

March 2013

Issue number 11

Promoting Homeshare in Australasia

NEWS

HANZA COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE - *Sharing Experience*



The value of sharing practice experience and wisdom was so evident in our first CoP tele-meeting held on 30th January 2013.

The major topic of discussion was the challenges of working with Homeshare participants to help clarify expectations of each other and the Homeshare program, during the match set up phase, developing the agreement and then learning to live with each other. All agreed this is the key area of HS practice that enables successful and sustainable matches to be made and that respects a consumer (self) directed way of working.

CoP members benefitted enormously from the many years of experience and practice wisdom of HANZA's Joan Crawford, with added value of Bernadette Larkin's disability experience. Both are pictured here with Beris Campbell around the "Mushroom" during the lively discussion.



Canberra's Community Connections sent their new Homeshare Manager, Lee Harrison, to Melbourne in February for two intensive days of soaking up as much as possible on Homeshare.

The HANZA team ran a full day's workshop which was very stimulating and productive. Jess Chrystal, the new worker of Housing Resource & Support Services (first week in the job!) also attended and went away with her head reeling.

Lee has a couple of matches already in place – a great start for the program and promises to fulfil our prediction of Canberra being an ideal city for Homeshare in Australia. Good luck Lee!



NEWS CONT.

FUNDRAISING FOR HANZA

HANZA came into being as a response to the expansion of the Homeshare program throughout Australasia. We are keen to see everyone working in unison with a view to providing mutual support, as well as maintaining the highest possible standards of service delivery. In practice this has meant a few people putting up the funds needed for success. We have had to incorporate, achieve tax deductibility status, Deductible Gift Recipient status and worst of all, pay for Insurance. Ken Mawdsley helped us with all this.

Membership fees have helped, but on Saturday we took the plunge and had a SAUSAGE SIZZLE to put us in the black and make the Treasurer happy. It was an astonishingly successful event and we raised \$1400. Anyone wanting to do this must be warned that although it looks simple, the staff work carried out by our Joan Crawford was onerous – scary even.

VICTORIA - EXPANSION OF HOMESHARE PROGRAM

Submissions for the expansion of Homeshare into the North West and the Eastern Metro Regions of Melbourne closed on the 15th February 2013. It has been a slow but valuable process for Homeshare. Interest in the two projects was high. Awareness of the Homeshare program in the aged care and disability sector has increased significantly as a result of the process which was an unexpected outcome.

The Victorian Department of Health, HACC unit, is investing significant resources in this expansion of Homeshare over the next three years. This will have an enormous impact on the future of Homeshare, not only in Victoria but throughout Australia.

A HACC Homeshare Reference Group will be established to guide the project. This will include developing reporting requirements and evaluating the projects.

The Reference Group will be comprised of Department of Health Central Office and Regional Office staff, the successful Eastern Metro and North and West Metro service providers, the Southern Metro Homeshare service provider, HANZA and aged care peak organisations including the Municipal Association of Victoria, Carers Victoria, Council on the Ageing and Leading Aged Services Australia. Announcements of the new Homeshare providers will not be made for a few months but the new programs are expected to start from 1st July 2013. A very exciting time for Homeshare and for us all in HANZA.

LASA TRAINING PROPOSAL (Leading Aged Services Australia)

For some time the Social Workers among us have been canvassing the idea of a Homeshare training program, to prepare agency staff for their role as a Homeshare coordinator. It has been rightly pointed out that the homeshare practice differs from that of any other type of assessment and matching process because you are bringing strangers together 'to live' together. We have not been able to find any training courses or units in any counselling training for 'match making' and believe this needs to be addressed. LASA has taken up the challenge and is in talks with Beris about design and implementation. (Beris is busier than ever she was while gainfully employed)

INTERNATIONAL HOMESHARE

The 3rd World Homeshare Congress in Oxford, UK is almost upon us.

Dates: 4th and 5th July 2013

Theme: **Homeshare: What works?** Developing the evidence base for Homeshare

Venue: Rewley House

HI PRESS RELEASE (extract) March 2013 -

Assessing the evidence for homeshare – a policy option for the 21st century

Homeshare practitioners, policy makers and academics will come together in Oxford, UK, from 4-5 July 2013, for Homeshare International's Third World Homeshare Congress. This two-day conference will focus on **Homeshare: What works? Developing the evidence base for the effectiveness of homeshare**. It will make the case for programs to evaluate what they do, discuss success criteria and show how evaluation can be built in to everyday practice. And it will celebrate many successes and show how they can be replicated elsewhere. Speakers will include experienced homeshare practitioners and eminent gerontologists.

The conference will benefit people running programs (or thinking about starting one) and those who want to learn what homeshare can offer in the policy context. At a time when accommodation is scarce and expensive in many cities and the growth in the older population is putting a big strain on many public services, homeshare deserves a place among the housing and social care options on offer.

Read more about the congress on Homeshare International's website:

<http://homeshare.org/world-congress/>

NSHRC (National Shared Housing Resource Centre) – USA

Email exchange with Kirby Dunn, Homeshare Vermont, has alerted us to the latest publication in the US on shared housing "Strategies for Scaling Shared Housing". All members are recommended to study this excellent paper. Go to <http://nationalsharedhousing.org/news/> and click on READ MORE... about the Shared Housing Symposium in Los Angeles to get to the full downloadable report.

New HI newsletter Apparently coming soon. HANZA has sent a short précis of their recent activities for the delectation of the international set.

THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF WORKING TOGETHER

Beris has designed a certificate of membership for HANZA members to make you all feel good and remind you to pay next year's fees. Very pretty. Coming soon.

HELPFUL HINTS

Let's Homeshare – Why wait? (Story by Beris written 2002 but still relevant for today.)

"I'm not ready for homeshare yet!" is a comment sometimes made after our homeshare program has been explained to a group of older people. "When is yet?" our Coordinator, Beris Campbell responds. "We are not in the business of finding someone to look after you. You probably don't need looking after," she says. Homeshare does not recruit live-in 'carers', we set out to find caring, responsible sharers. Not surprisingly, older householders dread seeing themselves, or fear being seen, as 'a nuisance' - being dependent on family and friends or admitting to needing help. Being 'ready' for homeshare is not about being dependent, quite the contrary. It's about maintaining independence.

Homesharing is an interesting, positive thing to do! You don't have to wait to be 'ready' for it. It is not something you only put in place when you need help and can't manage by yourself safely at home. Ideal householders are those who are still independent (particularly in spirit!) but would prefer to share and enjoy

the company of another person in the house rather than live alone. 'It's so good for me— we laugh so much!' one of our householders recently said to her daughter about her Homesharer.

By homesharing older people can demonstrate to family and the world at large that they are people who have qualities that are such that a younger person *wants* to come and live with them. "Ageing well" is what it's all about. There are necessary attributes for ageing well - a sense of humour, learning from younger people, letting people into your life, making new friendships later in life. And that's what homesharing is all about!

Of course homesharing is also about older householders feeling safer at home and being able to manage their much-loved pets, maintaining the garden and lots more. And it gives a younger person a homelike, family environment. This can mean such a lot to a lonely, homesick person from overseas or the country. Homeshare is all about reciprocity!

COMMUNICATION IS VITAL

Nancy Hogan is the only HANZA member to claim the prize for having read the last edition of our newsletter. What am I to think? Shame on the rest of you.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The website is in operation but we have not had a lot of opportunity to build on it and make improvements. Try www.homeshare.org.au and please give us any feedback. We would love suggestions for improvement and offers of help would be especially welcome! We are starting work next month to bring things up-to-date and exploring ways of making it a bit more interactive and attractive. If any members have some Homeshare success stories – especially with photos – they would like to share, we would be delighted.

DISABILITY HOMESHARE

It is of interest to note that some of the new Homeshare programs are disability focussed. Our new member Community Connections in the ACT is one such and funded by Disability services. The Homeshare model clearly ticks so many boxes in all the current thinking about enabling people with disabilities to live in the community, achieve their potential, build on their abilities and recognise their capacity and pleasure in being part of a reciprocal arrangement like anyone else. Our experience so far has shown us that carefully delivered Homeshare has much to offer to people with disabilities – especially those who are keen to maintain their independence and live in their own home in the same way as our older householders. For those wanting to 'attain' independence, move out of the family home or out of supported accommodation, Homeshare is also a very attractive option.

Our experience, and that of our colleagues in Perth, has led us to the view that Older Persons Homeshare (OPH) and Younger Persons Homeshare (YPH) are different. They need some different skills and experience but the principles underpinning Homeshare and many aspects of Homeshare practice are the same, so that if possible, they should develop and run alongside each other. We would like to see Disability agencies who have no aged care services within their organisations form partnerships or at least relationships with aged care agencies who are developing Homeshare. There are obvious benefits – particularly in relation to recruitment of Homesharers and being able to build a richer and bigger pool.

A topic for a HANZA Community of Practice meeting perhaps??

NEWS FROM HANZA MEMBERS AROUND AUSTRALASIA

Communities@Work

Lee Harrison will make contact with Lyn Harwood to see if there is advantage in the two organizations working together on a joint Homeshare program. We will stay informed.

Community Connections Inc.

Good luck to Lee Harrison and the team in CCI with their new funded Homeshare program.

Uniting Communities - Adelaide.

Garth has been headhunted by another program at Uniting Communities and will be missed by Homeshare. Kellie's new co-worker is Trish Williams. We will meet and welcome Trish to HANZA at the next CoP.

Housing Resource & Support Service (HR&SS) - Vic

Rebecca Dungan has been replaced by Jess Chrystal. Jess attended the training session run by Beris on 21st Feb.

Uniting Care Community Options - Vic

Tony Cavedon of UCCO has offered to host all CoP meetings in the future. Thank you Tony.

Queensland Community Care Network Inc.

Ken Mawdsley is indefatigable. While all of his programs are being turned upside down with new HACC requirements, he is busy writing a Homeshare submission to the Commonwealth Minister for Health, Mark Butler. Most of Ken's existing programs are targeted at keeping older people at home through friendly visiting and he is adamant that Homeshare is the pinnacle of what can be achieved in this way.

Even better, Ken has an appointment with Colleen Kelly of Brisbane City Council to further her ambition of acquiring a Homeshare program for North Brisbane. Also present at this meeting will be Joanne Hoohilan and Kelly Bowey (of COMMUNITY LIVING, a HANZA member). Kelly's organization is also trying to set up a HS program.

Mackay Regional Council

Eunice Donovan's team is developing a Housing Directory for older people in which HS gets a big plug. She is interested in Ken's initiatives.

Community Living Program - Qld

Kelly Bowey is advertising homeshare on her Organization's website and is considering the possibility of the program to support newly discharged young people with a disability into homes being constructed by her group. Her homeshare aspirations are being funded by fundraising, infrastructure funds and good intentions. The way most of us have started up.

Community Based Support South - Tas.

Viv Beattie is struggling on with dedication and without funding. What a woman!

Perth Home Care Services

Very active in CoP and in developing "Agency assisted Homeshare", the topic for March.

Carmel Hurst

For HANZA Inc.