

# Homeshare around the world

Newsletter editors: Hilary Todd and Judy Winchester, Oxford, UK

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## An award for Malcolm

We were delighted to learn that our President, Professor **Malcolm Johnson**, was recently honoured by the British Society of Gerontology for his outstanding contribution to the subject.



A real pioneer in the study of ageing, Malcolm ran some of the UK's earliest academic courses, was the first editor of the journal *Ageing and Society* and is the author of several highly respected books. He was HI's first Chairman. You can meet him in Melbourne where he will be one of many distinguished contributors.

## Belgium goes to France!

Our photo shows homeshare practitioners from Belgium's 1 Toit 2 Ages visiting colleagues from ensemble2générations in France. The visit enabled them to share their experience and forge new bonds of friendship. Meet both groups at the Melbourne Congress.

Photo courtesy of Claire de Kerautem

## All set for the Melbourne congress! 5 – 6 November 2015

Successful homeshare programmes from around the globe are coming to Melbourne to attend the **4<sup>th</sup> World Homeshare Congress**. This is a fantastic opportunity for you to do an international homeshare study tour in one place!

For the first time, the congress is taking place outside Europe, in the vibrant Australian city of Melbourne. Representatives from eight countries have already booked to attend and seven will present case studies – France, Belgium, Germany, Spain, the USA (three programmes), the UK and of course Australia.



The congress venue, the Treacy Centre, is one of Melbourne's many heritage buildings

All programmes will give presentations on their history, how they run and what they have achieved. Homeshare practitioners will be on hand for questions and discussion. These sessions will be helpful for newcomers and experienced practitioners alike.

Under the theme of **Homeshare Ticks the Boxes**, the event will include thought-provoking papers on topics such as *Why homeshare warrants a worldwide movement* and *The economic and political significance of homeshare in Australia*.

We're also thrilled to announce that renowned social commentators Patricia and Don Edgar, demographer Bob Birrell and gerontologist Malcolm Johnson, HI's President, will participate in what is sure to be a riveting discussion on the topic *Homeshare's time has come* on Day 2 of the Congress. The facilitator of the conversation will be former Senator and leader of the Australian Democrats Lyn Allison, a long standing supporter of homeshare.

There is still time to **present your homeshare programme or offer a workshop** – please see page 2.

**Book before 30 July to get your 'early bird' discount** – see page 2 for this – and more.



# Something for everyone in Melbourne!



Lyn Grocke, Alexis Hughes and Carmel Hurst, some of the HANZA team ready to welcome you

Our hosts in Melbourne – the Homeshare Australia and New Zealand Alliance (HANZA) – have done a fantastic job of planning our next world congress with an exciting programme in a splendid conference venue. And now the state government is to provide an extra-special welcome ...

The congress theme will be **Homeshare Ticks the Boxes**, giving delegates an opportunity to focus on the policy context and homeshare's potential. Homeshare has so much going for it: supporting independent living; fostering relationships between generations and cultures; providing companionship and safety at night; complementing family and formal home care support; providing affordable accommodation in exchange for support; and giving value for money for users and governments. All of these themes will be covered in the two-day programme.

## How you'll benefit

A varied programme will include **keynote addresses** from many distinguished speakers including policy-makers and researchers. Delegates will also enjoy **workshops** designed to give practitioners an opportunity to **share their learning and experience**:

- learn how new programmes have dealt with start-up issues
- debate different models of homeshare
- assess how homeshare can benefit from the age of the internet and new technologies
- discuss how homeshare can support groups such as disabled people
- debate homeshare as 'active ageing'
- assess homeshare's role in intergenerational solidarity
- learn more about the evidence base for homeshare.

There will be many opportunities for informal networking, including a splendid **congress dinner** at the Treacy Centre on 5 November. The cost of the dinner is included in the price for early bird registrants – a bargain!

The cherry on the cake will be a free **reception** for international and interstate delegates on the evening of 4 November kindly hosted by the State Government Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing, Martin Foley. This will take place in the imposing Queen's Hall at **Parliament House**. As Beris Campbell enthuses, "It is a great honour to be officially welcomed by the Victoria government. It's a mark of the respect that homeshare enjoys in our country".



## The programme is filling up fast but ...

... there is still time to present and display your homeshare programme on day 1 or offer a workshop on day 2. Please contact Beris Campbell, Congress Coordinator at [hanza@homeshare.org.au](mailto:hanza@homeshare.org.au)



5TH-6TH NOVEMBER 2015

## Essentials ...

### Dates

The congress will take place over two full days, **Thursday 5 and Friday 6 November**. This will be spring time in Melbourne.

### Fees

Book before **30 July** to get your **early-bird discount**; there is also a discount for members of the **HI Network**. (Prices are in Australian \$ - note the dollar has dropped against other currencies so the trip will cost less than expected for overseas delegates.)

#### Early birds Before 30 July

HI Network  
members A\$300  
  
Non-members  
A\$380  
  
Day rate A\$220

#### Standard After 30 July

HI Network  
members A\$400  
  
Non-members  
A\$480  
  
Day rate A\$320

## Accommodation

The venue, the Treacy Centre, has a small number of rooms for guests and is also close to a wide range of **hotels**. In the true spirit of homeshare, some local practitioners are offering **homestays** – places are limited so book soon! Contact Annette Madden at [ama06406@bigpond.net.au](mailto:ama06406@bigpond.net.au)

You'll find a list of accommodation on the congress website – see below.

## How to register

You can register **online** on the congress website – which, incidentally, is so good it tells you everything you need to know and then some! Bookings are now being taken.

Read more at

[www.worldhomesharecongress2015.org.au](http://www.worldhomesharecongress2015.org.au)

## Time off in Melbourne

Why rush back to work when you can enjoy one of the world's great cities?! Find out more at [www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/visitor](http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/visitor)

## The full programme

This will be posted on the website when it's finalised and printed in our next newsletter.

## At the cutting edge

### A picture is worth 1,000 words ...



**Solidarios** in Spain celebrated the European **Cross-Generational Solidarity Day** on 29 April by commissioning some wonderful photos of homesharers. Many thanks to Elena Chebanova for allowing us to use one of her shots. You can see a selection and read about Solidarios at <http://www.solidarios.org.es>

### She's done it again!



Elizabeth Mills, our Hon Director, has been awarded another honorary degree, this time by Aston University in Birmingham. The degree is in recognition of her work in the field of age research. Many congratulations!

### Are you copying materials?

Members of the homeshare community are always willing to share their learning. However we were disappointed to discover that a new programme had copied the materials of ensemble2générations in France without their permission or acknowledging them as the authors.

This is a difficult area. There is little point in re-inventing wheels when others have done marvellous work before you but documents are the **copyright** of those who wrote them and/or the publishers. In most countries you cannot legally copy work unless the authors/publishers have given permission.

Homeshare practitioners would be grateful if you would ask for permission to use their documents and acknowledge where they originally came from.

## A new take on homeshare?

**In the Netherlands, a new inter-generational project is being tested – placing students in care homes for older people. Can homeshare use this model too?**

Anton, aged 85, is being shown how to use a computer by 20-year old Jurrien. "Now I can send emails, go on the Internet and Facebook," Anton says. He is one of 160 residents in a care home in Deventer which is also home to six students. They pay no rent for their spacious en-suite rooms but instead provide 30 hours support each month to the residents, providing practical help such as taking them shopping or simply offering companionship.

Gea Sijpkens, the head of the Dutch care home, says that it's important not to isolate older people from the outside world. In the UK a former care minister is also taken with the idea of breaking down 'care ghettos', describing care homes as 'islands of misery' cut off from the community.



Could this bold new idea be taken up by existing homeshare programmes? In Australia the idea is being talked about – so watch this space. Read more about the Dutch experiment at <http://tinyurl.com/psjodfz>

## Banking on success in the UK

The UK's first **national Homeshare Programme** is now underway with the pilots via Age UK Oxfordshire and Novus Homeshare in London kicking off over the next few months. The £2 million Programme run by **Lloyds Bank Foundation** and the **Big Lottery Fund** in partnership with Shared Lives Plus, Age UK, The Foyer Federation and the Social Care Institute for Excellence, hopes to develop and position homesharing as a **viable and more mainstream housing solution** to the parallel problems of a lack of affordable housing and an ageing population.

The Programme will fund a range of pilot projects with new and existing homesharing schemes, answering key questions about how they work best. Issues for consideration include determining the ideal timeframes for successful homesharing relationships, deciding which social groups are most suited to a homesharing lifestyle and exploring the most effective channels for attracting potential participants. The Programme will also examine the different financial models used by various providers and establish the best ways to scale up services in a sustainable way, while ensuring that costs for users remain affordable.

With valuable insights from its partners, the Programme will establish best practice guidelines and create **an industry kite mark** for individual schemes to aspire to. It will also work on improving matching and monitoring services for participants to ensure that as many schemes as possible are able to achieve the standard of an industry kite mark.

The **monitoring and evaluation** work will be managed by the **Social Care Institute for Excellence** and will highlight both the successes and learning points of the pilot programmes to help inform future schemes. It is hoped that the Programme will illustrate the benefits of homesharing for two disadvantaged groups in society and make the case for more schemes. Find out more at <http://www.lloydsbankfoundation.org.uk/our-programmes/issue-based-programme/homeshare>

## HI research needs your help

Our Research Advisory Group is starting work by identifying the models of homeshare in use around the world.

There are many different ways to provide a homeshare service and we are now attempting to discover which business models are being used.

To this end we will shortly email a questionnaire to every programme we know about. **We would be most grateful if you would complete the survey – it takes only a few minutes.** If you have not had the survey, please email us for a copy (see right).

## Welcome to our intern!



With brilliant timing, we were approached by **Enea Casari**, a student from the University of St Gallen in Switzerland, offering to come and work as our intern for two months. Enea is

studying business and finance but is very interested in homeshare and wrote his under-graduate dissertation on the subject.

Fluent in three languages and competent in two others, Enea is **translating the survey** (see above) and supporting work on our website, among other projects. We are really delighted to have him with us.

## News round-up

We are pleased to announce a new programme in the UK – **Homeshare Scotland** has been funded by Fife Council and is now recruiting a co-ordinator. See

[www.forthvalleyenterprise.co.uk](http://www.forthvalleyenterprise.co.uk)

A delegation from the **Japanese city of Nagoya** visited ensemble2générations in France to learn about homeshare. So far we believe Tokyo is the only city in Japan to have a pilot programme so this is welcome news.

We were deeply saddened to hear that the **Calgary programme in Canada**, run by Cheryl Snider, has been closed down. Despite this setback, interest in Canada seems to be growing.

**Homeshare International is a charity,**  
registered in England and Wales  
No. 1081517

## Going Dutch – but is it legal?



Brian van der Graaf from SOLink in the Netherlands sent us this case study that recently featured in the Dutch press. It highlights a problem that several European programmes face – the law is an obstacle.

Lenneke, aged 66, is a retired physiotherapist and now works as a volunteer with disabled young adults. Living on her own in the house she shared with her family, she decided to try homesharing to help out a student and enjoy some company. SOLink matched her to 20-year old Jose who is a student nurse at the local hospital.

The two women get on very well and even the dog, Bamboe, has accepted Jose. After work they talk about the day's events over a cup of tea – it helps that Lenneke knows about hospital life. They eat together regularly and even enjoy some of the same TV programmes, such as a hospital-based series. Theirs is a win-win situation.

The only problem has been the SVB (the social insurance bank). Lenneke says: "The only relationship recognised with a homesharer is an economic one and it is absolutely forbidden to eat with each other without payment. Last year two officials visited me. As soon as I told them I shared my home through the SOLink programme they became friendlier however."

SOLink has had many discussions with the SVB. Brian says, "Changing the law is vital because financial obstacles shouldn't stand in the way of useful social projects and contradict the government's policy". Read more about SOLink at [solink.nl](http://solink.nl) (try Google translate to get your own language).

## Director's diary

One of the joys of my role is the opportunity to visit programmes around the world. My recent visit to **Solidarios in Madrid** was one such occasion. I was able to spend time with Alfonso Fajardo (shown left) and his team and meet the Chairman, Christobál Sánchez. I was able to thank Carlos Miguélez (on the right) for all his work translating various communications.



Recently I've spent much time working with the **HI Research Advisory Group** (HIRAG). Set up in Oxford in July 2014, the Group agreed to develop a series of factsheets to inform existing and new homeshare programmes. Work has started on the first factsheet on **business models** which will also be of interest to the Lloyds Bank Foundation Project. It's not too late to contribute details of your own programme and you can access the questionnaire at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HIBusinessModelsEn>. Enea has translated the survey into French, Italian and German. Please e-mail me if you would like the relevant link.

The first Chairman of HIRAG, Alan Hatton Yeo, is standing down for a year for personal reasons and **Professor Nick Morris** has kindly taken his place. Nick who is based in Melbourne and been a long-time supporter of HI will be presenting the research results at the **Melbourne Congress**. **Elizabeth Mills**

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