

Homeshare Australia and New Zealand Alliance.

HANZA NEWSLETTER

Issue No.1 June 2009

EXCITING NEWS

Wesley Homeshare, Melbourne has secured ongoing funding from the Victorian HACC (Home and Community Care) budget. Our news should inspire other Homeshare programs to seek and win similar support from government. Wesley Homeshare has been petitioning, promoting, advocating and annoying everyone for ten years to achieve this outcome. It now becomes 'the thin edge of the wedge' for others to claim similar recognition for their programs and the welfare of older and disabled people in our communities.

INTERNATIONAL HOMESHARE CONFERENCE

Beris Campbell and Carmel Hurst are to attend the first World Homeshare Congress in Paris in July. This is a monumental event, underlining the growth of Homeshare throughout the world. Beris and Carmel have attended the national conferences of the United States in the past few years but Paris marks a new milestone for homesharing.

Beris is being asked to become a committee member of Homeshare International, in recognition of the important contribution made by Wesley Homeshare to program growth and strength.

WEB LINK with Homeshare International: www.homeshare.org

THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF WORKING TOGETHER

The Homeshare Alliance Australia (HAA) which formed as a collaborative partnership in December 2006 has grown into Homeshare Australia and New Zealand Alliance, HANZA with eight signed up members and plenty of other interested parties.

Wesley Homeshare Advisory Committee (WHAC) that has been supporting the Victorian Homeshare program since 1996 has redefined itself into HANZA supporters through the production of the current HANZA Working Together Agreement.

WHAC members have agreed to continue to dedicate their time to the development and support of HANZA. The plan so far is to write submissions for funding so that a

worker can be employed to work from home for about 4 hours per week under the supervision of WHAC to:

- Establish a web site for information exchange and dissemination
- Produce 3 newsletters per year
- Develop appropriate communications, feedback and information strategies
- Network with HANZA members and outreach to potential members
- Conduct a teleconference of HANZA members in November 2009 & 2010 covering issues raised by members, sharing information, best practice and providing support.
- Organize a face-to-face conference in 2011, when the agreement will be for review.

This is the plan if we get the funds. A three-year plan has been developed to cover the period up to November 2011, when a new agreement will be negotiated between all existing members.

This may be pie-in-the-sky, but if the funding is not forthcoming, the WHAC will press on with as many of the tasks as they can manage, with the help of friends and through HANZA members.

COMMUNICATION IS VITAL

This needs the enthusiasm, ideas and good will of everyone.

First level communications about practical issues and program related issues should occur between the delegates of each organization. See distribution list below.

Ideas, concerns, suggestions, articles for the newsletter, designs for a logo, development of a website, offers of assistance to advance HANZA should be addressed to Carmel Hurst at: carmelmhurst1@bigpond.com. NOTE. This represents a new email address.

HANZA will rely for its success on the delegates contacting each other for support in practical dilemmas or just to share successes – why not BOAST - there are so few opportunities. Be assured that fellow members will rejoice with you and spread the good news.

HANZA members expect that fellow members will contact them in times of stress, heartache or for practical advice or help. HANZA is an alliance. “An alliance is an association or bond between nations, groups or individuals who agree to cooperate for mutual benefit.”

The plan is for three newsletters per year. CONTRIBUTE PLEASE via Carmel Hurst ---email address carmelmhurst1@bigpond.com

So much developed from the 1st National Workshop held in Melbourne in 2004 that it is seen as important to have annual events. But all meeting in one place is

not feasible as we are all probably strapped for cash. So the meetings listed above are important. At the 2011 meeting we need to review which member will provide the lead agency role and update the 'Working Together' document.

*This newsletter is being sent to all those organizations whose participants have expressed a desire to participate in the **Homeshare Australia and New Zealand Alliance (HANZA)** as well as longtime supporters of Homeshare.*

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Logo: New Zealand (PSEC) has suggested the need for a logo, with which we heartily agree. WHAC would like to challenge members to come up with one that we all accept. Send your ideas to Carmel Hurst. Logos can be expensive so can we keep it simple.... or does anyone have expertise to offer? A Certificate of Membership of HANZA is another NZ suggestion which we will design once we have a logo!

Website: Once again, expensive. Any expertise out there? A web site would be ideal for dissemination of this newsletter, any new tools, ideas, information and interaction between members.

DISABILITY HOMESHARE

One surprising development for Homeshare has been the early success of our disability service. The Victorian Dept. Human Services, Disability sector has supported pilot Homeshare programs in two regions of Melbourne – Southern and Eastern. They see the possibilities and have been quick to grasp them. It is ironical that the aged care sector – our core program – has been slower to recognise the value of Homesharing.

NEWS FROM HANZA MEMBERS AROUND AUSTRALASIA

Communities @ Work Inc. (ACT)

Those of you who attended our National conference in 2004 and met Linda Tregonning, will want to know that Linda has moved on. However, her replacement is Camilla Rowland who is a supporter and is attempting to start a Homeshare program in the ACT as part of a housing initiative.

Community Based Support South (Tas.)

Vivienne Beattie reports that their very new program, although having 2 very successful early matches, has none at present. She thinks this is a result of a conservative population despite good publicity. We were able to advise that this was our experience at the start but the growth is exponential once word gets around. Viv is trying a new strategy to attract householders by promoting the valuable role householders can play for international and interstate students by

providing a home away from home and mentor role. We will watch with interest.

Presbyterian Support East Coast (PSEC)

A very enthusiastic lot in NZ who are excited by their first match and have made a number of valuable suggestions for the formation of HANZA.

Perth Home Care Services

Kate Sowden and Julie Wulff visited Melbourne in February for two intensive days of training with the Wesley Homeshare team before setting up their new program. They are particularly interested in the Disability field. Wendy Francis is their contact person.

St. John Ambulance (Qld.)

Judith Allen is one of our oldest and most tenacious advocates of Homeshare. She is still trying for funding from her organization and is the sort of person who will not fail in the end. Judith has developed other innovative programs in Queensland and is likely to impress us all.

Queensland Community Care Network Inc.

Ken Maudsley of QCCN is a long-time supporter of HS and lacks only funding from starting a program in Brisbane.

Community Accommodation & Support Agency Inc. (CASA)

CASA, our newest agency from Mackay in Queensland, is anxious to commence a program. Queensland is showing up well in our recruitment drive.

Uniting Care Wesley Adelaide Inc.

Kylie Maher and the staff have laboured under great difficulties to establish some Homeshare matches over a number of years. They have now directed some specific resources for the development of Homeshare alongside Telelink. The new staff members, Barbara Donaldson and Sharon Teague, will visit Wesley Homeshare late June for training.

Wesley Mission Melbourne

Beris and the staff and volunteers are working very hard at this time of great change and expansion. Disability programs are sprouting up as mentioned above and we have accepted responsibility for a satellite program in Dandenong. The Greater Dandenong Council has funded a year of Homeshare, confident of our efficacy and of the future of the program. Another council (Yarra) has provided funding for a program to commence as soon as we have drawn breath.

Contact details - Delegates of HANZA April 2009

Communities @ Work ACT Ph. (02) 6288 4744
Camilla Rowland admin@commsatwork.org

Community Based Support South Inc. (Tas) Ph. (03) 6208 6600
Vivienne Beattie homeshare@cbssouth.com.au

Presbyterian Support East Coast 0011 6468778193 ext 707
Faith Kaufman faith.k@supportec.org.nz

Perth Home Care Services Ph. (08) 9204 7872
Wendy Francis wendyf@phcs.org.au

Queensland Community Care Network Inc. Ph. (07) 3804 3829
Ken Maudsley Ken@qccn.org.au

St John Ambulance, Qld. Ph. (07) 41512733
Judith Allen communitycare@stjohnqld.com.au

Community accommodation & Support Agency Inc. Ph. 07 4951 4299
(CASA) Kym Spandley Kymspandley@casamackay.org.au

Uniting Care Wesley Adelaide Inc. Ph. (08) 8375 1402
Ali Ayliffe & Kylie Maher ali.ayliffe@ucwesleyadelaide.org.au

Wesley Mission Melbourne Ph. (03) 9666 1231
Beris Campbell bcampbell@wesley.org.au

