



26 August 2015

National Shelter eNews

A new era for National Shelter

From 1 July 2015, National Shelter has been operating without Federal Government funding. Despite this blow, in lots of ways the Shelter movement has never been stronger in Australia.

National Shelter is made up of Shelter organisations in Queensland, New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory, Tasmania, South Australia, the Northern Territory, and Western Australia, as well as our national organisation members the National Alliance of Tenant Organisations (NATO), Homelessness Australia (HA), Jobs Australia and St Vincent de Paul Society National Council.

The sum of the parts of our membership's knowledge and capacity on housing policy is extraordinary. The Shelter network includes more than 20 housing professionals including PhDs, social planners, social workers, economists, and communications professionals all pulling together to build the evidence base and promote the cause of affordable housing for all Australians.

State Shelter organisations are, of course, appropriately focused on housing and homelessness issues, policy and legislation in their own jurisdictions, but also contribute thinking to national policy thinking through participation in the National Shelter Council and some of our projects. (This could be where the NSW example goes).

The eagle eyed amongst you may have noticed that Victoria is missing from our federation list, but there we partner with the Council to Homeless Persons, to ensure that perspective is included

It's timely to be talking about federation, as Shelter is deeply concerned about the possibility of our Federal Government withdrawing from its responsibilities in affordable housing. Our priorities for the next two years are:

1. The reform of the Federation process – housing and homelessness because we must not allow the Federal Government to abandon its responsibility for affordable housing;
2. Taxation reform; because the tax system is the single biggest force impacting on the housing market in Australia;
3. Collection and dissemination of data related to housing consumers and policy reform to build and illustrate our evidence base; and
4. Housing as infrastructure, not welfare.

We've been working on organising our work into clearly defined projects and building coalitions of the committed around each project. In recent times we have received financial and in-kind support from Uniting Communities SA, SGCH, BHCL and the Salvation Army.

Watch this space

National Shelter has been working with SGS Economics and Planning and the Community Sector Bank to finalise arrangements for a partnership to produce a regular rental affordability index. We believe a regular rental affordability index will help shift the focus about housing affordability off who can afford to pay multi-million dollar purchase prices in real estate hot spots and onto the everyday experiences of Australia's millions of renters.

National Shelter at National Reform Summit

National Shelter's Executive Officer will be at the National Reform Summit on Wednesday arguing for a National Housing Strategy with tax reform and long term Commonwealth leadership to ensure a better affordable housing future. National Shelter believes these strategies are essential to achieving the Reform Summit's aims of increasing productivity and living standards. Follow @AdrianPisarski and @NationalShelter on Twitter for live tweets of the event.

Toni Vine Bromley to retire from NT Shelter

National Shelter is preparing to farewell as our long-serving Secretary Toni Vine Bromley, who will retire from her role of Executive Officer at NT Shelter. Toni will be sorely missed both in Northern Territory and from the National Shelter Council. Members of National Shelter all over the country look forward to future catch ups and Toni tours the country.

Shelter SA's new YouTube coverage of social impact bonds

The team at Shelter SA has recently created and uploaded their newest SIB information videos to YouTube. The main aim of producing these two short successive videos is to provide our networks and the public a quick and simple explanation of what Social Impact Bonds are, the pros and con, concerns and frequently asked questions about SIBs. Please click this link to view [An Introduction to SIBs](#) and to watch the follow-on SIBs video, please click here: [Key Questions for SIBs](#). We would also be very interested to hear your feedback on them and you can do this by emailing us at sheltersa@sheltersa.asn.au or phoning to office on 08 223 4077.

Sector News

Check out several new submissions to the **Inquiry on Home Ownership** including from the Institute of Health and Welfare, Master Builders and the Department of Social Service. Click here to see all published submissions.
http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Economics/Home_Ownership/Submissions

Anti Poverty Week

Have you made plans for Anti Poverty Week? It is less than two months away – 11th to 17th October.

The Anti-Poverty Week Calendar is online here [APW calendar-of-activities-2015](#) and is one of the ways we have of showing the widespread concern Australians have about poverty.

A downloadable direct link "Tell us about your activity" button is also available on the website.

You can also connect with the Anti Poverty Week movement on Facebook and Twitter. Use the hashtag #AntiPovertyWeek to show your support.

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