achieve)*  
*The Adelaide Day Centre for Homeless Persons*  
*Together SA*  
*The University of South Australia*  
*Uniting Communities*  
*Uniting SA*  
*Westside Community Housing*  
*Welfare Rights Centre SA*  
*Zahra Foundation*

### **Appendix 3 – Verbatim post-its themed**

#### Housing

- Pilot programs to increase skills and connections via a rent reduction scheme
- Increase social housing to decrease number of people in motels
- Real housing for people needing crisis accommodation
- Incentives for private owners to rent out affordable accommodation
- Redesign of National Rental Affordability Scheme involving non-government sector
- No street sleepers, should be an increase in social housing issues
- More supported accommodation
- New builds etc. in northern suburbs
- Stop the sale of social housing
- Increase in funding for Turning Point and boarding houses
- More affordable housing
- Reduction of homeless persons
- Increase in Supported Residential Facilities
- More social housing
- Support for shared housing for younger people – particularly men
- Better rights for tenants
- No families in motels
- No kids in motels
- Short term housing complexes
- Range of different housing models
- More long term, affordable and appropriate housing
- No families in day to day motel crisis accommodation
- Safe and secure housing opportunities
- Increased housing stock
- More stable emergency accommodation
- Safe housing – no person or family is homeless
- No families in motel accommodation
- More accommodation options for singles
- 50 furnished and supported emergency houses
- Support with private rental applications
- Housing affordability/accessibility = prices too high and too competitive
- Adequate stock of crisis accommodation, e.g. Turning Point
- Bigger properties
- More affordable housing for youth
- Double youth services housing stock
- Accommodation for single homeless people – and pet friendly
- Opportunity to move out of social housing = create property turnover
- A resurgence of the National Rental Affordability Scheme (a variety)
- A large stock of crisis accommodation options
- Housing stock that is available, with easy processes to access them
- Higher handover of Housing Trust to not-for-profit sector
- Development of a housing plan for the North to ensure housing is affordable, appropriate, available and non-discriminatory
- Safety first approach for domestic violence



- Variety of supported housing models/approaches
- Housing stability – increase in housing

### Cultural Awareness

- Change in and challenge the Constitution
- Change has to be organisational, individual, systemic
- Aboriginal services to be listened to and funded for ongoing support
- More cultural awareness training in schools and education
- Aboriginal people need a voice in Federal and State Government
- No racism
- Aboriginal services must be provided to Aboriginal people
- Teach the kids Captain Cook did not discover Australia
- Education transparency on culture and genocide
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples shouldn't need to do advocacy to be housed – it's their land

### Employment

- Pilot Job Guarantees
- Changing nature of work in the North, we must be discussing other opportunities (traineeships, Job Guarantees)
- Employment providers working with social/community housing tenants
- Return of tech schools
- State Government to look into Job Guarantee and advocate to Federal Government
- All residents have access to employment
- Job opportunities
- Voluntary training through schemes/programmes like Job Guarantees
- Better employment opportunities
- Job guarantee program
- Entry level opportunities
- Job guarantee and universal basic income
- Secure employment
- Less precarious job market
- Building Family Opportunities refunded minimum 18 months terms
- Skills register formed in the North
- Youth job bank
- Opportunities for meaningful employment
- Skilled workers
- Creating more jobs
- A pilot for a Job Guarantee
- Workbank = social enterprise model
- \$6 million for Building Family Opportunities funding
- Increase in job opportunities (Job Guarantee)

### Community

- Community hubs in all 'hotspots'

- Form new community partnerships (e.g. private rental landlords, crisis accommodation and NGOs)
- Tourism in the North
- Government organisations using community social enterprise
- Community programs that increase safety, social inclusion, community, and reduce crime and negativity
- Provide infrastructure and resources to community, e.g. space, internet, working space
- A new Playford Vision
- Challenging the negative stereotypes in the North
- Wi-Fi hotspots for digital inclusion
- Free Wi-Fi access in areas of digital exclusion (similar to city Wi-Fi)
- Community hubs for digital access (including increased opening hours for libraries)
- Community resourcing and equipping (e.g. Space, Wi-Fi, computers)
- Beautifying the areas we live/operate in
- Community hub programs – engaging awareness and connection
- Strong emphasis and more funding to support Community Development (State/Federal)
- A community centre
- More social enterprises – sustainable and not reliant on grants
- Attract more industry to the area
- A sense of pride to the wider community
- Community pride (tenant leadership)
- Community garden tended to by tenants to learn gardening, grow fresh produce etc.
- More community-lead groups across the northern region
- Encourage and empower individuals
- Sporting/recreation hubs with services attached
- Holiday programs
- Residents know what services and social/recreational options are available
- Connecting with community and finding services
- Community based community service hubs in identifiable cluster locations
- Less stereotyping of the area and negative media

### Young people

- Social enterprises – train young people to do maintenance, get driver’s licence
- Better support and incentive for younger people to start up projects of interest
- A program developed to work with 15-18 year old’s who are experiencing domestic violence
- Increased assistance to participate in sport (registration fees, uniforms, transport)
- More mentoring programs and recreational centres especially for young people
- Mentoring programs for kids
- Primary school education on meth/ice effects
- Building on school homework clubs and using school facilities for community engagement after hours
- More activities and entertainment for young people
- Early education on the effects of drugs

### Services

- Increased funding into male perpetrator programs/whole-of-family approaches

- Provide services not reliant on funding from government
- More communication between services
- A co-ordinated approach for the North
- Greater collaboration between services
- Wider collaboration between agencies and universities
- Less agency restrictions, more flexibility
- Collaboration of services and resources
- Better funding for advocacy groups, e.g. community legal centres
- Power Community Ltd expanded to more schools, first entry for program in primary school (ingrained behaviours often by year 11)
- Advocacy – people to be taught about their rights
- Explore collective impact for high complex families
- More early intervention programs – prevention
- Better connected and co-ordinated social services
- Connections to services that don't depend on internet and are close by
- Co-ordinated services – client focused
- Mental health, drug and alcohol abuse and food relief are critical services and are highly regarded
- People aware of services around them
- 50 Kornar Winmil Yunti hubs in the North
- Power Communities in all schools
- Better post placement support for individuals and families to resolve homelessness/sustain employment
- Long term increase in homelessness funding
- 5 year commitment to funding from government
- Organisations to work together

#### Transport/driving

- Tap into SACE to get driver's licence, must be available in public schools
- A licence is important, must be subsidised through Federal Government
- Better public transport, more routes, free periods, running later at night
- All young people have access to safe driver training and driver's licence
- Better transport around the region and to city