



HANZA NEWS

September 2015

Issue number 19

Promoting Homeshare in Australasia

www.homeshare.org.au

NEWS

HOMESHARE ACTION IN NSW

In July an organization in New South Wales called Youth Action presented a paper to government endorsing Homeshare and calling for the development of programs in that state. Since then the flurry of publicity has seen media exposure of Homeshare that has done us nothing but good. Householders, Homesharers, program coordinators – even my good self, have spoken on air, on television and in the print media. This has resulted in many enquiries from all states. We can only hope that it results in new programs, especially in NSW.

PROMOTING HOMESHARE AND CONGRESS

In August HANZA committee members manned a stall at the BELONGING MATTERS national conference that had as its theme *The Art of Belonging*. This was a great opportunity to meet many families with members who had a disability as well as service providers and other interested persons. Interest in Homeshare and other shared living initiatives is growing rapidly in the disability arena. Issue 23 of the Belonging Matters excellent magazine was devoted to *Thinking About ... Housemates*.



Highly recommended reading. Copies available on their website www.belongingmatters.org and at the Homeshare Congress too.

EDITORIAL

Homeshare is on a roll, but dark clouds are gathering about. Deep fundamental changes are foreshadowed in the way in which health care funding is to be distributed. There may be opportunities for us here but there are also pitfalls to be avoided. Timing suggests that we should make the most of what is before us. Homeshare is part of the tapestry of health and housing services in this country and we will need to maintain a strong profile within it to keep our place in an atmosphere of funding competitiveness.

Issues are many:

- A shrinking economy. It is critical that we make policy makers understand how Homeshare has a role in cutting costs in the areas of disability and aged care.
- Changes to funding formats. Client directed care requires a great deal of new thinking for Homeshare.
- The movement of HACC services to the Commonwealth has already caused upheaval in two Homeshare programs.
- National Disability Insurance Scheme. This is a new service landscape entirely. We have imported information on NDIS into the newsletter from Australian Federation of Disability Organizations. More discussion on Homeshare's role in this area to follow on another day.
- Changing attitudes to service delivery. Business models are supplanting old welfare attitudes and we must keep up.
- ? A change of government.

A CALL TO ARMS

The up and coming World Homeshare Congress provides us with the prod to act and the inspiration to succeed in dealing with all these difficult matters. And we must not let the deliberations of the congress float away. We intend to exert ourselves to make the congress outcomes live. We must provide leadership:

- Promotion. Homeshare is not yet safe. All programs have a responsibility to do their best to create demand amongst their catchment area. The only way to ensure the future.
- A nationally consistent approach to Client Directed Care. This initiative of government appears to include some areas of uncertainty. It is not difficult to imagine where it might give us pain, or to cause us to prosper.
- A nationally consistent approach and understanding of NDIS. The staff of NDIS will be at the Congress. Do not waste your opportunity to talk to them.
- The cost of Homeshare. We have avoided costing HS services to clients during the development stages. However, it is inevitable that we impose acceptable costs in time. And right too! One can imagine that full cost recovery might be required of us if the worst happens. (Or should I not be voicing this possibility? It might give some people ideas.)
- A commercial arm of Homeshare. Another inevitability. There are examples of this worldwide, or at least businesses that look remarkably like Homeshare but without the discipline and safety that our program would bring.
- Computerization. It will be important to use this tool carefully. The biggest problems with computerization are incomplete or poor design and management and over-dependence.
- Innovation. There are lots more places for Homeshare to go. It is a concept with unlimited scope if handled carefully.

DISCUSSION

At a recent conference, the Director of The Australia Institute, Richard Dennis said, "We are the richest people who ever lived". This is a profound statement, especially in view of the constant gloom thrust at us by our rulers. No doubt they are trying to prepare our minds for upcoming unpleasantness, cuts to services and

other unmentionable discomforts. Even if we are indeed the richest people who ever lived it is still important to harness our resources and provide for ourselves with the greatest skill and the least waste.

All of these issues – and more – will require our attention as an organization, and the attention of our membership. We will all be together at the congress (I hope) and this gives us the opportunity to consolidate our efforts. Your HANZA newsletter will include more detailed deliberations on these issues. Let us not wait for circumstances to overtake us and then bemoan the effects. If we are the richest people who ever lived, and HANZA members are leaders in innovative health care, we are the ones!

INTERNATIONAL HOMESHARE

Attendance numbers at the forthcoming World Homeshare Congress in November are mounting **up**. We are now able to declare that the congress will be a resounding success, with impressive speakers and riveting topics. As well as delicious food, notable venue and perfect weather.

Don't miss out! REGISTER NOW!

www.worldhomesharecongress2015.org.au/registration

HELPFUL HINTS

MYKI INFORMATION - Travelling in Melbourne

All delegates coming to Melbourne are advised to look at the website before leaving home and plan what their needs may be.

www.ptv.vic.gov.au or phone 1800 800 007

Interstate visitors may be eligible for a concession if they are holders of certain benefit cards.

Myki cards cost A\$6.00. Funds need to be put on the card to cover public transport travel needs. Myki card sellers can provide details of the cost of travel in various zones and can assist you in estimating what you may need to put on your card.

The Congress venue in Parkville is outside the free zone so travel to and from the city requires you to have a Myki card with funds on it.

At the Sky Bus booth at the airport you can buy MYKI cards and get information and maps.

At Southern Cross station there is a full MYKI kiosk in the HUB. Staff to give advice and information and sell cards and you can put funds on the cards.

At Federation Square Tourist Information you can buy cards, packages and get information.

S. Anderson. Sept.2015.

ACCOMMODATION UPDATE

There are still places at the Vibe Hotel with special discounts for the congress. Mention the TREACY CENTRE when you book.

Better still, there are still 2 rooms going at the Treacy Centre itself at the amazing cost of \$65 per night.

DISABILITY HOMESHARE

Disability Loop

Disability Loop is a website run by Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO). It aims to give people information about the [National Disability Insurance Scheme \(NDIS\)](#) that is up to date, easy to find and easy to use.

Through Disability Loop you can find a great [selection of resources](#) relating to the NDIS

- Find out how the NDIS is working for other people
- Have your say about the NDIS
- Keep up to date with news and events about the NDIS

What is the National Disability Insurance Scheme?

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is a new way to get disability support. It's the first time you can choose when, where and how you get the support you need.

Before the NDIS, funding for disability support would go to an organisation. You might not have had any choice about which organisation gave you support. You might not have a say in who supported you and how.

After the NDIS, funding for disability support can go to the person with a disability, for them to decide which organisation can give them support. This gives the person with a disability more choice and control.

The NDIS aims to address three big problems in disability services:

1. It can be very hard to get the supports that you need. Sometimes they are not available.
2. Or, it's not very hard to get the supports you need, but you have to live in a certain area to get them. This can mean that you have to move somewhere else if you can't get the supports you need where you are.
3. When you do receive supports, you often don't have a choice about who or where they are from.

When people use the NDIS it will be very different:

1. There will be a lot more money, to make sure that everybody gets the support that they need.
2. It won't matter where you are in Australia, because the NDIS will be the same in every state and territory.
3. People with disabilities will now have choices about things that can help them.

Many people with disabilities are reporting that their lives are improving as a result of having the NDIS.

To learn more about the NDIS, visit <http://www.disabilityloop.org.au>. You can also sign up for our free fortnightly eNews which features highlights from the website for anyone that wants to stay in the loop!

NEWS FROM HANZA MEMBERS AROUND AUSTRALASIA

Care Connect Vic and Spectrum

Meet a Match - Sofia and Maria

In February 2015 we were contacted by a family seeking a Homesharer for their Italian speaking mother who was living alone in the family home. Sofia is a 76 year old widow, and while she had a lot of support from her three adult children, care from an Aged Care Package and social support, she was struggling to live alone, with the added challenges of early stages of dementia. She was active and social in the day, out to social clubs, and a neighbour taking her to church once a week. But coming home to an empty house for the evening was a challenge. She had briefly gone to live with a daughter, but was so miserable outside her home of 46 years, that her family moved her back in.

At the same time, as does often happen somehow, we were interviewing an Italian speaking Homesharer, Maria. After checks, introductions and an interim agreement, a trial commenced. The family were very involved, welcoming and pleased to have a Homesharer in so quickly.

Maria is in her 50's, had been living in a share house and needed to move as the house was sold. The usual process of Householder and Homesharer adjusting to one another was a little different, as the cognitive impact of the dementia meant that extra support was needed by family and Homeshare coordinators to facilitate that part of the matching process. It took some negotiating, compromise and ongoing support by all involved to develop strategies to manage the added challenges. For example the Householder Sofia had difficulty changing her habits and not entering the Homesharer's room, making her bed, closing and opening blinds, moving things around when the Homesharer was out. This had been the home where she raised her children, and she had always gone into their rooms, made their beds and it was her space too.

Over time, she gradually got used to Maria's door being closed, and needing to knock before entering. Sofia also had difficulty taking in the idea of who Maria was, and why she was there. Again with time, and especially the Homesharer displaying great understanding and patience (she had recently cared for her mother who had dementia), Sofia began to settle into sharing her home with someone new. Maria worked to involve Sofia in cooking the evening meal, and watched nature documentaries, made tea and provided some company. Maria discovered Sofia's love of sewing after she came home to find an old ratty towel she had accidentally left lying around had been beautifully hemmed, neatly folded and left on the kitchen table for her.

For all involved this has been a successful match and while it's unclear what the future may hold, the arrangement has been another great example of the flexibility and opportunities that the Homeshare Program can offer.

Community Connections ACT

Ian Ross and Lee Harrison are coming to the congress in style, bringing with them 2 matches. They will all share their experiences with congress delegates. Homeshare at work.

Uniting Care *lifeAssist* Vic

Homeshare case study.

Elly and Tania were matched in the Homeshare program by *lifeAssist*. Elly is in her 70s and Tania is in her 40s. They live in the Whitehorse area. As soon as they began living together they became friends. The practical support given by Tania helps Elly live longer in her own home, and Tania is able to pursue her passion for art – she is a commission artist.

Carmel Hurst

Editor

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