



Annual Report 2014/15

Working towards a just and fairer housing system
throughout the Northern Territory



Northern Territory Shelter Inc

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This Annual Report covers the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015
The Annual Report is also available online at www.ntshelter.org.au

NT Shelter is funded by the NT Government through the Department of Housing.

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Members and Staff

Member Organisations:

Aboriginal Hostels Ltd
Alice Springs Womens Shelter (ASWS)
Anglicare NT
Alice Springs Youth Accommodation Service and Support Services (ASYASS)
Australian Red Cross
Baptist Care NT
Barkly Region Alcohol & Drug Abuse Advisory Group (BRAADAG)
Council for Aboriginal Alcohol Program Service (CAAPS)
CatholicCare NT
Central Australian Affordable Housing Company
Coral House
Darwin Christian Ministries
Darwin City Council
Darwin Community Legal Service
Darwin Women's Housing Association
Julalakari Council
Kalano Community
Larrakia Nation
Mabunji Aboriginal Resource Association
Mental Health Association of Central Australia (MHACA)
Melaleuca Refugee Centre
Mission Australia
NT Council of Social Service (NTCOSS)
Medicare Local- NT Partners in Recovery Program
Salvation Army NT
St Vincent de Paul
Tangentyere Council
TEAM Health
Tennant Creek Women's Refuge
Top End Womens Legal Service
Venture Housing Company
Yilli Rreung Housing Aboriginal Corporation
YWCA of Darwin

Individual Members:

Sue Bradley
Jean Ah Chee
Anthony Willits
Toni Vine Bromley (Public Officer)
David Havercroft
John Nai-Smith (Life Member)

NT Shelter Staff

Executive Officer; **Toni Vine Bromley**



Administration Officer (0.6FTE); **Clare Corfield**



Central Australian Policy Officer; **David Havercroft**



Homelessness Policy Officer; **Morgan Sabbith** (until February 2015) then **Alexandra Richmond**



Morgan Sabbith



Alex Richmond

Governance

NT Shelter is incorporated under the NT Associations Act 2005 and was formally established as the peak non-government housing advocacy body for the NT in 1996.

NT Shelter is accountable to its members and other stakeholders through an elected Board of Management made up of community representatives from throughout the NT.

NT Shelter's annual operating budget is provided through a Triennial Funding Agreement with the NT Department of Housing.

Funding for our homelessness peak body role is provided on an annual basis through the Department of Housing.

Board Members 2014/15

Executive Committee;

- President - Jean Ah Chee (Mission Aust- Alice Springs)
- Vice President - Michael Byrne (St Vincent de Paul VincentCare)
- Treasurer - Anthony Willits (NT Partners in Recovery)
- Secretary - Nina Lemos (YWCA of Darwin)

Ordinary Board Members;

- Georgina Bracken (Tennant Creek Womens Refuge)
- Hal Bisset (Central Australian Affordable Housing)- until February 2015 and replaced with Sally Langton
- Colin Tidswell (Yilli Rreung Housing Aboriginal Corporation)
- James Pilkington (Larrakia Nation)
- Jayne Lloyd (CatholicCare)
- Leigh Woolcock (Anglicare NT)
- Peter Wood (Salvation Army NT) until February 2015 and replaced with Jeff Philp

Board Changes During the Year

Board membership changed during year with the relocation of Hal Bisset (Central Australian Affordable Housing) and Peter Wood (Salvation Army NT) from the Northern Territory to interstate. Both representatives resigned early in 2015.

NT Shelter subsequently co-opted Sally Langton (Central Australian Affordable Housing) and Jeff Philp (Salvation Army NT) to the Board. These new representatives attended their first Board meeting in Alice Springs on 23rd April 2015.

Meetings Held

The NT Shelter Constitution requires the NT Shelter Board of Management to meet not less than 4 times in each financial year.

Board Meetings in 2014/15 were held;

- 25th August 2014
- 20th November 2014
- 19th February 2015 (Planning Meeting)
- 23rd April 2015 in Alice Springs

The Executive Committee met on;

- 18th July 2014
- 25th September 2014
- 19th February 2015
- 25th March 2015
- 21st May 2015
- 17th June 2015

Executive Report

This will be my last Annual Report to NT Shelter as I am retiring early in 2015/16. In saying this, I have loved this job, those I've worked with both local and nationally, and I thank you all for your support and engagement with NT Shelter. I leave the organisation knowing it's in a better place than when I found it 10 years ago, but my energies and enthusiasm are waning, so it's time to go, knowing too that NT Shelter will continue to develop in new directions and with an important voice in housing and homelessness policy in the Northern Territory.

I believe strongly in the value of peak bodies and their ability to question and present alternate positions on government policies and actions. I'm distraught that nationally the 3 peak housing and homelessness bodies (National Shelter, the Community Housing Federation of Australia and Homelessness Australia) were de-funded in December by the Federal Government. On this I hope that there may be a way forward where the pasts of these important and different bodies might be put behind them and a new united housing and homelessness peak might evolve and be properly funded to undertake research and advocacy in relation to consumer and industry needs and to make an important contribution to the development of inclusive and innovative public policy.

I noted in last year's Annual report that it seemed it had been a year of waiting. Looking back on 2014/15 it may seem we are standing still but there have been some substantial changes.

Again we've seen change in the Ministry from Matt Conlon in 2014 to Bess Nungarrayi Price in February 2015. In the year however NT Shelter was unable to formally meet with either Minister. We did co-sponsor an Australasian Housing Institute Breakfast with Minister Conlon in October last year which offered the opportunity for sector representatives to meet him.



We've also been heartened that the Chief Minister Adam Giles has a personal interest in housing and has himself made some significant housing announcements throughout the year. Below the Chief Minister and Minister for Housing announcing the Review of Housing Programs later in 2015.



Meetings with the Chief Minister through his biannual meetings with the NGO sector in Darwin and Alice Springs have been positive and these together with NT Shelter being included in the NT Government -NGO Partnership Group (NNPG) meetings convened by Department of Chief Minister, have been seen as an acknowledgement of our role and our contribution to public policy in the NT.

Within the Department too there have been many changes. In early March we welcomed Leah Clifford as CEO, replacing Anne Bradford. Before this the Grants Program and Management Unit replaced the Homelessness Policy Unit from November 2014. We all participated in discussions around reforms to the Tenancy Support/ Compliance Program under which morphed into a Housing Support Programs and Service Provider Meeting and then a Department of Housing facilitated 'Forum on Building Shared Pathways to Sustainable Housing Options in the NT.' And despite our eagerness to input at each, nothing has been seen to progress.



Funding for our sector in 2015/16 has been a very long and exhausting ordeal. NT Shelter was an active supporter of Homelessness Australia in the campaign at the Federal level for continuation of the National Partnership on Homelessness (NPAH).

From not knowing whether the Federal Government was going to refund the National Partnership on Homelessness (NPAH) to the announcement in March that funding would continue for 2 years at the same level as in 2013/14, to then this filtering through to the States and Territories was a torment in itself.

As as at 1 September, still the funding has not flown through to the sector. An appalling situation where NGOs are expected to deliver contracted services to highly vulnerable people and to have sufficient reserves to do so for an indeterminate amount of time, without receiving funding.

Change has also occurred to the Darwin landscape. Kurringal, Runge Street and Fenton Flats all gone.



And so they should be gone. But what of the former tenants. What of the interminable wait list for public housing. What of any commitment to provide renewed social housing. These are things we still don't know.



We have also had some cause for celebration this year-

- The NT Government's Real Housing for Growth initiative has been a success to the point where the private sector is telling the Government there are too many affordable properties on the market- that is something to celebrate but we question whether the current high vacancy rates are at the really affordable end of the market.
- Venture Housing have another 160 apartments within their affordable housing portfolio.
- Central Australian Affordable Housing Company completed construction of its own development in Bloomfield Street Alice Springs and it has taken over the management of another block in Elliott St.

The NT Shelter inspected the Central Australian Affordable Housing developments while it held its April Board meeting in Alice Springs.



Before an overview of some key projects this year I take this opportunity to thank NT Shelter's members for their continued support, and the members of the Board of Management for their commitment and support.

Our sector also continues to contribute its knowledge, expertise and experience through the AAGs and other forums and for this we are always appreciative.

I also acknowledge the great work of NT Shelter's staff in enhancing the role, profile and professionalism of NT Shelter;

David Havercroft in Central Australia, whose qualities- dedication, enquiring mind, networking skills and attention to detail, are cherished.

Morgan Sabbith, our NT Homelessness Policy Officer, who left us in March this year and who essentially established and grounded the role of Homelessness Policy Officer within NT Shelter. And then Alex Richmond who stepped into the role almost seamlessly upon Morgan leaving and who has now established it as her own- thank you.

And Clare Corfield our Admin Officer, who is our constant, our back up, our support and who manages the office and bookkeeping for us all.

I thank you all and wish NT Shelter well in a new era and under a new Executive Officer.

Toni Vine Bromley
Executive Officer

Key Areas of Work

Alice Springs Accommodation Action Group

The Alice Springs Accommodation Group's (AAG) meetings have benefited greatly from the changed format instigated in 2013, with the second half of meetings dedicated to workshop sessions on specific themes.

Notably, the December 2014 meeting focussed on accommodation issues for people coming to Alice Springs from remote communities. This in turn led to a separate meeting in early 2015 to continue these discussions - the issues identified by attendees have been shared with members of the Barkly Region Accommodation Group, with the universality of issues quickly acknowledged.

Visitors' accommodation issues are seen as a key issue that warrants ongoing work that NT Shelter will support in 2015-16, so that we can start to inform positive outcomes for people coming to urban centres for a myriad of reasons.

Along with visitors' accommodation, the AAG continues to identify 'at risk' cohorts as being of specific concern - housing issues for women and children experiencing domestic and family violence, for youth, and for people with 'complex needs' (nominally health issues, disability, ageing) will be rebooted as key focus areas in 2015-16.

As a final note, we acknowledge the significant contributions of Sue McGregor of the Central Australian Affordable Housing Company, who is relocating from Alice Springs and who finished her participation with the AAG in June. Sue has been a wonderfully energetic, engaged representative both at AAG meetings – where she has often facilitated the workshop sessions – and through other working groups and forums where they arise. She will be missed.

Right To A Home

NT Shelter continues to convene and provide secretariat support for Right To A Home, an Alice Springs based coalition of 15 local, NT and national NGOs.

Right To A Home advocates for the promotion and protection of the rights of people who are homeless and at risk of homelessness in Alice Springs, including in response to the Alice Springs Town Council's Management of Public Places By-laws.



Barkly Closing the Gap Seminar

Perhaps the highlight of BRAG's 2014-15 calendar was the hosting of the '**Closing the Housing Gap in the Barkly**' half day seminar in Tennant Creek in late October.

Presentations by Celia Moss (Australian Bureau of Statistics), Professor Paul Memmott and Dr Daphne Nash (University of Queensland), and Hal Bisset (Central Australian Affordable Housing Company), provided an audience of 30 people with a significant opportunity to hear detailed overviews of current ABS data relating to the



Barkly, local housing & homelessness-related research and findings from other similar contexts, and an overview of CAHAC's community housing approach.

NT Shelter is hopeful that the presentations will assist to seed the development of much needed social housing in Tennant Creek and to the broader Barkly.

We would like to acknowledge the contributions of the presenters, as well as Georgina Bracken of the Tennant Creek Women's Refuge in making this successful event a reality.

Along with the seminar, more recent BRAG meetings have seen a regenerated energy towards a couple of priorities. In early 2015, meeting attendees agreed to establish working groups to work on (i) Visitors' Accommodation, and (ii) the development of a 'Vulnerability Index'-type survey of people experiencing homelessness/ crowding. These were determined after consideration of outcomes from previous strategic planning workshops, the 'Closing the Housing Gap' Seminar and NT Shelter's Homelessness Roadmap issued in August 2014. Both groups are to have their initial meetings in July 2015.



Development of a 'Housing First Model with Wrap around Service Provision'

NT Shelter was one of a number of organisations that combined efforts to develop an alternative model for addressing social housing and supported accommodation in Alice Springs.

The model was developed in response to the Department of Housing's select Request for Proposals to manage the Apmere Mwerre Visitors Accommodation Park and Stuart Lodge issued in late February. A number of organisations expressed an ongoing interest in exploring the model and better service coordination, including through the AAG.

We remain hopeful that this may be considered through the review into Government housing program initiatives announced by the NT Government in June 2015.

'Think Outcomes' Conference -

NT Shelter had the opportunity to attend this 2 day conference in Sydney in November 2014.- thanks to NTCOSS offering its conference registration to us. Issues raised at the conference were reported back to NTCOSS and the sector in our February E-Magazine.

The conference had an express focus on social impact and outcome measurement – the Think Outcomes website notes an intention 'to explore what meaningful social change can emerge from measuring outcomes to influence debate, develop capability, and enable change', providing opportunities to:

- Challenge: Critically examine what is at stake for different sectors if we don't measure outcomes.
- Learn: Understand where we are now and establish pathways going forward.
- Develop: Expand understanding, knowledge and practical skills of social outcome and impact measurement.
- Establish: An action plan for achievement by tracking change and measuring outcomes.

From an NT housing and homelessness perspective, the need for more comprehensive measurement of outcomes has been a common thread through previous NT Homelessness Summits. The 'NT Shelter Homelessness Roadmap', published in August 2014, reflects this in identifying the need for 'continued funding of strategies and programs that are working', and to assess this by the development of 'a consistent evaluation framework to provide a platform which determines programs that are achieving social outcomes' as a central strategy.

Attendance at the Think Outcomes conference marries with NT Shelter's interest in the development of frameworks that lead to positive, long term outcomes for people experiencing housing disadvantage.

NT Social Housing Supported Accommodation Stock Mapping Project

Both the Homelessness Policy Officer and Central Australian Policy Officer have been working on mapping the social housing and supported accommodation stock in Darwin, Palmerston, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs.

This project builds on work initiated by the Alice Springs Accommodation Action Group and responds to the need identified by all Accommodation Action Groups (AAG) for a better picture of what social housing and supported accommodation stock exists in each of the urban centres.

NT Shelter has interviewed and surveyed social and supported accommodation providers across the 4 urban centres and have entered extensive amounts of data gathered into a database to create a comprehensive picture of housing and supported accommodation stock as at December 2014. We plan to update the information annually.

The project allows for a meaningful evidence base to be built in the NT about what stock is where and what particular client groups it is targeted to. This comprehensive picture of social housing will enable the development of an evidence base around service provision and gaps in the housing and homelessness sector. The surveys have captured a broad range of details including funding streams, associated wrap around services, client eligibility, bed numbers, dwelling ownership and maximum stay length.

NT Shelter can now export relevant aspects of this database through a software program that allows us to produce visual maps of stock. Initial maps showing a general picture of social housing and supported accommodation in the Darwin/ Palmerston and Katherine regions have been presented at recent Darwin Region AAG and Katherine AAG meetings. In July 2015, the Darwin map was also presented to senior staff in the Department of Housing. Initial maps will soon be produced for Tennant Creek and Alice Springs.

As well as these general maps, NT Shelter is able to work with service providers to map particular areas of interest. We can map services available for particular client groups eg. homeless youth or women escaping Domestic & Family Violence. We can also map available beds by length of stay eg: crisis accommodation, medium term, transitional or long term. These maps can be produced either by region or across the four regional centres of the NT.

We are excited about the value this work offers to all those who operate in the housing and homelessness space and believe the project will assist both service providers and the Department of Housing in its strategic planning.

We are confident that the database, and associated maps that we will commence to generate in the coming months, will be seen as a vital tool for supporting a better understanding of the NT housing system and the service gaps that currently exist.

Key Areas of Work

Homeless Prevention Week: Katherine Homelessness Day (KHD) 2014

Katherine Homelessness Day was established by the Katherine Accommodation Action Group (KAAG) to focus on the Katherine region during National Homeless Persons' Week. NT Shelter helped stage the KHD breakfast event on Friday 8th August 2014 with the KHD working group.

The Katherine region has an alarming rate of homelessness of 1,516 people per 10,000 population which is more than double the NT average rate and 30 times the national rate according to 2011 Census data.



Katherine Homelessness Day aims to recognise the work undertaken in the region to support the many people impacted by homelessness. Many agencies contributed to this event through planning, donating services and goods and hosting stalls on the day. Approximately 170 people attended the event including people experiencing homelessness, the general public, staff of supporting agencies, and tourists.

The main attraction at the event was the breakfast which allowed attendees to either access a free breakfast or to 'sponsor a breakfast' for someone who is homeless.

HPO: Changing of the guard

In March 2015, NT Shelter farewelled Morgan Sabbith after 3 years in the role of Homelessness Policy Officer and welcomed Alex Richmond to the position.

NT Shelter acknowledges Morgan for all of her wonderful work. Morgan and Alex had the chance to do a short but thorough handover which has allowed for a smooth transition.

Homelessness Persons Week 2014: Playback Theatre Performance in Darwin

NT Shelter supported a special performance by Darwin Playback Theatre on the theme of Homelessness: "Why we can't afford to ignore it".

Playback Theatre is a collaborative performance in which audience members provide the script by sharing stories from their own lives. These were then played back by the actors and a musician.

Playback is personal, poignant and community building. The sharing and performance highlighted:

- the impact of stress on people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless;
- the importance of public housing;
- insufficient crisis accommodation;
- the importance of family support;
- domestic and family violence as a trigger for homelessness;
- regardless of people's circumstances we are all humans trying to get by;
- the toll when there are no exits into secure housing;
- the increasing risk of homelessness for women who are ageing due to housing unaffordability;
- the vulnerability of people with mental illness and/or low incomes;
- the importance of reducing stigma around mental illness; and
- the impact of government policies which lack compassion.



Promoting ShelterMe to Sector workers

In May, the HPO worked with a graphic designer to design a postcard aimed at promoting ShelterMe to sector workers. In our sector, like much of the community sector in the NT there is a high turnover of staff, there are also the changing funding arrangements that mean it's often difficult for workers to know what services are running what programs that may be able to help clients. This promotion aims to inform new workers, and remind existing workers, of the fantastic ShelterMe resource, which is hosted and managed by NT Shelter.

The feedback we get from people who regularly access the website is that it is fantastic and saves them enormous amounts of time and hassle in locating who can assist homeless clients with what. This promotion aims to ensure the sector generally is aware of the resource. The postcard is already adorning many workers pin boards and has also been emailed throughout the sector, for forwarding on through organisations and inclusion in staff induction resources.



Council for Homeless Persons Australia (CHPA)

NT Shelter's Homelessness Policy Officer is the NT representative on CHPA, a founding member organisation of Homelessness Australia.

CHPA's efforts in 2014-15 focused on lobbying the Commonwealth Government for a new National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH) and planning for the future following Homelessness Australia's defunding by the Federal Government in December 2014.

At the November 2014 CHPA meeting the NT report highlighted the following concerns:

- the lack of affordable short and long term accommodation;
- extensive public housing list wait times;
- inadequate accommodation beds and options for DFV clients;
- the growing need for medical accommodation;
- services struggle to meet demand;
- concerns with Territory Housing's 3 Strikes Policy and use of periodic leases;
- and the extremely high need for transitional and visitor accommodation in Tennant Creek and Katherine.

NT Shelter's NT report for the March 2015 CHPA meeting highlighted the above issues as well as:

- NPARIH failing to meet increasing demand; and
- in recognition of Aboriginal homelessness rates of 2,462 per 10,000 population according to 2011 Census data, inadequate understanding of the cultural observances and obligations contributing to homelessness and severe overcrowding in remote communities

ShelterMe is a web directory of services for homeless Territorians

ShelterMe has been designed to help people in the NT seeking accommodation and support services.

For those of us working in the sector it's an essential referral tool. With changing funding arrangements and organisational and staff turnover it's sometimes hard to know who can help our clients with what.

ShelterMe contains up to date information about accommodation and services throughout the NT, including crisis, transitional, short term, low cost and supported accommodation. It also provides details on other support services such as emergency relief funds, legal help, AOD and mental health services, food and meals and much more.

You can use the site to search by service required and by region to quickly find who can help.

shelterme.org.au



ShelterMe is managed by NT Shelter and funded by the Northern Territory Government.
NT Shelter is the peak non-government housing and homelessness advocacy body in the Northern Territory.
NT Shelter works towards a just and more housing throughout the NT.

Key Areas of Work

National Representation

National Shelter

NT Shelter is an affiliate member of National Shelter and we continue to contribute to and learn from meetings of the National Shelter Council (NSC). As Secretary, to the National body, NT Shelter convenes and participates in monthly National Shelter teleconferences.

NSC face to face meetings were held in August in Sydney where we were planning our first year of funded projects, in Hobart in November along with our Annual General Meeting, and in March in Brisbane in the wake of de-funding and the need to wind up projects underway.

Community Housing Federation of Australia (CHFA)

As the proxy peak community housing body in the NT, NT Shelter has participated in the annual National Members Meeting (NMM) of CHFA.

Over the past few years CHFA had been working with the community housing sector to identify a model for a new National Industry body going forward. The NT delegates to CHFA (Hal Bisset, Colin Tidswell and Toni Vine Bromley) this year participated in some on-line important decision making for this change to occur.

Following advice in December 2014 that the 3 national peak housing bodies including CHFA were to be de-funded, CHFA convened its NMM in March to finalise its wind-up and pursue the changeover to a national industry body- the 'Community Housing Industry Association' (CHIA). 3 NT delegates (Rick Fletcher, Sue McGregor and Toni Vine Bromley) attended the final CHFA NMM in Brisbane and endorsed the resolutions for this change from 1 July 2015

Homelessness Australia

NT Shelter continues to have a collegial relationship with Homelessness Australia (HA) which continues to operate using its self generated funds.

NT Shelter's Homelessness Policy Officer is the NT representative to the Council to Homeless Persons Australia (CHPA), and liaises with the NT delegates with NYCH and WESNET and keeps the sector updated as information is received.

Sector Capacity Building

Strengthening community housing

Advocacy on growing the community housing sector's capacity through stock transfers and greater involvement in managing social housing stock is a key issue in our work.

In 2014 NT Shelter convened a Coalition of NT Community Housing Providers made up of seven urban based organisations with an interest in developing as community housing providers.

In 2014 NT Shelter successfully applied to the Community Benefit Fund to assist housing organisations in the NT prepare for a new community housing regulatory system and to identify and act on opportunities for future growth and development. Our project name was CHANCE- Community Housing Action Network Capacity Enhancement.

CHANCE aimed to support the NT NGO housing sector to become registered Community Housing Organisations as a way of enhancing their capacity to do business with government and the private sector and increase the provision and supply of community housing in the Territory.

Project funds initially enabled NT Shelter to bring CHFA and the NSW Federation of Housing Associations to the sector in February to begin the introduction of the new National Regulatory Framework. Our follow up training on the range of issues within the Regulatory process as well as Governance issues was delivered in July 2015.



Aboriginal and Remote Housing

In 2014 and following several representations to the Department of Housing over the years, NT Shelter approached AMSANT and APONT to continue to progress our goal to ensure that the views on housing in remote locations in the Territory are reflected in our policy advice to government.

Following agreement by APONT and the allocation of funds for the purpose (NT Shelter's contribution included 60% from Members funds) NT Shelter began a collaboration with APONT and Central Australian Affordable Housing (CAAH) to plan for a Remote Aboriginal Housing Forum.

The Forum was intended to establish a common view regarding the future direction of housing delivery in remote communities, towards better housing management and increased supply of appropriate housing.

Planning meetings with APONT and CAAH were attended by both the Executive Officer and Central Australian Policy Officer. These meetings established the program agenda, identified speakers and other invitees, as well as other logistics for the convening of the Forum.

The APONT Aboriginal Housing Forum was held in Darwin from 12-13 March with approximately 150 delegates in attendance. The Forum resolved to form a new NT Aboriginal Housing body to be a voice for Aboriginal housing in the NT.

Following the Forum NT Shelter continued to attend meetings with APONT to plan a follow-up smaller workshop which was held on 25-26 May. This workshop was to determine what a new housing body would be and to identify continuing support needs from APONT NT Shelter. NT Shelter prepared background information re models for housing body and key questions to be asked.

The group 'Aboriginal Housing NT' formed with 11 members. This group will now convene its first meeting in August.

The Report from Forum is available on the NT Shelter website. NT Shelter remains keen to offer support to the group and in other discussions is involved in further work through PIC re viability of community housing management in Aboriginal communities.



Key Areas of Work

Information Dissemination and Community Education

NT Shelter seeks to ensure the Not-For-Profit housing and homelessness sector as well as government, local government and associated industry representatives are informed of housing and homelessness issues through Territory wide distribution of our publications, Newsletters and E-Letters and via the NT Shelter website.

Website

NT Shelter's website is used to promote various publications and events including AGM and Annual Reports etc.

Average monthly visits in the 2014/15 year was 4083 compared to 3035 in 2013/14.

2014/15 Newsletters posted to the NT Shelter website

12/8 Newsletter -distribution 587

31/10 Newsletter -distribution 795 (electronic distribution)

30/1 E-MAG - distribution 853

20/4 E-MAG - distribution 847

1/6 E-MAG distribution 863

247 Homelessness E-Letter distribution 428

218/7 Housing E-Letter distribution 749

5/9 Homelessness E-Letter distribution 466

22/9 Housing E-Letter distribution 722

2/10 Homelessness E-Letter distribution 460

9/12 Combined E-Letter distribution 855

19/2 Housing E-Letter distribution 854

6/3 Homelessness E-Letter – distribution 470

27/3 Housing E-Letter distribution 865

6/5 Homelessness E-Letter distribution 487

Media

NT Shelter also presents its policy and advocacy positions regularly in the media to raise community awareness of issues confronting low income and disadvantaged Territorians in accessing housing and homelessness services and opportunities.

Housing Forum

NT Shelter convened a Homelessness Forum in conjunction with the NTCOSS Community Services Conference "Tough Times, Hard Decisions, Strong Sector" in Alice Springs in June 2015.

The Homelessness Forum attracted 35 participants. Speakers included; Glenda Stevens CEO Homelessness Australia; Sally Langton CEO CAAH; Sue McGregor CAAH; and Glenda led a participatory discussion which will feed into HA policy re national framework to ending homelessness.

Sector Consultation and Coordination

Regional Accommodation Action Group Meetings

Accommodation Advisory Group (AAG) meetings continue bimonthly in Alice Springs, Katherine and Darwin and quarterly in the Barkly.

In the Top End and Katherine these are convened by NT Shelter's Homelessness Policy Officer, and the Central Australian Policy Officer convenes the Alice Springs and Barkly Region Accommodation Group meetings.

AAG meetings continue to provide the principal forum for housing and homelessness NGOs and Government to come together and keep NT Shelter informed of key local issues and priorities for action.

Minutes of AAG meetings are submitted to the Department of Housing. Meetings held during the year and date of minutes being forwarded to NTG are noted.

Alice Springs

- 11/6 Meeting – minutes 18/8 : Attendance 16
- 12/8 Meeting – minutes 9/9 : Attendance 17
- 2/10 Meeting – minutes : Attendance 12
- 4/12 Meeting – minutes 2/3 : Attendance 17

Barkly

- 20/8 Meeting – minutes 19/9: Attendance 10
- See Barkly 'Closing the Gap' Seminar 29/10
- 26/11 Meeting - minutes 2/3 : Attendance 5

Katherine

- 22/7 Meeting – minutes 19/9 : Attendance 11
- 30/9 Meeting –minutes 10/11 : Attendance 10
- 2/12 Meeting – minutes 13/2/15 : Attendance 15
- 3/2 Meeting – minutes 2/3 : Attendance 15
- 7/4 Meeting – minutes 21/4 : Attendance 11
- 26/5 Meeting - minutes 10/6 : Attendance 11

Darwin

- 13/8 Meeting – minutes 5/9: Attendance 9
- 8/10 Meeting – minutes 13/11 : Attendance 21
- 3/12 Meeting – minutes 12/12 : Attendance 13
- 4/2 Meeting – minutes 2/3 : Attendance 19
- 8/4 Meeting – minutes 21/4 : Attendance 23
- 10/6 Meeting – minutes 19/6 : Attendance 18



Policy Papers

These responses to policy issues along with NT Shelter's Pre- Budget Submission for 2015/16 prepared and presented on the NT Shelter website;

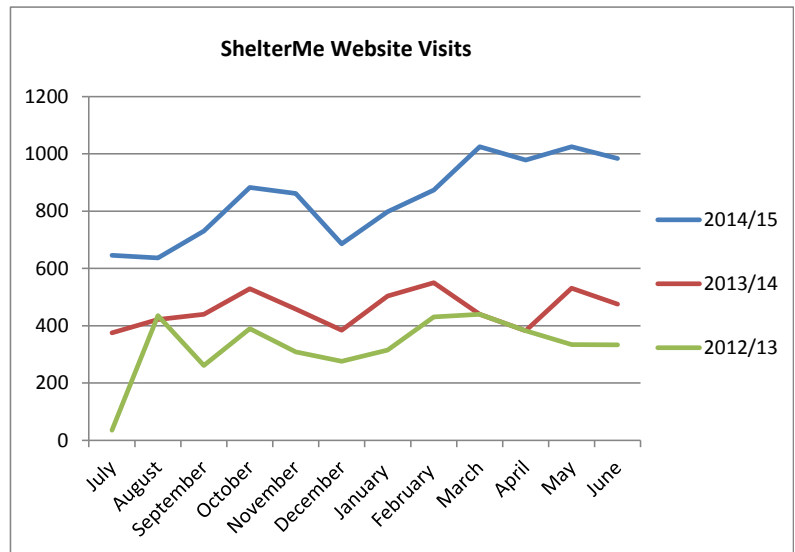
- Forrest Review 'Creating Parity'.
- Submission in response to the Creating Parity Report, published following the Forrest Review of Indigenous Training & Employment on behalf of the Commonwealth Government. This follows NT Shelter's original submission prepared by CAPO to Forrest Review
- Alice Springs Town Council Open Space Network Plan. Submission in response to the ASTC Open Space Network Plan Report, which nominated the sale of some under-utilised parks for residential subdivision as a possible option – NT Shelter's submission proposed that community housing providers be given first option with any land purchase.
- Submitted comment on Development of a Central Bond Holding Scheme in the NT under the RTA to Dept Attorney General & Justice.
- Contribution to final Community Housing Federation of Australia policy response re Reform of the Federation NT Shelter contribution and endorsement noted.

ShelterME

NT Shelter is contracted to host and maintain the ShelterME website- an on-line directory of support services for homeless people or those at risk of homelessness.

As at June 2015 there were 338 services in the database.

New ShelterME promotional postcards were printed in May 2015. The postcards are designed to assist service providers to access the site or to use it as a referral tool.



Homelessness Forum at NTCOSS Conference, June 2015: Sally Langton. Sue McGregor and Glenda Stevens

