

MAY

HomelessnessSA

2011

VISION

The vision of Homelessness SA is the elimination of homelessness through: advocating for the rights of people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness; identifying and striving to address the conditions that create homelessness and inequality; promoting a society where all people are valued and included; and encouraging active participation, cooperation and innovation.

MISSION

The mission of Homelessness SA is to undertake advocacy, networking and community education on homelessness in South Australia.

www.homelessnesssa.asn.au



National Youth Homelessness Matters Day



Raising Awareness for Youth Homelessness Matters Day

On Wednesday the 6th April 2011 it was National Youth Homelessness Matters Day. This is an annual event that promotes the resilience and needs of young people who experience homelessness.

In 2011 the National Youth Coalition for Housing adopted the theme of “Hide and Seek – the Hidden Nature of Youth Homelessness” to emphasise that many young people who are homeless are couch surfing. In reality only a small proportion of young people who are homeless are sleeping rough.

The 2011 invisibility of youth homelessness prompted South Australian NYCH representative Sharyn Goudie to join the skills of SYC and UniSA to hold the Reality Checkpoint design competition. UNISA Architecture students were invited to participate in the competition and develop an innovative design that would raise awareness of youth homelessness.

The winners of the competition were announced and presented with their \$1000 prize by Senator Penny Wong. The competition involved the combined efforts of UNISA, the Adelaide Lord Mayor, Stephen Yarwood; SA Integrated Design Commissioner, Tim Horton, Commercial and General, Jamie McLurg, SYC’s CEO, Paul Edginton, Homelessness SA, Shelter SA, the Office for Youth, and Jane Reilly.

Minister for Youth, Grace Portolesi, also launched the Good Practice Guidelines for working with young people experiencing homelessness. Approximately 100 people attended the event and news stories appeared on ABC News, Radio Adelaide and in the Advertiser. Krystal Hancock a community representative who sits on Homelessness SA Board was interviewed by ABC News gave her story of homelessness—well done Krystal!

Homelessness Australia has received a copy of the ABS Discussion Paper outlining the findings of the Methodological Review of Counting the Homeless 2006. Please find a copy of the paper attached. In the coming days Homelessness Australia will read and analyse its content and provide further information about the key points in the document. A summary of the document ABS website:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/2050.0.55.001?OpenDocument>

‘Hide N Seek—the hidden nature of Youth Homelessness

National Youth Coalition for Housing: NYCH adopted the theme ‘Hide and Seek – the hidden nature of youth homelessness’ to reflect the fact that many young people who are homeless are couch surfing in the homes of friends and family. In fact, only a small proportion of young people who are homeless are sleeping rough. The theme for YHMD 2011 links to the Australian Bureau of Statistics’ campaign for the Census 2011 – ‘What about me’. If you are homeless at Census time, it’s important for you to answer “None” to the question on the census form about what is your usual address. This includes those who are 'couch surfing' – staying temporarily with friends or relatives, or at a friend's parents' house. ‘Hide and Seek’ also aims to highlight the Australian Government’s current commitment to reduce homelessness as identified in “The Road Home: A National Approach to Reducing Homelessness” and that homelessness is “everyone’s responsibility”. The new national agenda has a strong focus on rough sleeping. However, research has identified that if young people are not properly supported when they first experience homelessness, they have a higher chance of becoming homeless in their adult lives. For this reason we want to highlight that homeless young people are often not the stereotypical street person and need appropriate support.

Moving Things

I have moved house again
 Its just another seedy den
 But I'll try to make it nice
 Every tenant's left their dirt and dust
 To remnants of their loneliness and lust
 I can't help but add mine

The walls are thick, the ceilings high
 And through the cracks I can see the sky
 I'll be up well into the night
 Moving things til I get it right

I'll put my favourite music on
 And listen ten times to one song
 I'll make this space alright
 I'll burn candles on my mantle piece
 And they'll illuminate my masterpiece
 I will fill this space with light

I'll put my Buddha in a special place
 Touch his tummy and his smiling face
 Make a wish like I've done before
 That I might find what I am looking for

Andra



ADVERTISEMENTS

Homelessness SA - Forum May 31st 2011

When: Tuesday 31st May 2011
1-30-4.30pm

Where: Marjorie Black Community Room, SACOSS,
47 King William Rd, Unley, SA.

RSVP by Tuesday 23th May to dalexandridis@centacare.org.au or tel: (08) 83591022

For Consumers and Service Providers

This forum will provide opportunities for consumers who have accessed housing through DFC's Supportive Housing Program to provide feedback to both the government and service providers.

The aim of the forum is to work with consumers to discuss benefits, issues and suggestions for improvement in referral, placement and support processes. The setting will be small table discussion's so consumers will feel comfortable speaking 'round the table'.

United Against Domestic Violence—Engaging All Men In Prevention

National Conference

Mount Gambier, South Australia
13-15 July 2011

http://www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au/pdfs/docs/United%20Against%20Domestic%20Violence_Engaging%20All%20Men%20in%20Prevention.pdf

Wednesday, 16 March 2011 08:36

The recent cyclones and flooding in Queensland have impacted heavily on the demands of Government, non-government services, and the housing and construction industries. To allow time for recovery and rebuilding to proceed, the Queensland Government and AHURI have agreed to postpone the 7th Conference until 30 Oct-2 Nov 2012. Further information regarding the 7th Conference will become available at <http://www.nhc.edu.au/brisbane2012/> as it is released.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 11/05/2011



Homelessness Australia

*Creating a framework for ending homelessness***MEDIA RELEASE**T 02 6247 7744 F 02 6247 1649 E media@homelessnessaustralia.org.au**WINNERS AND LOSERS IN DEFICIT BUDGET**

The peak body for homelessness welcomes commitments to social and affordable housing and significant new investment in mental health that will benefit many Australians vulnerable to homelessness.

Homelessness Australia welcomes the significant funding boost of an additional \$2.2 billion for mental health programs and services, including \$1.5 billion for new initiatives.

“The link between homelessness and mental health issues is well established. We hope that a significant number of Australians who are experiencing homelessness or who are in insecure housing will benefit from this welcomed new investment in mental health programs and services. The balance between money for early intervention and money for people with chronic mental illnesses is welcome. We hope that much of this investment goes to the community services sector.” Homelessness Australia’s Chief Executive Officer, Nicole Lawder said.

Homelessness Australia is pleased with increased funding for new apprenticeships and traineeships and the boost to funding for literacy and numeracy programs.

“Homelessness Australia welcomes new funding announcements for apprenticeships and traineeships and the boost in funding for literacy and numeracy programs. Both of these have the potential to benefit people experiencing homelessness, particularly young people” Homelessness Australia’s Chairperson Narelle Clay said.

We are at the same time, disappointed that our calls to increase income support payments have not been heeded.

“In our election platform we called for an increase of \$45 per week in income support payments such as Newstart and Youth Allowance and an increase of \$15 per week to the maximum rate of Commonwealth Rent Assistance to help vulnerable Australians manage cost of living pressures. It is disappointing that these measures have not been taken on board and in fact some may face reduced payments. It is becoming increasingly difficult for Australians on income support to meet the cost of weekly rents particularly in our major cities. Young people are some of the most disadvantaged in this community and the large number who are unemployed and who become homeless will continue if they remain on low incomes.” Homelessness Australia’s Chairperson Narelle Clay said.

Homelessness Australia also welcomes the on-going investment in homelessness services and the \$162 million allocated to the construction of new social housing properties in 2011/12. Coupled with the significant allocation of \$131.5 million in funding for new homelessness programs and services, the allocation of \$162 million in funding for the construction of new social housing that will add significantly to the housing options available to people who are experiencing homelessness but we need to see new funding for both beyond 2013 if we are to meet the homelessness reduction targets” Nicole Lawder said.

Homelessness Australia is pleased that promised funding for housing and homelessness initiatives will be delivered given the strong focus on ensuring that the budget is returned to surplus by 2013.