

NEWS

NEW HOMESHARE PROGRAM LAUNCH

One of the new Homeshare programs funded by the Victorian Dept. of Health launched its service in May with much fanfare and excitement.



Uniting Care, *lifeAssist* and HANZA teams celebrate the Homeshare launch: Tony Cavedon, Lyn Grocke, Annette Madden, Beris Campbell, Joan Crawford, Carmel Hurst, Denise Cooper, Peri Penry-Williams and Jeremy Picknell

Tony Cavedon, Manager of Homeshare announced: “A great new opportunity now exists in Melbourne’s east for people over 65 or with a disability to stay living at home longer.

“Instead of struggling with daily tasks, feeling isolated or wondering whether it is time to give up the home they love, they can join the Homeshare program.”

Launched by Uniting Care *lifeAssist* (formerly Uniting Care Community Options) in May, the program can match Householders with a Homesharer who can move in and, in exchange for free rent, provide company, overnight presence and up to 10 hours of much needed practical assistance each week.

With Homesharers providing their own food and a share of utility bills, nobody is out of pocket. Homesharers can come from all backgrounds and can be men or women from in their twenties onwards. Homesharers undergo a thorough assessment process, including referee and police checks. Once a Homeshare match begins, it is closely monitored and supported by the Homeshare Coordinators at Uniting Care *lifeAssist* .

This jointly Commonwealth and State funded program is modelled on well-established international Homeshare programs which have been running for decades. For more information please contact our Homeshare team on 1300 ASSIST (1300 277 478)



Peri Penry-Williams, Tony Cavedon, Beris Campbell, Jeremy Picknell with United Care *lifeAssist's* CEO Gerry Mack.



“Passion is the secret key to success for Homeshare programs” according to founding Homeshare Coordinator, Beris Campbell.



HOMESHARE IN THE NEW YORK TIMES

“Looking for a Housemate, Not a Mate, in Later Life. “

This was the caption for an article in The New York Times, July 11th 2014. It goes on to say that while houses are getting larger, families are smaller and when one older person is left alone in the home the cost of living in that home often becomes unaffordable.

Men typically remarry at higher rates than women. Women are increasingly looking for alternatives to living alone.

The article quotes USA studies indicating a steady increase in the numbers of older people who are living alone and wanting to stay in the community in which they reside. People are seeking others to share their home for economic and or social reasons in all sorts of arrangements such as housemates, roommates, homesharers.

Situations vary from where one person owns the house, or the residents co-own it or all are renters of the house. But people want to stay connected and in the community in which they have been living.

Out of it all it seems that there is a world-wide ground swell for the idea of continuing to live in one's current residence, in the community rather than moving into an aged care residential facility.

Homeshare your time has come.

READ MORE AT:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/12/your-money/looking-for-a-housemate-not-a-mate-in-later-life.html? r=0>

UPDATE 1.

WORLD 4th HOMESHARE CONGRESS

Design for the 4th World Homeshare Congress is underway. Smiley faces will not be included, I promise! But for the time being they capture how proud and happy we are to be working towards the grand occasion of hosting the Congress in Melbourne 5th & 6th November 2015.

HOMESHARE ✓TICKS✓ THE BOXES is the theme we have chosen for the Congress which has been approved by Homeshare International. We believe this theme provides a great opportunity for the Homeshare world to showcase programs and demonstrate the benefits of Homeshare not only for its participants but for the whole community.

International visitors: Already we have commitments from the USA, the UK, Germany and France to attend and contribute to the Congress. We are also hopeful of new interest from China, Singapore and South Korea!

The Programme: We are expecting some first class speakers from the Homeshare world including the latest thoughts, findings and directions from Homeshare International's Research Advisory Group.

HOMESHARE EXPO: Still in the very early planning stages but a key part of the Congress – perhaps the afternoon of day 1 – we are planning a Homeshare Expo.

What do we mean by 'an EXPO'? Well, we envisage an exhibition where Homeshare programs, and organisations involved in supporting Homeshare initiatives, can:

- set up tables to showcase and discuss their programs and activities;
- present posters or slide shows of their research and evaluation findings, and
- show off their promotion materials!

The feedback from all Congresses held so far has stressed the need for time and opportunities to network and talk to each other. For instance from the 3rd Congress came the suggestions:

- Successful programs to share the materials they use for matching or evaluation.
- Try to connect similar Homeshare programs to discuss common issues and problems.
- More general discussions where we could share our experiences and questions.
- Some "how to" sessions – dealing with the little things that make programs and matches work.
- Inviting program participants, i.e. householders and homesharers, could be a good idea.
- Allow for a sharing fair or tables where organisations can display their tools, e.g. application forms, reporting tools, marketing materials

All these points especially the last point prompted the idea of an EXPO. We would really like to hear from anyone who has set up and run this sort of an Expo for any advice or suggestions. We would also really love to hear what people think of this idea! Responses please!

Further updates on Congress planning will appear in the next HANZA News in September 2014.

Beris Campbell, Coordinator 4th WHC

DISABILITY HOMESHARE

IS IT A BIRD, IS IT A PLANE? NO, IT'S.....

Lee Harrison from Canberra! Incredibly Lee has made 25 matches in his first 18 months of operation. That is an effort worth celebration and expressions of astonishment. Disability matches, we have found in the past, take a great deal of care and effort. Congratulations Lee. An elephant stamp for you. And as for the rest of you, don't lose heart. There must be something in the water up there in the ACT. Or else Lee has a special phone box where he gets into his red and blue underwear from time to time.

And there is more. Disability ACT has granted Community Connections 2 more years of funding!

THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF WORKING TOGETHER

TAKING HOMESHARE TO THE COMMONWEALTH

HANZA's response to the Discussion Paper

“Key Directions for the Commonwealth Home Support Programme”

In a letter to HANZA in May, Minister Mitch Fifield's office asked us *“to consider the Discussion Paper ... including how any learnings from the Homeshare model could be used to inform the development of the new programme. Your feedback will be important in ensuring that this issue is carefully considered in the development of the Commonwealth Home Support Programme.”*

What a great opportunity to bring Homeshare into the national discussion on aged care!

In our response we argued strongly for acceptance and expansion of the Homeshare programme as a new service type for the Home Support Programme.

Homeshare was not included in Attachment C listing the current HACC service groups and service types, nor, of course, was it mentioned as part of the National Respite for Carers Programme.

There was no obvious place to put Homeshare in the mapping of services that were shown in Attachment C.

The first two groups – **Assistance at Home** and **Social participation – Social Support**, seemed to be the most likely groups in which to include it. So we have suggested a new line be added to the list under Assistance at Home: Assistance at Home – Homeshare.

We have argued that Homeshare rightly sits in this list as its object is to assist older people or people with a disability to live safely in their own homes with **affordable live-in support**. Safety and security at night have long been a recognized gap in home support services.

The key output for the Homeshare programme and for the householder is a period of time of the live-in arrangement being in place. That is weeks or months of a Homeshare match.

We concluded our response to the Discussion paper by pointing out that Australia is one of the most significant players in the Homeshare world movement and this has led to Melbourne being chosen to host the 4th World Homeshare Congress in November 2015.

Governments in many countries have acknowledged Homeshare as a useful programme in the pantheon of programmes for the aged. This leads HANZA to hope that the Australian government will make Homeshare a part of the Commonwealth Home Support Programme.

If any readers of HANZA News would like a full copy of the HANZA response to the discussion paper, please contact Beris Campbell or Carmel Hurst.

NEWS FROM HANZA MEMBERS AROUND AUSTRALASIA

CareConnect in partnership with Spectrum Migrant Resources - Vic

Homeshare team leader, Jo Jones tells us that he has two Homeshare staff on board at Care Connect, Robyn Hillier and Belinda Bannerman and Filomena Ciociola has started at Spectrum. The team has made its first match and are looking forward to the year ahead. "We thank Beris and the HANZA team for all their support and guidance throughout our set up phase". Thank you Jo, for your message of appreciation

Community Based Support South Tas

Vivienne Beattie never gives up. She now has 2 matches (both with OAMs) and no funding.

Community Connections ACT

See "Disability Homeshare" previous page.

Queensland Community Care Network

Ken says that he is "still trying".

Carmel Hurst
For HANZA Inc.

Homeshare

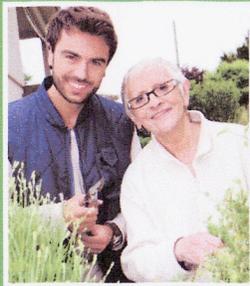
Are you an older person or person with a disability in need of practical support in your home?

Are you a mature student or employee who would like to provide practical in-home support in exchange for free accommodation?

Learn how Homeshare in North West Melbourne can support you to live the life you want.

Practical support provided might include:

- shopping
- transport to appointments
- meal preparation
- household cleaning
- light gardening
- help with the computer
- a sense of security.



Note: Practical support does not include personal care or administering medication.

For more information, please contact Intake at Care Connect and Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre:
T: (03) 9362 8000 E: homeshare@careconnect.org.au

