

MARCH 2009



Newsletter

This issue:

“What’s this about a White Paper?”

and **HA Focuses on Women**



Homelessness Australia

Creating a framework for ending homelessness

Homelessness Australia

PO Box 603 Dickson ACT 2602

T 02 6247 7744 **F** 02 6247 1649

E info@homelessnessaustralia.org.au

W www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au

3. The Chair Shares
4. Executive Office & Team
9. HA and Women: see *feature article*
10. HA and Men: Where having a beer with your mates isn't enough
12. HA and NESB: International Women's Day Conference – Auckland
14. Members Corner
15. Book – Film – DVD – Theatre – Website
16. Diary

FEATURES

5. What's this about a White Paper?
- Sid Chakrabarti
9. Up for Rent Programme
- Cathy Crawford
11. AFP's Missing Person's Centre teams up with Homelessness Australia
- Marina Simoncini and Aileen Solowiej
13. Why didn't you just leave?
- Anon



“The Chair shares”

PAMELA FOSTER

On behalf of Homelessness Australia I am pleased to present my first report as Chairperson. I was elected at Homelessness Australia's AGM in November 2008, held at Parliament House in Canberra. Following the AGM we spoke and shared morning tea with Federal Housing Minister Tanya Plibersek, Shadow Housing Minister Scott Morrison and Greens Senator Scott Ludlum. These exchanges were frank and informal, and highlight the high level of Homelessness Australia's policy advocacy.

2009 is sure to be a challenging time for our sector. Christmas 2008 saw the announcement of the most significant reforms to the homelessness response since the creation of SAAP. Many of the White Paper's reforms reflect recommendations Homelessness Australia has made for many years – including the “no-exits into homelessness” policy from state care; an increase in social housing stock and innovation in holistic, flexible support models.

The White Paper also poses real challenges, not least the devolution of

homelessness programs and policy to state and territory governments. Our priorities now are to ensure consistent national quality of service to people experiencing or at risk of homelessness; and to ensure the expertise of existing homelessness services is recognised in the reform process.

Other external influences including economic downturn and natural disasters will also demand more from the sector this year. I am looking forward to working with our members through the year to respond to these challenges.

Our next significant event for the year is the May Face-to-Face Meeting, held in Alice Springs. This bi-annual event brings together Homelessness Australia's Board, founding Councils, and Reference Groups to progress policy and advocacy matters. Please have your say on priorities through the Homelessness Australia White Paper Survey – your involvement is crucial to our success. Meeting in Alice also allows us to meet and learn from local, rural and remote services, among them many services working with Aboriginal

communities. Indigenous homelessness is a pressing challenge, and Homelessness Australia is committed to engaging actively and respectfully in this area of policy and debate.

The theme for Homeless Persons Week (August 2-9) this year is: Where do they go? which reflects an exciting new partnership with the Australian Federal Police and their National Missing Persons Coordination Centre. Missing Person's Week has traditionally also been held in the first week of August, and this theme draws attention to the overlap between missing persons and homelessness. Watch this space for more, and once again I look forward to working with you through the year, and through my term as Chairperson.

Pamela Foster has worked in service, management, research, consulting and advocacy roles in the community sector since 1991, with particular expertise in the domestic and family sector. Pamela has a keen interest in reconciliation and ATSI homelessness, and lives and works in the The Channon region of the NSW North Coast.



Executive Officer & Team

SIMON SMITH

2009 promises to be a busy year ahead. After welcoming the release of the White Paper at Christmas, we now have a much clearer idea of the challenge involved in putting it into practice. There are lots of recommendations, ideas and proposals that now need to be implemented.

HA has done an Issues Paper to flag what are likely to be some of the important things where we'll be looking to do work at a national level. These include the new national accreditation framework for homeless services. We'll be asking members to complete a survey on what they see as the major issues with the White Paper. We'll also be discussing HA's response to the White paper at the policy forum with the reference groups and councils at the May face to face.

A BIG thank you to Sid Chakrabati who filled the Policy role during February. Many people might know Sid from his time as a member of NYCH. Sid offered to come and work for us while he was transitioning into a new job, and we were recruiting to fill the Policy Officer position permanently. It proved to be a very nice piece of timing! Sid's work has been really important in setting up HA to respond to the White Paper this year in a really comprehensive way. We wish him well for his new career in AusAID.

Travis Gilbert, starting with us on 10 March, will be the new Policy and Research Officer. Until recently, Travis was working with the South Australian Government's Office for Homelessness and High Needs Housing. We're sure he'll make a great addition to the team, look for a profile on him for the next edition.

A really important aspect of our work at the moment is talking to our networks in the homeless sector, and other community sectors.

We've been talking to State/Territory homeless peaks across the country to see how each jurisdiction is developing its individual implementation plans. There are a few emerging issues that we're seeing that are a concern, and we'll be supporting our State/Territory colleagues to make sure their Governments deliver on what their required to do.

We've been working with ACOSS to set up a working group of national peak bodies to see how the White Paper is being implemented across different sectors. This will include the national peaks for employment, child protection, mental health, welfare rights and other community sectors.

We're also talking regularly to Government. Pam and I met with the new head of the homelessness taskforce in FaHCSIA, Kate Gumley, at the start of February. In the near future, HA will be meeting with Centrelink to talk about how we can work with them to enhance the measures they are responsible for under the White Paper.

I hope we can look back on the first year of the White Paper and reflect on how we set in train a process that will end homelessness for good.

What's this about a White Paper?

Looking at the Federal Government's new approach to homelessness

BY SPECIAL GUEST AT THE HA POLICY DESK - SID CHAKRABARTI



To say that last year was a big year for homelessness would be an understatement. The Federal Government released The Road Home, outlining a new approach to reduce homelessness in Australia. The largest shift in thinking on homelessness in more than two decades, The Road Home mandates better integrated service delivery, national targets on homelessness and reforms in sectors including child protection, mental health and alcohol and other drugs. Riding on the back the strongest ever commitment to tackling homelessness in Australia, The Road Home sets impressive goals, calling for a 50 per cent reduction in overall homelessness (defined using Chamberlain and Mackenzie's 'Cultural Definition of Homelessness') and an elimination of primary homelessness by the Rudd Government's favourite year, 2020. To achieve these ambitious goals, the Federal Government announced more than \$6 billion in funding for homelessness over its first five years of operation; a commitment that we hope will be continued in the lead up to 2020.

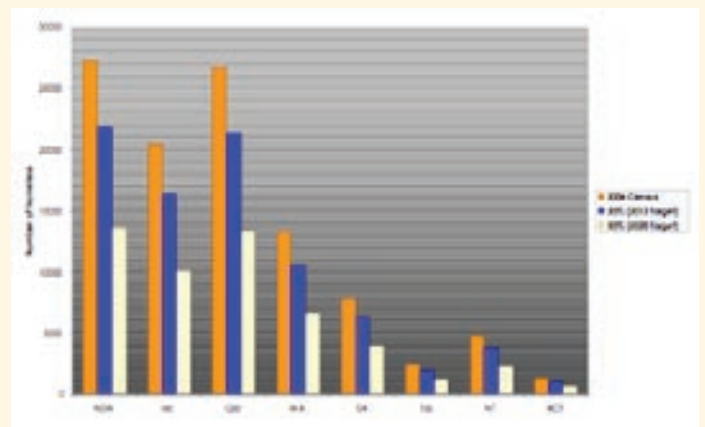


Figure 1 Reducing Overall Homelessness

Rough sleeping would change like this:

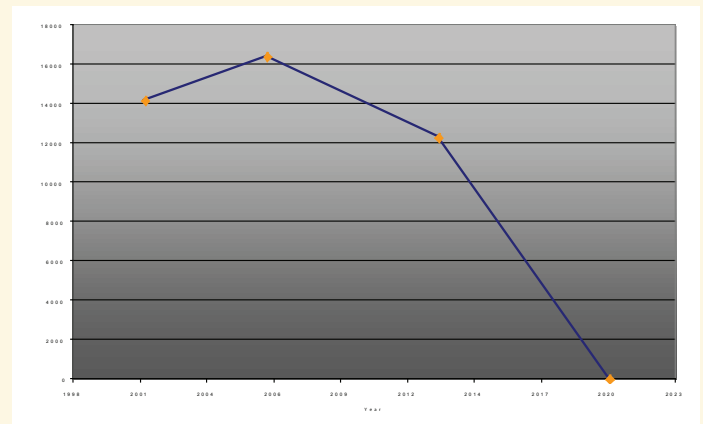


Figure 2 Primary Homelessness

To monitor progress towards these goals, The Road Home sets three headline interim targets to 2013, these being a 25 per cent reduction to primary homelessness, a 20 per cent reduction to overall homelessness, and a 25 per cent reduction in the number of people seeking specialist homelessness service support more than three times a year. Requiring an average reduction in primary homelessness by 750-1000 people per year to 2013, achieving these targets will be challenging for the various levels of Government in Australia as well as the community and health care sectors.

Subject to these targets, the numbers of homeless in each state or territory would change like this:

What's this about a White Paper?

Presented graphically, the scale of the task embarked on takes on a new significance.

As no effective method currently exists to measure homelessness on a year by year basis, The Road Home proposes eight clear state and territory interim targets that break down achievement by sectors and target groups. For example, The Road Home mandates that states and territories must reduce the number of people exiting care or custody into homelessness by 25 per cent and must increase the number of people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness receiving legal services by 25 per cent as well as six other similar targets. The Road Home implies that if these eight targets are met and if social housing stock is increased then there will be a 25 per cent reduction to primary homelessness, a 20 per cent reduction to overall homelessness, and a 25 per cent reduction in the number of people seeking specialist homelessness service support more than three times a year by 2013.

The Road Home outlines 55 distinct reforms that the Federal Government will undertake in collaboration with the states and territories in order to facilitate the achievement of these targets, and these include social and indigenous housing reforms as well as measures targeted at reducing homelessness directly. For example, states and territories must deliver additional prevention and early intervention services for up to 2,250 families at risk of homelessness.

In general, The Road Home sets out a clear programme for reducing homelessness by 2020, and the Rudd Government's commitment to homelessness gives us hope that homelessness can be reduced by 50 per cent and primary homelessness can be eliminated by 2020. Within this context, Homelessness Australia believes that there are 11 policies in The Road Home that, if developed without proper resourcing and detail, could undermine the new approach to homelessness.

For example, one of the most significant reforms in the White Paper relates to 'joining up' policy and service delivery between 'mainstream services' and specialist homelessness services. This approach aims to create a 'no wrong doors' system, which will provide 'mechanisms for cross-agency case assessments, case management and case planning, as well as service protocols [between specialist homelessness services and other services].' For example, mainstream services might assess the housing needs of their clients, while specialist homelessness services might need to consider other client needs beyond housing (for instance education and employment needs). Strong service networks and agreements will be created at a local level; and agencies will undertake joint assessment, planning coordination and case management and share information about clients. This large scale change to the service system will require a significant upgrade of data collection and sharing mechanisms as well

as a substantial amount of infrastructure to coordinate community organisations and state, territory and Federal Government departments.

Experience suggests this will be a challenging process. For instance the NSW Auditor-General found that in that state that there were "no state-wide performance measures or targets on homelessness," also finding that "significant barriers still exist [in access to services]. These include waiting lists, expectation gaps, intimidating physical environments, and reliance on paper based systems." From our perspective, the priority must be to improve mechanisms that allow services to coordinate their work regardless of whether this means "joined-up" service delivery or just better communication, and we would like to ensure that there is significant input from all parties including the Federal, state and territory governments, specialist homelessness services as well as the rest of the community sector in the implementation of this reform.

Another major reform in The Road Home is 'no exits into homelessness' policy. This policy will be implemented by state and territory governments and aims to prevent institutions from discharging people from medical, care and custodial settings into homelessness. This is a welcome announcement, and is something we advocated in our Green Paper submission. Our concern with this policy relates to

its implementation and the resources put behind it by Federal, State and Territory governments.

The Road Home does not clarify how this would operate and our concern is that the policy is particularly vulnerable in a situation where a person is exited after a relatively short stay in care. For example, it would be hard for a hospital to justify keeping someone after they are discharged and this raises the prospect that people may be exited into short-term unsustainable housing options. The Road Home also doesn't canvass how people at risk of homelessness are prevented from becoming homeless upon entry to medical or custodial services by virtue of their stay in that service. In other words, it doesn't provide contingencies to prevent a person becoming homeless simply because their housing wasn't maintained during an impromptu period in care or custody. In addition, for the strategy to be successful, co-ordination will be required across a range of Government and community sector agencies.

The 'no exits into homelessness' policy is an important policy that has the potential to easily reduce homelessness. However the manner in which it's implemented and the conditions and resources put into it by Federal and state and territory governments will almost completely determine its success.

Base funding for what was SAAP will now be delivered under the NAHA. At the time

of writing, it is not clear how this will work. Clearly the commitment to halve homelessness will not be possible without a well resourced specialist homelessness sector. This policy, like many of the others in The Road Home, does not have enough detail to allow us to determine its veracity. Homelessness Australia will continue to advocate for strong specialist homelessness services.

These are just three of 11 issues that Homelessness Australia sees with an otherwise strong commitment to homelessness by the Federal Government. These issues are set out in Homelessness Australia's Issues Paper, and strong action needs to be taken to address these issues to ensure that significant reductions in homelessness are possible by 2020. Homelessness Australia is already working with the sector, the department and Minister for Housing, and has set out 19 items in its Issues Paper to form the basis for its actions in over the next year.

1. NSW Auditor General's Report: Performance Audit, Responding to Homelessness, Sydney, 2007, pp.2-3.

Network of Immigrant & Refugee Women Australia INC

In partnership with:
Homelessness Australia
Women's Services Network (WESNET)
Immigrant Women Speakout Association
YWCA Australia

Presents

Housing and Homelessness: Challenges for Immigrant and Refugee Women

Join us in a workshop and discuss issues of homelessness among young immigrant and refugee women, domestic violence, settlement of newly-arrived and the current housing crisis

Date:
Saturday
28 March 2009

Time:
9am to 3.30pm

Venue:
Y Conference Centre,
Hotel Hyde Park
5-11 Wentworth Avenue
Sydney NSW
Central business district
Near the train stop: Museum

This is a free event, open for women
of any age and with lunch and child care provided

NIRWA is supported by the Australian Government: Office for Women (FAHCSIA)

Confirm your
participation by the
23rd of March 2009

Phone:
02 6230 5150

Fax:
02 6230 5156

Email:
natoffice@ywca.org.au



UP FOR RENT PROGRAMME

The Women's Centre Townsville

BY CATHY CRAWFORD, Coordinator



The Up for Rent Programme is a programme designed to assist women locate and access rental accommodation.

It is a group programme designed to meet individual women's needs for homes. Women's crisis accommodation needs are supposed to have been addressed prior to programme entry.

The Aim of the programme is:-

- ▶ To empower women by developing skills to secure suitable rental accommodation, through a supported environment that provides relevant information and assistance in all requirements of applying, securing and sustaining rental properties.
- ▶ To decrease homelessness and the risk of homelessness by assisting women to secure rental accommodation.

The Objectives are:-

- ▶ To provide information necessary to apply for rental accommodation public and private.
- ▶ To develop knowledge of rights and responsibilities of tenants.
- ▶ To develop skills needed to complete necessary forms or applications.
- ▶ To familiarise women with local rental agencies and their procedures.
- ▶ To assist in the development of personal budgets to ensure appropriate rental properties are applied for and easily maintained.
- ▶ To create awareness of Rental Bond Authority.
- ▶ To raise awareness of obligations of tenants.
- ▶ To develop skills that can be used without assistance by the individual when having any involvement in the rental process.
- ▶ To introduce women to other services provided by this organisation.

The Activity over the last six months has included:-

- ▶ 103 women becoming involved in the programme.
- ▶ The programme runs everyday but Friday.
- ▶ Women are able to refer themselves or are referred from any agency. On entering the programme an intake form is filled out, this includes an identification of each woman's current financial position. Needs of individual women are assessed to ensure effective intervention
- ▶ Budgets developed, real estate searches, viewing of properties, providing key deposits, private rental applications completed, bond applications completed, forms for state housing completed, support letters for state housing, identification applied for, ERF and transport provided are just some of the many activities.

The issues have included:-

- ▶ Discrimination based on ethnicity, finances including real estate agents not accepting bond loans
- ▶ Some women do not return following the first contact with the Womens Centre but go on to secure accommodation for themselves
- ▶ Some women have been in a crisis situation and were helped with crisis accommodation rather than the ongoing issues

The Outcomes are:-

- ▶ Women participating in this project are more aware of the procedures to apply for rental accommodation
- ▶ Women have developed autonomous skills in the rental accommodation

process that can be utilised at any given time

- ▶ 14 women have secured rental accommodation, more than 10%
- ▶ Some women have applied for Domestic Violence Orders
- ▶ Some women have engaged in other programmes including ongoing counselling and therapeutic groups
- ▶ Some women have not had identification documents and those have been secured
- ▶ On gaining homes some women have had children returned from Child Safety or are in the process of their children being returned to them
- ▶ Ongoing support through the relationships developed and the informal work done by the counsellors
- ▶ Relationships have developed between women and this has mostly been constructive and one occasion women moved into together sharing resources and costs
- ▶ Other services both government and non government and the broader community have an awareness of this project and refer women appropriately.

Future Development includes:-

- ▶ Workshops on tenancy rights and responsibilities and budgeting
- ▶ Work with Real Estate Agents on issues such as discrimination and domestic violence
- ▶ Seek secure funding for the project

Overall, this project has been very successful over the last six months. It will continue for the next six months. At that point the viability of the programme will be reviewed.



others. At times, even the individual reinforces societies' belief that men just need a bed for the night and everything will be sorted. In most cases men have lost their connections and networks and find it difficult to truly express their feelings and fears. His mates' attempts to "cheer him up" can lead to further issues and deterioration.

Men require ongoing guidance and supported safe environments for them to begin to address the issues that have made them homeless. This often takes considerable time and effort by the individual and staff working with him.

Men process life differently to women and look for a quick solution. They require assistance to look behind their homelessness and behaviours to see and understand the reasons why they are in crisis.

The public's perception is. "You're a man, get over it and move on" but without the "tools" to do this, they will have difficulty in making the necessary changes.

Accommodation services are aware of the success that can be achieved by walking alongside men to expect better outcomes for themselves and their networks.

Lynne is the CEO of St Bartholomew's House Inc., WA . The aim of the St Bartholomew's House homeless, transitional and support program is to assist men to recognise and seek assistance before they are in crisis and to build stronger, healthier and happy relationships.

People ask. "Why would you work in a men's accommodation service"? There is a perception that there is an abundance of these services across Australia but if improvements in relationships and stereotyping are to be achieved, recognition of the worth of specialist men's services and their successes must be acknowledged.

Because a man is a single family unit does not mean that his needs are less critical than

WHERE HAVING A BEER WITH YOUR MATES ISN'T ENOUGH

Why Men's Services are essential.

BY LYNNE EVANS



**National Missing Person's Week
National Homeless Person's Week**
August 2 - 9, 2009

Where Do They Go?



OFFICIAL LAUNCH

Monday August 3, 2009

With representatives from Federal Government, families with missing members, homeless people and media.

Homelessness Australia and the AFP unite to ask and answer

Where Do They Go?

BY MARINA SIMONCINI (AFP) AND AILEEN SOLOWIEJ (HA)

A very exciting and natural gravitational pull has occurred – National Homeless Person's Week held on the same week in August as National Missing Person's Week have come together to help broadcast the plight of those missing and homeless.

► THE MISSING

The National Missing Persons Coordination Centre (NMPCC) was established in 2006 by the Federal Government to complement the investigative work of State and Territory Police Missing Persons Units. Its mission is to reduce the incidence and impact of missing persons. It works within the PLEASE policy principles of Prevention, Location, Education, Awareness, Support and Evaluation.

Where do they go? 35,000 people are reported missing every year in Australia - 20,000 are under the age of 18. Although 98% of people are found within a short period of time, there are currently 1,600 long-term missing persons, some of which are most likely to be homeless. Recognising this link, the National Missing Persons Centre is this year partnering with Homelessness Australia to coordinate activities, including National Missing Person's Week and Homeless Person's Week which will both take place from 2 to 9 August 2009.



National Missing Persons Week will this year focus on the aged population as a significant group at risk of going missing. Its aim is to raise the awareness of the issues and impacts associated with missing persons such as economic impacts and the impacts on families and friends who are left behind. This year will also see the link between missing persons and homelessness, as well as that of Dementia and Alzheimer's related illnesses that affect the elderly and missing persons.

► THE HOMELESS

Homelessness Australia is the national peak body advocating for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness and those who provide services to them. Our mission is to create a framework for ending homelessness.

Every night in Australia, around 105,000 people are homeless. Contrary to popular perception, close to half of all people experiencing homelessness in Australia are under 25, and nearly a quarter are younger than 18. Almost as many women as men are homeless.

Causes of homelessness can be poverty, unemployment and the shortage of affordable housing. Domestic violence is the single largest cause of homelessness, but it can also be triggered by family breakdown, mental illness, sexual assault, addiction, financial difficulty, and gambling.

Homelessness creates instability and social isolation, leaving people vulnerable to chronic unemployment and ill health, and with limited opportunities to participate in the social and economic life of their community.

In addition not all are lucky enough to find a safe place to sleep. Every day, half the people who request immediate accommodation from overstretched homelessness services are turned away.

Homelessness Australia and the AFP have united in 09 in various ways to highlight how the missing is often homeless. Throughout the year we will advocate together through publications and events to emphasize the link between missing people and homelessness culminating in the week of August 2-9 with a launch and activities. Please see poster below and visit the Homelessness Australia website www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au for ways in which you can join us in answering the theme of Where do they go?

International Women's Day Conference - Auckland 2009

BY STEPHANIE ANNE

International Women's Day is now celebrated annually on the 8th of March in over 30 countries. This day provides opportunities for us to reflect on the social, economic and political achievements of women. It also gives us time to pause and prepare for continuing challenges experienced by women in the pursuit of gender equality.

This year I will be attending an International Women's Day Conference in Auckland on the 7th and 8th of March to specifically address issues for women

from non-English speaking backgrounds (NESB). The International Women's Day Conference aims to bring organisations working with immigrant and refugee women in Australia and New Zealand together with a particular focus on the United Nations Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and its implementation. This conference has been organised by Shakti Community Council Inc and Project Women Against Violence (WAV).

I trust that International Women's Day 2009 will give us some measure of inspiration to continue in our work to eliminate violence and discrimination as experienced by women throughout the world.

In her spare time Stephanie is a member of HA NESB Reference group. She is also Coordinator of the Immigrant Women's Support Service, Queensland



Now from the winner of "I got my members survey in by the due date!" competition.

The winner was drawn by an employee of the Blue Gum Community School, Hackett, ACT on March 2 at 3.15pm.

And the Winner is: **Domestic Violence Victoria (DViVic)!!!** And here is their contribution...

DV Vic is the peak body for family/ domestic violence services in Victoria

that provide support to women and children to live free from violence. With the central tenet of DV Vic being the safety and best interests of women and children, DV Vic provides leadership to change and enhance systems that prevent and respond to family/domestic violence.

DV Vic's objectives are to:

- ▶ enhance services available to women and children experiencing family/ domestic violence in Victoria;
- ▶ provide leadership in good practice and advocate for violence prevention and systemic change;
- ▶ support practice development and critical best practice in service delivery to women and children experiencing family/domestic violence;
- ▶ facilitate coordinated responses and provide commentary representing the family/domestic violence service system to government regarding relevant issues, policy initiatives and directives;

- ▶ facilitate communication between services and other key stakeholders to inform policy, protocol and other requirements of systems integration and prevention;
- ▶ provide a central point for services, government and other stakeholders regarding information and advocacy related to family/domestic violence and the service system;
- ▶ inform public policy and research;
- ▶ raise community awareness and promote community responsibility for violence prevention; and
- ▶ provide active opportunities to seek and reflect on the diversity of opinion of members.

DV Vic has a small team of one full and four part time staff: CEO, Practice Development Manager, Policy Officer, Children's Pathways Officer and Communications Coordinator.

www.dvvic.org.au



*"Why didn't you
just leave?"*

BY ANON.

Have you ever wondered why women being hit, punched, kicked, shouted at, violated, threatened and belittled don't just leave? The answer is: many reasons. And sometimes you will never understand until you walk in their shoes. This article gives a glimpse of what it was like for me for 29 years before I abandoned domestic violence.

Dad was a drinker and mum was his abuse outlet. Growing up I saw it all. I also quickly learned that if "I be good": clean the house, get the beer, I would not get hit. As I grew older I was able to spend more time at friends but at home I still saw, heard and felt everything.

As the abuse continued I developed a good dose of anxiety and related illnesses and lost any sense of reason and self esteem. I also took up drinking. I left home when I was 19 and began a relationship with a man who behaved exactly like my dad. Why? It was what I knew, it was comfortable. During my 20's I sought counselling as work mates and friends were horrified by the notion of anyone being abused. It took until I was 29 to realise that my dad and my boyfriend's behaviour was wrong. Because I was brought up that way I simply had no idea!

So whenever you think that question: why didn't you just leave? remember - the issue is complex; the people experiencing the violence are complex. There is no one answer to anything. I am signing this article anonymous, but be assured this is a true story, and shared by many children and women across the world. Domestic and family violence is the single greatest cause of homelessness so in celebration of International Women's Day we salute all women and promise never to ask that question.

It takes just 2 minutes to join Homelessness Australia.



Step 1. Go our website
www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au

Step 2. Click on the member's button and download the subscription brochure.

Step 3. Fax (02 6247 1649), post (PO Box 603 Dickson ACT) or phone us (6247 7744) so we can assist in the processing.

Step 4. Congratulations! You are a valued member of **Homelessness Australia.**

Then you receive a Members Pack containing lots of information on Homelessness Australia and how we can assist you. Weekly you receive Inform the e-bulletin full of homelessness news and issues. Quarterly you receive 16 pages of news and views, current research and future events. You are also added to the members email list for information. Then there are opportunities throughout the year to attend HA events including our biennial conference. But most of all we welcome your opinion on homelessness issues; your feedback helps shape our policy material which is broadcast on many platforms including Federal Government. So come and join us!

Aileen Solowiej is the Homelessness Australia Membership Officer

Fax (02 6247 1649), post (PO Box 603 Dickson ACT) phone us (6247 7744) or email media@homelessnessaustralia.org.au for a chat.

Book - Film - DVD - Theatre - Website



Milk Crate Theatre creates challenging and inspiring theatre with the homeless and disadvantaged community that explores how we relate to each other and the world we live in. A night at Milk Crate Theatre is one you never forget. The audience is colourful, chaotic, dysfunctional, extremely outspoken and the performances are some of the most moving, warm hearted and often hilarious nights of theatre one can experience. Everyone is a potential performer, all opinions are heard, issues are thrashed out live on stage and finally everyone celebrates together with food. But Milk Crate is more than a company, it's a community. If you want to find out more about Milk Crate theatre's shows, open, outreach and womens workshops, specialist community building programs and public performances, check out the website at www.milkcratetheatre.com.

Beck Ronkson
Artistic Director

DO YOU WANT TO CREATE YOUR OWN FILM ON YOUTH HOMELESSNESS?

JOIN THE 'NO JOKE' FILM FESTIVAL

ALL YOU NEED IS A CAMERA THIS COULD BE YOUR MOBILE PHONE DIGITAL CAMERA, OR A CAMERA

(CONDITIONS APPLY - SEE TERMS AND CONDITIONS)

PUT TOGETHER A FILM UP TO 90 SECOND LONG AND REGISTER IT BY 27TH MARCH 2009. SEND IT TO PROJECT@QYHC.ORG.AU OR TO 0439 739 747

THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO WIN A PRIZE

YES THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO SHOOT YOUR OWN FILM ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE OR WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT YOUTH HOMELESSNESS.

The 4 Golden Rules:

- 1. 90 second rule**
The film cannot be more than 90 seconds long
- 2. Film format**
It is preferred that the films are in .mpeg format
- 3. Must agree to the terms and conditions**
There are some things that the film can and cannot have in it - these are included in the following terms and conditions.
- 4. Legal**
Any music and or sound effects in the film must have permission from the artist

Next issue of Homelessness Australia Newsletter is an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders special for the HA Face to Face in Alice Springs, May 2009



diary dates

- ▶ Help people experiencing homelessness - Front of House is six restaurateurs on March 22 cooking up a storm with proceeds going to StreetSmart and the homeless: :
<http://www.streetsmartaustralia.org/>
- ▶ NIRWA Housing and Homelessness: Challenges for Immigrant and Refugee Women, March 28, Sydney
- ▶ Youth Homelessness Matters Day (YHMD) April 1 Theme: NO JOKE
<http://www.youthhomelessnessmatters.net/>
- ▶ ACOSS National Conference Building a fair Australia in tough economic times Sydney April 2-3
<http://users.tpg.com.au/adsl444m/bulletinfinal.htm>
- ▶ Griffith University Creative Communities: Sustainable Solutions to Social Inclusion Surfers Paradise 15th-17th April, 2009, 1Crowne Plaza Hotel2, Surfers Paradise, Queensland Australia
<http://www.griffith.edu.au/arts-languages-criminology/centre-public-culture-ideas/news-events/creative-communities-conference>
- ▶ Drug and Alcohol Conference - Making it Happen: Repsonding to AOD issues across the sectors May 12 & 13, Fremantle, Perth
<http://www.makingithappen2009.com>
- ▶ Homelessness Australia Face to Face in Alice Springs.
HA Council and Reference groups meet, with a full policy day and HA Board meetings. May 18 – 21, NT