

Dear CEWA Members

Five brief updates:

**Homelessness**

On 9th July, the Hon. Luke Howarth, the Federal Assistant Minister for Community Housing, Homelessness and Community Services, made a number of comments on ABC radio on homelessness. These included claims that *“homelessness affects a very very small percentage of the population* and that *the increase in homelessness was not ahead of population growth”*. More recently, the State Opposition leader and other commentators have made several somewhat emotive observations about a cross section of people in the City of Perth. Homelessness is an important issue for many members, and as such we thought it appropriate to share with you both the **attached** 2 page media release from the WA Alliance to End Homelessness, and the link to a Fact Check website below, which has researched the comments in more detail. Homelessness is also a critical issue for civil society and is one where we must all continue to work towards implementing sustainable long term housing and support solutions.

We would encourage you to share the media release with your Boards and staff – the more people who are advocating for housing and sustainable support services for everybody, the more likely the issues will be fully addressed.

<https://www.crikey.com.au/2019/07/16/fact-check-homelessness/>

**Associations Board Survey results**

**Attached** are results from a recent survey of 180 Associations and their boards. This 12 page report may be of particular interest to members who sit or are involved in peak body boards, however we do note that the survey covered all associations boards (ie this includes health, sport, culture and other representative type boards). 13% of the respondents were charities.

**Sustainability of Services**

As members know, CEWA has been actively advocating on the sustainability of services for some time. We are aware that a number of members have discussed their concerns directly with their funding body, and we continue to encourage members to keep doing this, particularly when there is an offer by the government of an extension.  The template we have previously shared, provides a concise document to share with funders. We remain keen to hear from members as to efforts / discussions you have entered into with government, and any responses you have received. De-identified specific examples help considerably with our advocacy.

**Thrive Tender**

We have recently been advised by the Department of Communities that the Thrive tender has now been finalised and all parties advised of the outcomes. Our focus with the tender, together with Shelter WA and WACOSS over the past 12+ months, has been on processes, timeframes and communication. We have raised members concerns on many occasions, with a wide range of government departments and with the Procurement Reform Working Group. We are continuing to encourage the Department of Communities and the Department of Finance to hold a lessons learned session with the sector, in an effort to ensure the poor tendering practices aren’t repeated. Should members wish to share any further feedback with CEWA, we would be happy to hear from you.

**Annual Contributions to CEWA**

Thank you to those members who have responded to our annual call for financial support to continue our work on behalf of CEWA members.  For those who are yet to contribute, we would be very appreciative of your ongoing support, particularly as this is our sole source of income.