



Annual Report 2015-2016

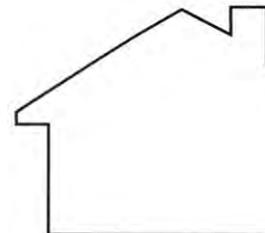


We have stayed true to our goal of seeing impacts on low income households through the lens of the housing market as a whole and in some ways extended that understanding.

Mary Perkins, National Shelter Chairperson

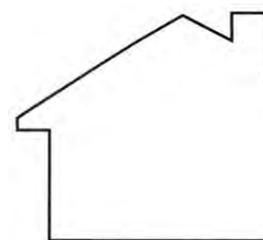
Housing is a human right

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National Shelter Members



State and Territory Members

State or Territory Shelter	National Shelter Council Representative in 2015-2016
Shelter ACT	Travis Gilbert
Shelter NSW	Mary Perkins (NS Chair)
Shelter NT	Tammy White
Shelter SA	Alice Clark (NS Vice Chair & Acting Treasurer)
Shelter Tasmania	Pattie Chugg (NS Executive Member)
Shelter Western Australia	Chantal Roberts (NS Secretary)
Victorian Representative	Sarah Toohey, Council to Homeless Persons Kate Colvin, Council to Homeless Persons

National Members

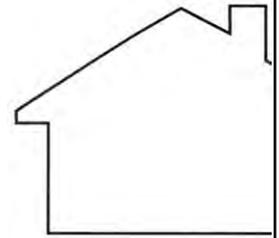
Member	National Shelter Council Representative in 2015-2016
Community Housing Industry Association	Michael Lennon
Homelessness Australia	Michael Coffee
Jobs Australia	n/a
National Association of Tenant Organisations (NATO)	Deb Phippen
National Council of St Vincent de Paul	n/a

Associate Members

Member
Anglicare Victoria
Bridge Housing
Brisbane Housing Company
Compass Housing
Launch Housing
Mission Australia
Southern Youth and Family Services
Uniting Communities SA
Yarra Community Housing

Chairperson's Report

Mary Perkins



A year ago we established an ambitious strategic plan and workplan, much of which has been completed, with a few tasks left undone as must be expected given our staffing and resource base. I am sure most of us expected we may be making changes we didn't look forward to and wondering how we might go back to a simpler operation.

As we look back over the year it didn't pan out as we feared and in some ways, as I'd hoped for in last year's report, the loss of funding has in some ways liberated us to focus on our priorities, rather than being distracted by government tasks.

We have stayed true to our goal of seeing impacts on low income households through the lens of the housing market as a whole and in some ways extended that understanding.

The National Rental Affordability Index has established us as a player and in most jurisdictions, provided us all with opportunities to contribute to debates about housing affordability in general, primarily but not only about how it affects low income households.

The partnership with SGS Economics and Planning and Community Sector Banking has been fruitful and may potentially lead us into extensions and considering other partnerships. We look forward to adding the ACT and renewing our Victorian data and we are still looking for ways to include the NT to have the index cover every jurisdiction.

We have also just completed a report on commonwealth policy impacts on housing inflation which I think demonstrates pretty clearly that our housing system has shifted from underpinning families, in their various forms, to rewarding speculation and contributing to unsustainable housing inflation. Thanks to the governments of S.A., W.A. and to Shelter WA for the support they provided to undertake this project. It will be a theme we expect to hear more of.

On a similar note thanks also to the NSW Tenant Union who provided a donation which supported our advocacy of this and other issues.

Last year we welcomed the establishment of a Cities Minister and portfolio but I would observe that since the election of the Turnbull government in August, we found ourselves writing to 11 different Ministers in the government to try to establish links with the relevant portfolios in our area. The lack of coordination by government makes engaging difficult and the issue of cities seems to have been downgraded in the new Ministry.

Adrian Pisarski continues to work in ways I welcome and I have expressed to him on a number of occasions that I don't think we could survive without his willingness to endure insecurity and continually generate new ideas about where we might get funding from, developing project ideas and continuing to work with others to promote our objectives.

Having said that I am also acutely aware and grateful for the renewed support provided by state Shelters, which has made the task of generating the extra revenue we need that much easier. I know from my own experience that our budgets at state level don't extend far beyond our contracted tasks so a formal thanks to all the boards who voted to support increased fees.

Adrian notes in his report the new support we are receiving from associate members and I add my thanks to those organisations.

We also won't forget Kate Cowmeadow who works very part time on communications and policy; it hasn't been an easy year as we have also had to migrate our website, email and other online presence from our previous provider. Kate has also helped us generate 18 media releases and manage media contacts and our twitter account. All this done for national Shelter while she juggles the demands of her substantive job running SANDS Qld which supports, provides education and advocates for families who have lost children during pregnancy or in infancy. We really appreciate Kate's work and the fact she also has a history working with Adrian, it helps manage our work.

We have continued to work closely with Homelessness Australia and are exploring a potentially closer engagement considering the possibility of establishing a single peak across housing and homelessness policy and advocacy. We work closely with CHIA and community housing organisations in considering how we grow affordable housing. We work closely with ACOSS and others to ensure housing is considered in and central to broader policy discussions like tax and urban policy, welfare, ageing and other issues.

We had a fabulous partnership with Queenslanders with a Disability Network and generated a substantial policy issues paper and whilst that took Adrian offline for some periods it gained significant attention nationally and in Queensland and may for the basis of a disability housing position and ongoing work in partnership with disability and allied health organisations.

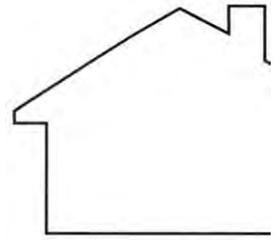
Apart from the financial support state shelters have also played significant roles over the year. NSW Shelter ran an election forum, ShelterTas ran a conference on tenant and service user engagement and participation, Shelter WA contributed to some key media releases and policy inputs and Shelter SA took on managing our accounts and providing a number of other supports. We thank QShelter for involving National Shelter in their conference and the NT for involving us in discussions around developments there. ACT Shelter has represented us in some Canberra processes and also provided some critical analysis. CHPV generously allowed Kate Colvin to coordinate the election campaign and NATO members have provided critical guidance to the development of the CHOICE survey of renters.

Our level of activity has been higher than we could have expected and it is testament to the way the Shelter network cooperates, contributes and collaborates that allows this to continue.

Finally I want to thank Alice Clark and Shelter SA for taking on our accounts but also for the support she provides myself and Adrian, it really helps to have such a cooperative vice chair.

Treasurer's Report

Alice Clark



National Shelter ended the financial year with an expected deficit of \$35,651 which meant our retained equity dropped slightly to \$31,654. Given our lack of government grant funding, we have demonstrated our ability to survive as a National peak body and we have established a budget which should see a small surplus at the end of 2016/17. A new fee structure has been implemented and a new Associate Membership category while looking for projects which offset some of our costs. Much of the financial success of the year is due to the efforts of Adrian Pisarski, our Executive Officer and I thank him for ensuring our immediate financial future.

We have maintained very low overheads while increasing our fees and I acknowledge the Boards and Executive Officers of the State and Territory Shelters who have willingly supported National Shelter. We are also engaged in a project with Griffith University and the Queenslanders with a Disability Network to draft an issues paper on housing for people living with disabilities.

The National Shelter Executive Committee will continue to monitor our budget position throughout the year and there is a positive expectation of a small surplus.

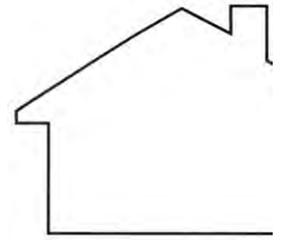
As the Acting Treasurer, I would like to thank former Treasurer Tammy White and NT Shelter staff for the financial management work they undertook throughout 2015-16 on behalf of National Shelter. The National Shelter accounting and financial administration was transferred to Shelter SA in 2016. I would also like to thank the bookkeeper at Shelter SA Pam Eastick-Watts, and Shelter SA Board Member Paul Astley, for their valuable contribution in transitioning the accounts.

The Financial Statements have been audited without qualification. I hereby move that the Audited Financial Statements be accepted as presented.

A. Clark

Alice Clark
Acting Treasurer
National Shelter

Audited Finance Report



**NATIONAL SHELTER INCORPORATED
SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORT
for the period ended 30th June 2016**

SUSANNE LEE & ASSOCIATES PTY LTD

CERTIFIED PRACTISING ACCOUNTANTS

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**NATIONAL SHELTER INCORPORATED
SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORT
YEAR ENDED 30 June 2016**

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**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF NATIONAL SHELTER INCORPORATED**

Scope

I have audited the attached special purpose financial report of the National Shelter Incorporated for the year ended 30th June 2016. The Association's Board of Management is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial report, and the information contained therein, and has determined that the accounting policies used are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the entity's constitution and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. I have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion to the members of the National Shelter Incorporated on its preparation and presentation. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used are appropriate to the needs of the members.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to the members for the purpose of fulfilling the Board of Management's financial reporting requirements under the Association's constitution and the *Associations Act*. I disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates, to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report, and the evaluation of accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with the basis of accounting described in Note 1 to the financial report and the requirements of the *Associations Act*. These do not require the application of all Accounting Standards.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion the financial report presents fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial report and the *Associations Act*, the financial position of the National Shelter Incorporated at 30th June 2016 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.



**SUSANNE LEE, CPA
DATED: 11/08/2016**

National Shelter Incorporated Balance Sheet

June 2016

	This Year	Last Year
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash On Hand		
Cheque Account	\$110,097.18	\$114,764.46
Petty Cash	\$300.00	\$300.00
Total Cash On Hand	\$110,397.18	\$115,064.46
Accounts Receivable	\$11,567.70	\$45,500.00
Total Current Assets	\$121,964.88	\$160,564.46
Total Assets	\$121,964.88	\$160,564.46
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Credit Card	(\$4,800.60)	-\$3,564.60
Trade Creditors	\$8,520.67	\$14,115.97
GST Liabilities		
GST Collected	\$6,922.91	\$3,240.46
GST Paid	(\$2,064.93)	-\$638.71
Total GST Liabilities	\$4,857.98	\$2,601.75
Payroll Liabilities		
Superannuation Payable	\$3,397.99	\$0.00
PAYG Withholding Payable	\$11,656.00	\$0.00
Provision for Annual Leave	\$14,764.00	\$11,130.66
Provision for Sick Leave	\$7,552.00	\$3,898.23
Total Payroll Liabilities	\$37,369.99	\$15,028.89
Unexpended Grants	\$0.00	\$28,944.65
Membership fees in Advance	\$44,362.54	\$36,131.81
Total Current Liabilities	\$90,310.58	\$93,258.47
Non-Current Liabilities		
Total Liabilities	\$90,310.58	\$93,258.47
Net Assets	\$31,654.30	\$67,305.99
Equity		
Retained Earnings	\$67,305.99	\$30,889.57
Current Year Surplus/Deficit	(\$35,651.69)	\$36,416.42
Total Equity	\$31,654.30	\$67,305.99

The accompanying notes form part of the financial report and are to be read in conjunction with the attached audit report.

National Shelter Incorporated
Profit & Loss

July 2015 through June 2016

	This Year	Last Year
Income		
Donations	\$4,000.00	\$15,000.00
Sponsorship	\$25,000.00	\$0.00
Membership fees	\$27,511.54	\$21,400.00
Project Income	\$50,355.00	\$0.00
Grants Received	\$0.00	\$150,000.00
Unspent Grant Brought Forward	\$23,944.65	\$20,970.76
Interest Income	\$1,102.13	\$1,617.80
Reimbursements	\$3,036.48	\$0.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$4,454.55	\$0.00
Consultation Fee Income	\$5,000.00	\$15,272.73
Total Income	\$144,404.35	\$224,261.29
Expenses		
Financial Services		
Audit Fees	\$1,650.00	\$1,500.00
Bank Fees/GST Rounding	\$50.29	\$124.00
Management Fees	\$0.00	\$1,818.18
Accounting fees	\$5,454.56	\$3,702.64
Total Financial Services	\$7,154.85	\$7,144.82
Employment Expenses		
Superannuation	\$10,010.14	\$9,848.21
Wages & Salaries	\$105,718.13	\$104,296.85
Workers' Compensation	\$704.77	\$95.90
Recruitment	\$0.00	\$60.00
Provision for Annual Leave	\$3,633.34	\$7,207.00
Provision for Sick Leave	\$3,653.77	\$2,329.00
Total Employment Expenses	\$123,720.15	\$123,836.96
Program & Offices Expenses		
Meeting Expenses	\$0.00	\$1,309.40
Consultancy Fees	\$12,000.00	\$4,252.02
Chair Fees	\$10,000.00	\$15,000.00
Chair Travel	\$0.00	\$278.52
Board Travel	\$0.00	\$3,395.66
Computer Expenses	\$1,136.88	\$1,386.30
Dues & Subscriptions	\$865.45	\$1,066.19
Equipment	\$0.00	\$195.45
MV Hire	\$0.00	\$350.14
Fuel	\$0.00	\$5.70
Insurance	\$1,879.29	\$1,913.22
Project Expenses	\$0.00	\$1,843.32
Staff Amenities	\$137.86	\$0.00
Catering	\$211.54	\$105.45
Telephone	\$3,718.53	\$2,160.58
EO Travel	\$9,973.95	\$11,868.72
EO Accommodation	\$1,853.97	\$2,410.81
Mileage Allowance	\$2,961.11	\$1,636.67
Travel Allowance	\$2,018.33	\$1,677.09
Home Office Allowance	\$2,250.00	\$3,000.00
Stationery	\$174.13	\$189.39
Advertising and Promotion	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Admin Support/HR	\$0.00	\$443.00
Conference Registration	\$0.00	\$1,375.46
Total Program & Offices Expenses	\$49,181.04	\$56,863.09
Total Expenses	\$180,056.04	\$187,844.87
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	(\$35,651.69)	\$36,416.42

The accompanying notes form part of the financial report and are to be read in conjunction with the attached audit report.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2016

1. SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounting policies adopted by the Association are stated in order to assist in a general understanding of the financial statements. These policies have been consistently applied except as otherwise indicated.

Reporting entity

The association is not a reporting entity because in the Committee's opinion there are likely to exist users who are able to command the preparation of reports tailored so as to satisfy all of their information needs, and these accounts are therefore "special purpose accounts" that have been prepared solely to meet the requirements of the Constitution and the *Associations Act*.

Accounting policies

The financial report has been prepared under the historical cost conventions and does not take into account changing money values except to the extent that they are reflected in the revaluation of certain assets.

In order for the financial report to present fairly the state of affairs of the Association and the results of the Association for the year, Australian Accounting Standards have been adopted to the extent disclosed in this note.

Government Grants

Government grants are brought to account as income when the Association receives them. Unspent Grants are transferred to an appropriate liability account.

Assets

Current policy is to expense all purchases of a capital nature except those costing in excess of \$5,000.

Employee Entitlements

The amounts expected to be paid to employees for their pro rata entitlement to annual leave, sick leave and long service leave are accrued annually at current pay rates.

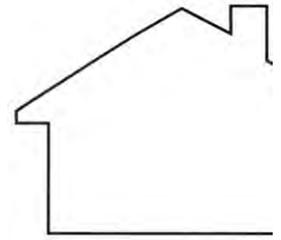
Income tax

The Association is of the opinion that it is not subject to income tax.

The accompanying notes form part of the financial report and are to be read in conjunction with the attached audit report.

Executive Officer's Report

Adrian Pisarski



A Year of Risk and Reward

Many years go around with a mundanity and pattern making them almost indistinguishable from the one's previous and following. The year of 2015/16 wasn't like that.

2015/16 was begun with no certain income beyond the prospect of reasonably modest fees from state shelters and national members so, although we did have indications of broader support possible, it was probable the future would be staffless and reliant on the goodwill of members for even modest activity levels.

The absence of certain income can have a number of impacts. It may be debilitating leading to a spiral of uncertainty and decline, or it may pump up the adrenalin inspiring creativity and focused thinking. The reality for National Shelter has been the latter and we survived the year with improved prospects for the future and with some significant achievements we can be proud of. At a personal level it sometimes felt like a high wire act and whilst the year contained some delicate balancing I haven't fallen yet.

In 2015/16 we may be proud that we established new and successful partnerships, launched a highly publicized and critically acclaimed new indicator in the National Rental Affordability Index, completed a number of submissions to inquiries and processes and ran, again in partnership with others, a successful election campaign.

The National Shelter profile remained strong with good media coverage and whilst we cannot claim any significant shift in the government's policy position, we can claim some credit for the adoption of policies by the ALP and Greens which broadly align with our own, which preceded their adoption.

We were represented in a range of conferences and processes, highlighted through our participation and influence on the National Reform Summit in August 2015, convened by ACOSS, the Business Council of Australia and the ACTU and our presence at the National Housing Conference in Perth in October. The Perth event also included prominent sponsorship by Shelter WA and chairing a key session on states and affordable housing plans.

Our financial position has improved thanks to the almost unanimous agreement from State Shelters to raise their membership fees which we acknowledge is challenging for state peak bodies and therefore even more appreciated.

We also received new supporters and thanks go to Brisbane Housing Company, Compass, CHL and SGCH for the financial sponsorship of our NAHA and Supply Forums. Jobs Australia, SVDP National Council and Uniting Communities SA also provided their support in taking out memberships and inspiring a new category of membership for National Shelter.

So far we have signed up 9 Associate Members:

- ❖ Anglicare Victoria
- ❖ Bridge Housing Company
- ❖ Brisbane Housing Company
- ❖ Compass Housing
- ❖ Launch Housing
- ❖ Mission Australia
- ❖ Southern Youth and Family Services
- ❖ Uniting Communities SA
- ❖ Yarra Community Housing

We also received support from the West Australian Government, South Australian Government, Shelter WA, Shelter NSW, Shelter SA and the NSW Tenants Union who have contributed to our advocacy and for the Western Australia Government and South Australia Government, specifically supported a report on the impacts of Commonwealth policy settings to house price inflation. The report from that project will be released soon.

We received a project commission from Griffith University and Queenslanders with a Disability network (QDN), to prepare an issues paper on housing for people with a disability, which was released in August 2016.

Among all this I retain a role in the Logan City of Choice Leadership Team, which helps to ground me in a specific local community and keep an eye on the proposed Logan Renewal Project (now cancelled). It has also kept me connected to Qld Ministers and the local federal member and has been helpful in connecting to the Griffith University project.

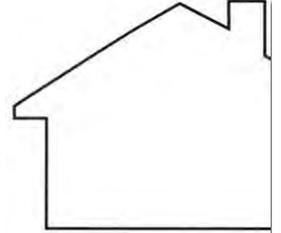
Looking back on the year it has been incredibly active, risky but also rewarding. Whilst my role remains insecure it has also benefited from great support. I talk weekly with Mary Perkins our Chairperson and that has been invaluable in managing competing demands and ensuring the Governance and Administration share the planning and work prioritization.

Other Executive members have also been a consistent support and thanks to Alice, Chantal and lately Pattie and for brief time Travis, whose willingness to undertake roles in the ACT is welcome and appreciated.

I regularly talk to council members and you have all been extremely supportive. Thanks to Queensland Shelter for involving me in their Cairns Conference. Thanks to Margaret Ward at Griffith and Paige Armstrong at QDN for their support through the disability project.

Thanks to all the new Associate members and other supporters who have provided the cash to ensure our ongoing viability.

2015-2016 highlights

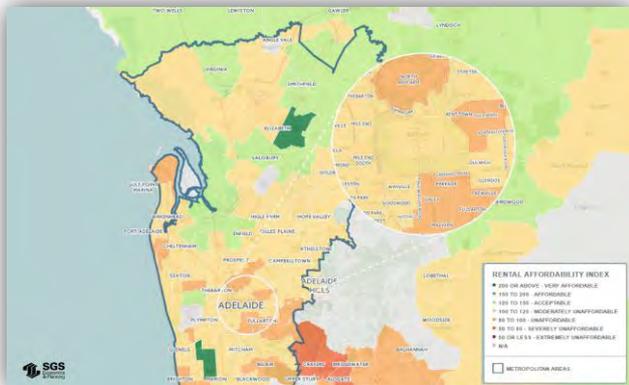


The National Rental Affordability Index

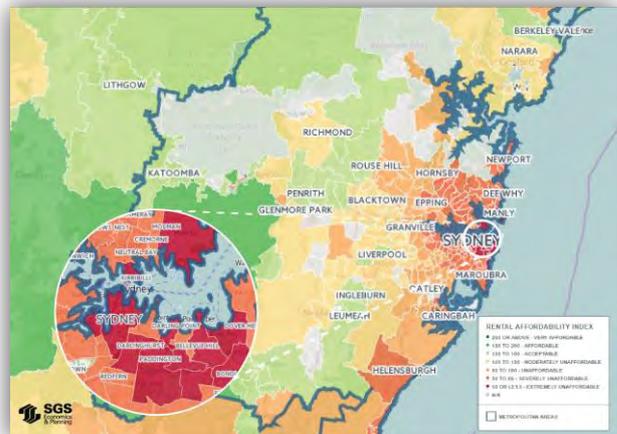
National Shelter has partnered with Community Sector Banking and SGS Economics and Planning to launch Australia's first comprehensive rental affordability index.



The partners signing the contract for our ground breaking Rental Affordability Index

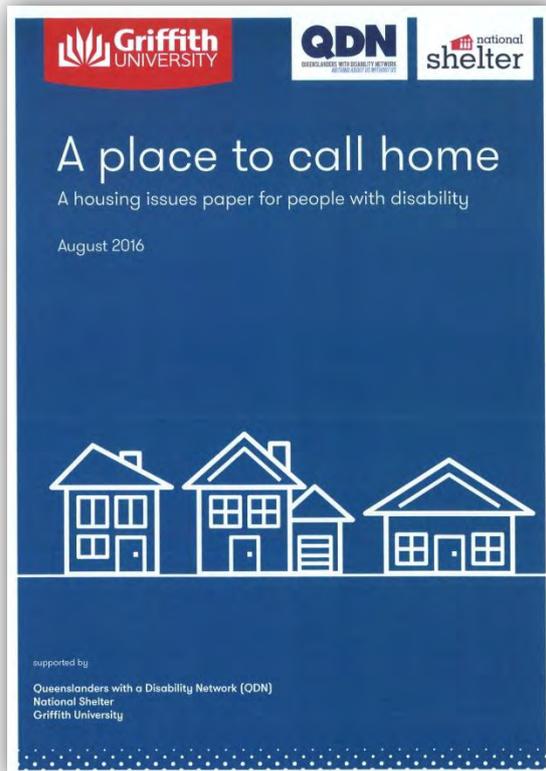


Sample maps from the RAI



A Place to Call Home Partnership

National Shelter partnered with Queenslanders with a Disability Network and Griffith University to develop an issues paper on housing for people with disability. The symposium in Brisbane where the project was launched was attended by 300 delegates.



Vote Home

National Shelter participated in the Vote Home Campaign to leverage social media in the lead up to the 2016 Federal Election urging voters to make housing policy a priority in their choices.



Ongoing support from State Shelters and new Associate Members



Some of the amazing National Shelter Council Members hard at work

Political Engagement

We conducted another Day of Action in parliament house through which we arranged meetings with 25 MPs and Senators with 5 delegations of 2 people. We have now undertaken this process in the last two years and will continue again in 2017. It helps build our profile within the parliament especially with back bench, cross bench and new parliamentarians and enhances the understanding of our issues across politics.

In addition our Executive Officer Adrian Pisarski has also met with representatives of the Treasurer, Minister for DSS, Opposition leader, the Opposition Treasury spokesperson, Deputy Opposition leader, Opposition Housing and Homelessness Spokesperson, Both Deputy leaders of the Greens, Greens leader.

He also attended the Parliamentary Friendship Group for Better Cities sponsored by the Property Council and meetings of the ALP Urban Policy Dialogue sponsored by the Opposition Infrastructure spokesperson.

Conference Presentations

- 🏠 COTA Policy Forum Housing, Gender and Older Australians, Canberra, July 2015
- 🏠 Avertedge 2nd Annual Affordable Housing Development Summit, Sydney, July 2015
- 🏠 National Reform Summit, ACOSS, BCA, ACTU at KPMG, Sydney August 2015
- 🏠 Powerhousing Australia and Brisbane Housing Co. Non-Executive Forum, Brisbane, October 2015
- 🏠 National Housing Conference, AHURI, Perth, October 2015
- 🏠 Housing for people with a Disability, Griffith University, Brisbane, February 2016
- 🏠 NSW Shelter Election Forum, Sydney June 2016
- 🏠 Shelter Tas Symposium on Consumer participation and engagement, Hobart June 2016
- 🏠 Q Shelter Conference, Cairns July 2016 re Housing for People with Disability
- 🏠 Griffith University, Queenslanders with a Disability and National Shelter Symposium “A Place to Call Home”, Brisbane August 2016
- 🏠 Adrian also attended the ACOSS Conference and AGM

Submissions

- 🏠 The Council On Federal Financial Relations Affordable Housing Working Group
- 🏠 Productivity Commission Inquiry Human Services: Identifying Sectors For Reform

Media Releases

- 🏠 NDIS symposium on housing for people with a disability
- 🏠 New Ministry
- 🏠 Secret negative gearing report puts pressure on LNP to release housing policy
- 🏠 National Shelter supports call for a National Body for Aboriginal Housing
- 🏠 Leadership needed on great Australian dream turned nightmare
- 🏠 Negative gearing and capital gains tax discounts release
- 🏠 National Shelter Federal Budget release
- 🏠 National Shelter Press Conference @ Parliament House: Stop playing politics with housing
- 🏠 ALP housing policy a game changer
- 🏠 National housing peak calls for urgent action in Federal Budget
- 🏠 Mini summit must address housing for maxi impact
- 🏠 National Shelter research shows new options for social housing rents fail affordability test
- 🏠 Housing key to achieving National Reform Summit aims
- 🏠 Reform of Federation an ugly sleeping giant
- 🏠 Case for housing tax reform grows
- 🏠 Dream over: Government wilfully ignorant on housing affordability

Key collaborations:

- 🏠 ACOSS ongoing teleconference with peaks and national organisations re housing and homelessness
- 🏠 ACOSS tax group, ongoing teleconferences and meetings
- 🏠 SGS, Community Sector Banking regarding Rental Affordability index
- 🏠 Community Housing providers re NAHA Housing Supply Forum, election, strategy and policy
- 🏠 Homelessness Australia re election campaign and ongoing discussions regarding establishing new broad peak for housing and homelessness policy and advocacy
- 🏠 Queenslanders with a Disability network QDN and Griffith University re housing for people with disability and issues/policy position



Our thanks to



All our Members & Associate Members



Our office bearers and their Shelter organisations



Those state and territory Shelters which made exceptional in-kind contributions



Our partners:



SGS Economics and Planning



Community Sector Banking



Queenslanders with a Disability Network (QDN)



Griffith University



Our sponsors:



Brisbane Housing Company



Compass



CHL



SGCH



South Australia Government



Western Australia Government



Everyone, anywhere in Australia, who is working towards a fair, affordable, accessible, and sustainable housing system

www.shelter.org.au