



Homeshare Australia and New Zealand Alliance

HANZA NEWSLETTER

Issue No 7 April 2012

NEWS

FROM NEW ZEALAND

We are sad to be announcing the closure of the New Zealand Homeshare program. After 4 years of valiant effort on behalf of Deborah Biggs and the rest of the staff at Enliven, the program has not shown evidence of viability.

Some of the reasons they attribute to their decision to close:

Reduction in funding opportunities

Small population

No university.

The local technology institute has a moneymaking student housing program and is therefore not supportive.

The group at Enliven were and are very enthusiastic about Homeshare and believe that it would be entirely viable in a bigger environment. They offer their research findings and manuals to anyone who is interested. We hope they remain as a member of HANZA.

Deborah Biggs is to be congratulated on her belief in Homeshare, all her hard work and her contribution to HANZA teleconferences and her research and documentation on the Enliven Homeshare service.

As for the rest of you, don't get the idea that you are allowed to lose heart because of this setback! It works. We have proved it. N.Z. will rise again! HANZA is talking to Enliven, noting their difficulties and encouraging them to seek other agencies that might be interested in providing a Homeshare program.

DEPARTMENT of HEALTH Victoria

HANZA has been invited to work on Homeshare program specifications. The department has a commitment to rolling out Homeshare throughout Victoria. This represents a huge step forward in acknowledgement of Homeshare as a legitimate part of the suite of services targeted at older people. Officers in the department responsible for Disability services are also very interested in using Homeshare throughout Victoria.



INTERNATIONAL HOMESHARE

Planning has already started for the 3rd Homeshare World Congress. If anyone is contemplating an overseas trip in 2013, consider working Oxford into your itinerary. The congress will take place on 4th and 5th July 2013.

The theme for the Congress will be: **Homeshare: What works?** Developing the evidence base for Homeshare.

The Congress will be a great opportunity to learn about the experiences of developing Homeshare in the USA, the UK, France, Germany and other European countries; hopefully Japan will contribute again too. It will, of course, provide an opportunity for us to share our experiences and lessons learned here in Australia and in New Zealand. Beris will be involved in the planning of the Congress in her role as a trustee of Homeshare International and will present a paper. It would be fantastic to have some other delegates from Australia at the Congress! Start saving and planning for 2013!

THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF WORKING TOGETHER

The fate of the New Zealand program has inspired the HANZA committee to say to all members – if there is anything we can do to help a program in difficulties, please contact us! And sooner rather than later!

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and FUNDING & FINANCING WORKSHOP

Workshop notes. Following the very brief AGM in February, the teleconference attendees worked on more interesting topics:

Beris chaired this section and asked for feedback from different states of their different experiences.

Ali Ayliffe from Uniting Communities, Adelaide opened the discussion by describing the three frustrating years of effort to provide a program without funding. Then 18 months ago, a new Advisory Committee (including two ex members of Parliament active in the community) seems to have made the difference. “Wise and vocal people and a new HACC Manager” led eventually to \$100,000 recurring funding.

Wendy Francis, from the WA program described the program funding with Consumer Directed Aged Care Packages having the same arrangements as CACPs and EACH.

Perth is developing “Self Directed” Homeshare. We are very interested to know more detail on this initiative.

Andy Birch endorsed this idea for his Disability householders. More later as we discover details.

The Workshop then made some suggestions about how we should proceed to further our aims:

Contact/keep in touch with influential players in our disciplines, eg Pat Sparrow (COTA) Mark Butler, Minister Mental Health & Ageing.

Talk to someone on Commonwealth Ministerial Committee

Check who gets funding in new funding round and “see what ‘They’ are looking for” – “Self Directed” and “Self Care” are popular with ‘Them’.

Look again at Productivity Commission Recommendations

Workshop closed with the HANZA committee deciding to have another workshop of their own “to identify the essential elements required for a sustainable and successful Homeshare Program”.

Workshop notes will be forwarded to you separately.



HANZA AGM. Melbourne Contingent: L – R Tony Cavedon (UCCO) Annette Madden, Shirley Anderson (President) Denise Cooper (ex Coordinator, WHS) Beris Campbell, Joan Crawford, Lyn Grocke, Alexis Hughes, Carmel Hurst.



HELPFUL HINTS

Housing Suitability for Homesharing

What sort of house or accommodation is needed for a homeshare? Potential householders, their family members and referring agencies, frequently ask this question. And sometimes the housing on offer is not suitable.

The basic essential is a spare room. The room should be a reasonable size for the homesharer to study in or retreat to for some privacy – a broom cupboard size room will really not work. After that the add-ons that make a home more comfortable for the homesharer and householder are limitless. An element of separation between the householder's and homesharer's bedrooms is an advantage. After all, we are dealing here with unrelated strangers, who usually don't want to be on top of each other. A separate bathroom, of course, is a great advantage. The ideal, which fortunately we have in some of our current matches, is a separate section of the house, or an upstairs area or flat/studio out the back.

Both parties are expected to 'share' living spaces like the lounge room, kitchen, laundry facilities and outdoor areas. Companionship and doing things together is an essential part of a homeshare. That's what distinguishes it from taking in a boarder or lodger. Having some space in the kitchen cupboards and a spot in the fridge for the homesharer are also important factors.

But a big house is not essential. Several of our matches are working happily in two bedroom apartments. Sadly the architects of retirement units, town houses and apartments generally, have rarely made the second bedroom a reasonable size for a homesharer, which has presented us with real 'space' problems for homesharing.

Planning ahead for homeshare is to be encouraged. The English have produced a helpful booklet called *Home Audit*. The aim is to encourage retirees to "audit" their homes and examine solutions that will enable them to live independently and enjoy retirement to the full. Homesharing is included in their deliberations when considering "Using your spare bedroom creatively."

COMMUNICATION IS VITAL

You are all hopeless at sending any contributions to this newsletter! I know, it is all very well for me, a retired oldie from the suburbs with nothing better to do.

We are asking for a quarterly report of your doings so that we can all share in your triumphs and tragedies, but nothing happens. But I remain optimistic.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The website is a forbidden topic at the moment. Thinking of it merely brings on a bout of tears and rending of garments. But it will happen. **STOP PRESS** I have been formally reprimanded. There is now some constructive work in hand.

DISABILITY HOMESHARE

Curiously, Disability Services is much more likely to give Homeshare money than Aged Care departments. This is a difficulty. Disability and aged care programs, while able to work with the same pool of Homesharers, present two different sets of challenges. Older persons Homeshare has a higher success rate and for a fledgling program, we need successes to achieve that groundswell of government approval which spells 'funding' writ large. A slower takeup rate makes legislators nervous. Pity.

NEWS FROM HANZA MEMBERS AROUND AUSTRALASIA

See AGM workshop and News segments for all the local news.

[Communities @ Work Inc. \(ACT\)](#)

[Community Based Support South \(Tas.\)](#)

[Presbyterian Support East Coast \(PSEC\)](#)

[Perth Home Care Services](#)

[St. John Ambulance \(Qld.\)](#)

[Queensland Community Care Network Inc.](#)

[Community Accommodation & Support Agency Inc. \(CASA\)](#)

[Uniting Care Wesley Adelaide Inc.](#)

[C.A.R.A. S.A.](#)

[Uniting Care Community Options \(Vic.\)](#)

[Community Living Program \(Qld.\)](#)

Carmel Hurst

For HANZA Inc.