



Creating a framework  
for ending homelessness

# INFORM

Weekly e-bulletin of advocacy, research and policy in homelessness.  
Homelessness Australia - the peak national body for the homelessness support sector.



11 February 2011



## BLOGS

**2day's gr8 idea**  
[30 January blog Eyes Wide Shut](#)

**Ultimate guide to marketing on Facebook**  
[MailScanner has detected a possible fraud attempt from "www.socialmedia.biz" claiming to be](#) From [Socialmedia.biz](#)

**The #homeless Daily**

**How to be a popular blogger**  
From [Online Opinion](#).

## BOOKS

**Better book buying**  
10 socially conscious [online bookstores](#) from [Socialbrite](#).

## COMPETITION

**Black Dog Institute 7th Annual Writing Competition**  
Postnatal Depression, Men and Women - Personal Experiences and the Search for Real Answers. Closing date 24 March. [Black Dog website](#).

## CAMPAIGN

In a few weeks Homelessness Australia launches **MY Address Diversity in Homelessness** [click here for a sneak peek!](#)  
[Join the Cause on FB!](#)

## FILMS

**Sydney's Mardi Gras Film Festival**  
17 Feb -3 March. [Festival film website](#).

## LISTEN

**Welfare Reform Anxiety**  
There have been indications that the Gillard Government is bent on welfare reform, and the community sector is getting nervous. [ABC's Life Matters](#).

**Australia's impending aged care crisis**  
[Life Matters on Aged Care](#)

**Bullying number one problem for girls**  
[Listen and read ABC's AM](#)

**Vic Ombudsman finds system failure lead to child abuse**  
[Listen and read ABC's PM](#).

**Finding mental health services in rural Australia**  
The future that awaits many young people, right around the country, can be blunted by rejection, bullying, mental illness and if it is untreated or unrecognised, mental scars.  
[ABC's Bush Telegraph](#).

**Losing the farm**  
Janet Brown is a Heywire winner who tells her story of depression following the loss of their family farm.  
[ABC's Bush Telegraph](#)

**Living well on less money**  
How does one rebuild when they've had everything wiped out mentally, psychologically, and financially?  
[ABC's New Dimensions](#).

## SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

**Need a social media policy?** Take a look at this example: [Human Rights Commission](#).

## TWITTER

**Join the Homelessness Twibe**  
This twibe is for people interested in discussing solutions to homelessness. Social justice and ending homelessness is what keeps us tweeting.

## VIDEO

**Three Boys Dreaming**  
Feature length documentary on three boys over four years as they struggle to become AFL footy players. [ABC iview](#).

**Homelessness in Sydney**  
[On Youtube](#).

**Blanket the Streets (2010)**  
[Short documentary on homelessness](#)

## WEBSITES

**Yfoundations**  
Yfoundations is the peak body that seeks to end youth homelessness in Australia. We provide support to youth workers and the sector through training, policy & structural advocacy, research & sector development, and raising community awareness.



## INTERNATIONAL

**UK**  
**"Sanitation is an absolute nightmare..."**  
Tony Pitcher, 44, and Sharon Warnes, 41, have spent more than a month in their white Ford Transit van, which is parked in a car park off Bowthorpe Hall Road, Bowthorpe. [The Advertiser Norwich Edition](#).

**Shapps unveils housing finance 'revolution'**  
The government has set out details of the payments councils in England will have to make to move to a self-financing system for council housing. [Inside Housing](#).

## US

**Homelessness is a luxury we can't afford**  
Housing all the homeless in Los Angeles would be expensive. But more and more data shows that, in spite of the price tag, it is cheaper than what we're doing now. [The Huffington Post](#).

## NATIONAL

**Our community's approach to housing needs a total rethink.**  
We must recognise that an increase in house prices does not benefit the overwhelming majority of the community - including those who have investment properties. We must also stop reducing housing to the status of an investment vehicle, subject to all the vagaries of the market. [National Times](#).

**Housing affordability out of sync with incomes**  
On a global basis, homes in Australia are expensive. [SMH Business Day](#).

**Australia commits to follow up on human rights recommendations**  
The report of Australia's appearance before a crucial UN human rights meeting in Geneva highlights addressing racism, improving the rights of Indigenous peoples and overturning mandatory detention policies as key focus areas for Australia into the future. [Australian Human Rights Commission](#).

**The Flood Levy**  
The Australian Government will introduce a bill for its flood levy into Parliament, but is still working on winning the support it needs to have it passed. [Radio Australia News](#).

**Shelter NSW: Campaign against National Rental Affordability Scheme funding cuts**  
Join our letter-writing campaign now! Please send a letter, a fax or an email, to one (or 2 or 3) of the following Commonwealth ministers: the Treasurer, Wayne Swan; the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, Terry Burke; and/or the Minister for Social Housing and Homelessness, Mark Arbib. Minister Burke has responsibility for the scheme. [Shelter NSW](#).

**Locking out the homeless to pay for roads, bridges**  
Oh for \$20 million dollars to do some advertising to help the homeless. It certainly worked for the mining industry. You can guarantee there'll be no TV ads in outrage that the federal government has decided to strip nearly a third of the money from one of their own landmark homeless policies - the National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS) - in response to the Queensland floods. [SMH website](#).

**Media Releases on flood levy:**  
**From ACOSS**  
[Alliance urges Government rethink of cuts to National Rental Affordability Scheme](#)

[ACOSS urges Parliament to pass flood levy](#)

**From The Australian Greens**  
The Australian Greens have joined six major housing and welfare groups and a leading economist in urging the Federal Government to reconsider plans to slash funding to the [National Rental Affordability Scheme](#).

**From National Shelter**  
Anger at short-sighted cuts to [housing programs](#).

**Closing the Gap speech in full**  
Julia Gillard PM has delivered the third annual closing the gap speech to federal parliament. [The Australian](#).

## ACT

**Greens push public housing energy revamps**  
Every public housing property in Canberra would be refurbished to a minimum three-star energy rating under an ACT Greens plan to combat rising energy bills. [The Canberra Times](#).

## NSW

**Avoiding abuse without leaving the home**  
Why don't women leave? This is the question asked of victim of domestic violence for the past 40 years. But leaving an abusive relationship has usually meant women and their children have also had to leave their homes, some becoming homeless, or ending up on the refuge circuit. [Smh.com.au](#).

**Call to release housing plan**  
The State Government's proposed rezoning of Frenchs Forest has reignited calls for Warringah Council's housing strategy to be released immediately. [The Manly Daily](#).

**Coffs families in rent crisis**  
Sharyn Stubbs has just three days a week to help families at risk of homelessness in an area bigger than Bali. [Coffs Coast Advocate](#).

## NT



## PUBLICATIONS & RESEARCH

**AHWH: Review of the Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services National Minimum Data Set, Report.**

**Pathways in Aged Care: program use after assessment Report.**

**AIFS: Assessing and responding to parenting support needs in disadvantaged families: Lessons from parent education programs.**

Although parents from all walks of life can benefit from effective parenting support, it can be especially beneficial to families experiencing certain types of disadvantage. [Practice Sheet](#).

**AHURI: No. 161: Stakeholder views of the regulation of affordable housing providers in Australia. AHURI website.**

Partnership working in the design and delivery of housing policy and programs. [AHURI website](#).

**Department of Health and Aging**  
**2009-10 report on the operation of the Aged Care Act 1997**  
This report describes the operation of the Act during 2009-10 and includes additional information to aid understanding of aged care programs and policies.

**Via National Alliance to End Homelessness Blog**  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) - "Veteran Homelessness: A Supplement to the 2009 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress."

**The NSW Youth Health Policy 2011-2016:**  
Healthy bodies, healthy minds, vibrant futures  
[Report web page](#).

**7<sup>th</sup> Annual Demographia**  
[International Housing Affordability Survey](#).

**Productivity Commission - Caring For Older Australians**  
This draft report was released on 21 January 2011. You are invited to examine this report and make written submissions to the Productivity Commission by Monday 21 March 2011. [Draft report](#).

**Parity: call for contributions:**  
March "Children in Homelessness" edition of Parity. Further information: [email the Parity editor](#).

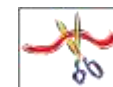
## GRANTS

**The Youth Coalition of the ACT,**  
In partnership with Youthbeyondblue, the Australian Government and ACT Government, has announced the ACT National Youth Week Grants 2011. [Coalition website](#).

**Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation 2011 grants**  
Not-for-profit organisations assisting people within the Greater Melbourne metropolitan area are invited to apply to the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation for a 2011 grant. There are two categories under which your organisation might be eligible - General Grant and Major Grant. [Lord Mayor website](#).

## TRAINING

**The Australian Institute of Community Practice and Governance**  
Australia wide:  
\* Advanced Grant Writing Seminar 2011 (AG11) - You've mastered the basics, now it's time to become a GRANTS MASTER  
\* Best Practice in Grants Management Conference 2011 - The practical conference for Australian Grantmakers  
\* Board Builder Conference 2011 - A fresh agenda for Australian community sector boards, committees and governing councils  
\* Certificate IV in Governance - for Community Boards (BSB40907) (C411) - accredited four-day training for community board/committee members and supporters  
\* Diploma of Management BSB51107 (DM11) - Practical, affordable, accredited training for staff of community and not-for-profit organisations  
\* Introduction to Writing Winning Grants (GW11) - How to access more grants for your community organisation or school  
\* Secrets of Successful Boards 2011 (SB11) - full-day seminar for prospective & current board/committee of management members, and those who support them  
\* Strategies for Sustainable Funding Seminar (FS11) - Seminar for volunteers, staff and fundraisers on how to build sustainability beyond grant funding for your community organisation  
[Training Calendar](#)



## EVENTS

**Mental Health Community Coalition ACT,** Leading the Change, 17 - 18 February, Canberra, [conference website](#).

**Victorian Alcohol and Drugs Association (VAADA)**  
2011 VAADA Conference on 17-18 February, Melbourne. [Conference website](#).

**Future Housing for Older Australians,** AHURI and The Benevolent Society, 25 February, Sydney, [symposium web page](#).

[Website.](#)

#### **HomeGround Services**

Vision: HomeGround's vision is to end homelessness in Melbourne.

Mission: Our mission is to get people housed and to keep people housed.

Approach: We do this by providing housing and support services across Melbourne, developing innovative housing models, advocating for systems change and researching the causes and solutions to homelessness. [Website.](#)

#### **WEEKS**

##### **National Youth Week**

[National Youth Week 2011 – Own it!](#)

An annual, weeklong celebration of young people (aged 12–25) throughout Australia held from 1 - 10 April 2011. Each year, all over Australia, events are planned and organised to celebrate and recognise the contribution of young people.

##### **Youth Homelessness Matters Day**

6 April 2011 Youth Homelessness Matters is about raising the public awareness about youth homelessness and to celebrate the resilience of young people who are experiencing homelessness in Australia. [Youth Homelessness Matters Day \(YHMD\)](#)

##### **ACT Seniors Week**

From 21-28 March Seniors Week provides an opportunity to learn, discover different aspects of the community and understand more about Canberra. [Website.](#)

##### **National Homeless Persons' Week**

MY Address *Diversity in homelessness* 1-7 August 2011 Homelessness engages diverse people, from diverse addresses for diverse reasons. [Website.](#)

##### **Social Inclusion Week**

19-27 November 2011  
"We would love to see every school in AUS hold an event during SIW2011!"  
[SIW website.](#)

##### **INFORM ARCHIVE - 2011**

[Friday 28 January 2011](#)

[Friday 14 January 2011](#)

[Friday 7 January 2011](#)

##### **Town campers forced into 'unsafe' houses**

An Alice Springs town camp resident says she and her five children have been placed in unsafe accommodation, while they wait for their town camp house to be upgraded under an Indigenous housing program. [ABC News.](#)

##### **Qld**

###### **Floods and Yasi**

Help with housing needs is available for Queensland residents in areas affected by [Cyclone Yasi](#) and [Queensland floods](#).

###### **Help for renters, Bond Loans and Rental Grants**

A bond loan is an interest free loan, paid directly to landlords, to help people who can't afford to pay the full rental bond for private rental accommodation, [Qld Government.](#)

###### **Grantham temporary housing**

Three temporary houses have been handed over to Grantham in Queensland's Lockyer Valley, after it was wiped out by deadly flooding. [ABC News.](#)

##### **SA**

###### **SA students renovate homes**

A joint initiative between South Australian agencies and the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) has reaped the fruits of student labour. Students from several northern Adelaide secondary high schools have fully restored and rebuilt two derelict northern suburbs Housing Trust homes at Davoren Park. [Government News.](#)

##### **Tas**

###### **'2m' housing figure rejected**

Human Services Minister Cassy O'Connor yesterday responded to claims by Liberal human services spokeswoman Jacqui Petrusma that just one affordable house cost \$2.69 million to build, given the state and federal governments had spent \$139 million over the past two years and only 59 homes had been completed. [The Mercury.](#)

##### **Vic**

###### **Victorian flood support**

Relief centres, financial assistance, health advice and support. [Department of Human Services Victoria.](#)

###### **Crisis in public housing**

The scale of Victoria's public housing crisis is revealed in government figures that show disadvantaged people are waiting up to 18 years before they are given a home. [The Age.](#)

###### **Councils are criminalising homeless**

The two larger tiers of Australian governments have committed to end homelessness through prevention, early intervention, whole-of-government approaches. It is now time for the third level of government to address this issue. However, there appears to be some resistance within local government to accept this responsibility. [ABC The Drum Unleashed.](#)

###### **'Sleeping rough' by-law deferred**

Campers, caravanners and people sleeping in their cars on public land have been given a reprieve, with Yarra Ranges councillors voting to defer a decision on a proposed by-law amid concerns over its effect on homeless people. [Maroondah Weekly Yarra Ranges Weekly.](#)

###### **More housing more affordable**

Cutting long waiting times for public housing in the south-west can only be done by increasing the number of cheaper rental properties for disadvantaged people to live in. [The Standard.](#) [VCOSS.](#)

##### **WA**

###### **Private homes might ease public housing wait**

The State Government is considering a plan to allow people on the public housing waiting list to rent private homes with government assistance. [ABC News.](#)

###### **Offer Aborigines joint home equity says WA Premier Colin Barnett**

In a submission to the Gillard government's Draft Indigenous Economic Development Strategy, the West Australian government has criticised the federal government for not pursuing more opportunities for Aborigines to own their own homes. [Perth Now.](#)

##### **Housing economics for non-economists**

Lecture series – Mondays, 7, 14 and 21 March, and 4 April 2011, [Shelter NSW.](#)

##### **Change, Challenge & Choice**

A State Gathering of Aboriginal HACC and Related Workers, NCOSS 8-10 March, Wollongong, [website.](#)

**11th National Rural Health Conference**, The Heart of a Healthy Nation, 13-16 March, Perth, [conference website.](#)

##### **AHURI - Improving housing affordability: the tax reform debate**

This seminar will bring together national commentators and analysts to explore, discuss and debate different facets of housing and tax, with particular emphasis on the Henry Tax Review's recommendations for addressing housing supply issues - and the impact of the recommended reforms on housing affordability stress. 17 March, Melbourne, [seminar webpage.](#)

##### **ACOSS 2011 National Conference**

Challenging Inequality: Social action in an ever-changing world, 29-30 March, Melbourne, [conference website.](#)

**The Community Housing Federation of Australia**, National Affordable Housing Exchange, 14-15 April, Sydney, [conference website.](#)