



HANZA NEWS

March 2014

Issue number 14

Promoting Homeshare in Australasia

NEWS

ANOTHER O.A.M. FOR HANZA

I have decided that this is no time for modesty. I too, like Beris Campbell, have been awarded an Order of Australia Medal. My medal is awarded for my work in bringing Homeshare to Australia. In my case it is an award for the team. There could have been no Homeshare program if it were left for me to do anything useful. The team!

So let us make the most of it. Two awards for Homeshare suggests that we are being taken seriously, that it is an excellent program, that government is happy with us and that we must not let such an opportunity pass. I think also, that the award bestows some cachet on HANZA. If we keep our collective nose clean and work together, I cannot see why HS won't become as common as sliced bread and unable to be ignored.



With this in view, we shall be working as hard as possible at the promotion of Homeshare in the next short while.

HACC AND HANZA

As you are all aware, the HACC program has been transferred to the Commonwealth. Victoria was one of the last cabs off the rank and is fighting hard for the standards and the services it funded to be incorporated into the Commonwealth scheme.

The three year period of the transition will be used to identify which of the current HACC programs will end up being a State or Commonwealth responsibility. Homeshare is not in the suite of all States' HACC programs and for that reason may be vulnerable to being excluded from the national scheme.

Those of you who have funded programs, and those of you who are working towards a funded program, are exhorted to write to Mitch Fifield, Assistant Minister for Social Services to ensure that the Homeshare program becomes a national one that is eligible for new and recurrent HACC funding. It is simply too hard, and indeed unnecessary, to fight the good fight in every State under different funding arrangements.

With this in mind, I enclose a copy of the letter I am sending to the minister, encouraging you to take bits of it to write your own appeal. (Don't use the same wording.)

Senator the Hon Mitch Fifield
Assistant Minister for Social Services
Manager of Government Business in the Senate
42 Florence Street
Mentone, VIC, 3194

62 Seymour Rd
Elsternwick
Victoria 3185

Dear Senator Fifield,

Order of Australia Medal – Carmel Hurst – Homeshare Program

Thank you for recognising the Australia Day honour I received in January. I was particularly pleased that you referred to my work in the ageing community. Indeed, this is the purpose of my responding to your generous letter of 31st January.

As you are the Minister responsible for the Home and Community Care (HACC) Program under which the Homeshare service is funded you have a close connection with the program for which I was rewarded. Funded programs are running in Victoria and South Australia. Homeshare in Victoria has been running for over ten years and is remarkably successful.

Homeshare has generated considerable interest in other States, and most of them have organizations seeking similar funding. This has been prompted in part by the program in Victoria whose funding was recently expanded by the Victorian government to cover the 4 metropolitan planning regions.

I note that funding for HACC services has been transferred from the State to the Commonwealth. My fervent wish is that after the 3 year transition period, Homeshare will be included in the national suite of HACC services and funded accordingly.

The program in Victoria has been evaluated and found to be cost effective in terms of keeping aged people at home and by inference, out of costly residential care. It is a modest program which, in basic terms, involves an elderly householder sharing his or her home with another person such as a tertiary student, in exchange for about 10 hours of assistance a week such as housework and gardening. The biggest benefit to the elderly person is the security of having another person in the home at night. No other HACC service offers 'live-in' support and the comfort this provides to not only to the older person but also their family living elsewhere. The rigorous assessment and monitoring of matches provide safeguards to the Homesharer and Householder.

Homeshare is an international program and in this context Australia is a significant provider. In fact, Melbourne is to be the host of the 4th World Homeshare Congress in November 2015. Participants are expected to come from United Kingdom, Europe, United States and Asia.

Closer to the date, I plan to invite you to open the Congress in your capacity as Minister responsible for aged care. HACC becoming a national program will benefit all players.

Yours sincerely

Carmel Hurst OAM

INTERNATIONAL HOMESHARE

HI CONGRESS FOR MELBOURNE!

It is now official, Melbourne is the venue for the 4th World Homeshare Congress in November 2015. We hope and believe that this event will strengthen the position of Homeshare in this country, giving the program more prestige and better exposure. We intend to invite all the movers and shakers in the areas of health, ageing and disability.

This means a great deal of work for the HANZA committee and we have started already, seeking the best venues for the congress and looking at accommodation options for delegates. We have some fears that people from Europe will find the costs of travelling all this way to be a serious deterrent. So, we will be seeking sponsorship from various sources and help where we can get it.

How can HANZA members help? For those of you living in Melbourne, we will be seeking billets for visitors. Committee members have already committed themselves to provide hospitality for visitors and we are hoping for more from you.

In other ways, what can your team contribute to the congress in order to impress the rest of the world with our true greatness? Ideas please.

And the big news: Sources close to the French government inform us that the Minister of Ageing has stated her intention of coming to the Congress! That should get our politicians energised!

HANZA members in other states could help by informing and enthusing their local important-to-homeshare functionaries that they need to attend this congress. Send us a list of those we should invite.

THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF WORKING TOGETHER

Read the newsletter!

HELPFUL HINTS

Read the newsletter

NEWS FROM HANZA MEMBERS AROUND AUSTRALASIA

CareConnect Vic

Care Connect has appointed Jo Jones as Coordinator of their HS program, to be ably assisted by Bernadette Larkin who has had valuable experience working with the Wesley HS program. They are getting their documentation together and working on promotion targets.

Spectrum Migrant Resources (in partnership with CareConnect)

Sharyn Tambo is the new appointee for HS in Spectrum where she has worked for twelve months. Sharyn is enthusiastic about the challenges of this new position.

Community Connections ACT

Lee Harrison, coordinator of the Canberra service, astounded us by revealing that he has made 16 matches within his first year of operation. This is a sterling effort and with disability clients too. This must not make other new programs despondent as it is one for the books.

Independent Disability Service

New Coordinator, Charlotte Watt has made her first match. Remember, this organization has no specific funds for HS, so they get a star in their merit book.

Uniting Care Community Options Vic

I attach the new brochures for UCCO Homeshare to this email for the edification of other HANZA members. They have produced one targeting householders and one for homesharers. Very elegant they are too.

Uniting Communities SA

Jessica Zaknic is the new HS coordinator in Uniting Communities and is looking forward to working with other HANZA members in our regular Communities of Practice sessions.

Carmel Hurst
For HANZA Inc.