



Shelter SA
Housing: a basic human right



Housing for Mental Health Forum

Housing for Mental Health—housing and support to live well in the community

May 9th, 2006

9am to 1pm

Venue: Italian Centre, 262 Carrington Street, Adelaide

9 – 9.30 Registration

9:30 – 9.35

Welcome

Shelter SA – Gary Wilson and Mental Health Coalition of SA - Geoff Harris

9.35 – 9.50am

Opening address

The Hon Gail Gago MLC, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse

9.50 – 10.10am

Setting the scene

Gary Wilson, Executive Director Shelter SA

10.10 – 10.30am

The recovery model and what it means for service/system development

Geoff Harris, Executive Officer Mental Health Coalition of SA

10.30 – 10.55am

Morning Tea

10.55 – 11.25am

Access to housing and housing supports for people with psychiatric disability

Peter Smith, Deputy Chief Executive Department for Families & Communities

11.25 – 11.45am

Housing and mental health - an integrated system

Dr John Brayley, Director Mental Health Unit

11.45 – 12.20pm

What works in an accommodation support service

A range of NGO service providers and consumer representative

Cecile Dutreix – OARS, Natasha Miliotis & Jane Borda - MIFSA, Steve Lowe – Diamond House, Phil Jones– UCWPA

12.20 – 1pm

Panel discussion A question and answer session with all speakers

Speakers' Biographies

Opening Address

Hon Gail Gago MLC, B.Sc (Hons) Dip App. Sc (Nursing)

Gail was born in Mooroopna, Victoria and completed her secondary education at Shepparton High School. After high school, Gail studied at Philip Institute of Technology and the Austin Hospital where she graduated as a Registered Nurse. Later completing a Bachelor of Science Degree (Honours) at Monash University majoring in Psychology.

Gail and her husband Peter moved to South Australia in 1987 where she worked as a nurse at Salisbury Private Hospital for two years. In 1988 Gail commenced working with the Australian Nursing Federation (ANF) for 12 years first as an Organiser and later becoming both Assistant Secretary and Branch Secretary.

As an active member of the ANF, Gail was part of many campaigns to improve patient care, access to health services, wages and conditions for workers. She has participated in and contributed to a wide range of State and Federal health and industrial relations forums.

Following a long career in the health sector and as a nurse in particular, Gail learned the importance of a community-wide response to meeting health care needs.

Gail has been a member of the SA Branch of the ALP since 1991 where she has contributed to a number of policy committees and played an active role as State Convention delegate (proxy), State Executive member and National Conference attendee.

Gail was first elected to Parliament on 9 February 2002 as a member of the Legislative Council and is a member of two Parliamentary Standing Committees; the Environment, Resources and Development Committee and the Social Development Committee (Chair). Gail also served as a member of several Select Committees including; Mount Gambier District Health Service, Assessment and Treatment Services for People with Mental Health Disorders and most recently the Local Government (Lochiel Park Lands) Amendment Bill 2005.

Following the second term election of the Rann Labor Government in March 2006, Gail was appointed Minister for Environment and Conservation, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health.

Gail's interests include bush walking and running

Setting the Scene

Gary Wilson - Executive Director Shelter SA

Gary started as Executive Director of Shelter SA in September 2001. Originally from Colorado, USA, he came to Adelaide in 1973 to complete a Social Administration degree at Flinders University.

He was one of the first Community Health Workers hired by the old Department for Community Welfare when The Parks Community Centre was being planned in 1975. After 3 years, Gary moved to The Crippled Children's Association and held a number of senior management positions over the next 22 years. From 1986 to 1993, he managed CCA's Housing and Vocational Services division and helped establish Housing Spectrum and the Adult Disabled Housing Association.

In other community work, Gary has been on the Board of Comskil for 16 years and is on the Board of Uniting Care Wesley Port Adelaide.

He enjoys working with Shelter's Board, staff and the wider housing networks to get affordable housing (of any form or tenure) back on the political agenda, so the housing crisis will be addressed.

Speakers' Biographies

The recovery model and what it means for service/system development

Geoff Harris

Executive Officer Mental Health Coalition of SA

Geoff has worked in non-government organisations (ngo) for around 15 years including mental health and Aboriginal health organisations. He is currently the Executive Officer of the MHCSA which is a peak body for ngo mental health service providers in South Australia.

Current MHCSA activities include informing mental health policy development, mental health promotion, supporting smaller organisations in quality management and delivering training in psychosocial rehabilitation.

Geoff is also a Board Member of the Mental Health Council of Australia (the national peak body for mental health) and represents the MHCSA on a number of South Australian mental health committees.

Access to housing and housing supports for people with psychiatric disability

Peter Smith

Deputy Chief Executive Department for Families & Communities

Peter is currently Deputy Chief Executive, Department for Families and Communities where he has particular responsibility for housing and disability services.

Peter has an MBA from Macquarie Graduate School of Management, Sydney, where he is a past winner of the Allan Knott Scholars Award for overall academic excellence in the MBA program. Peter also maintains his links with MGSM through his occasional teaching of Leadership and Human Resource Management MBA subjects for the school. Peter also has a Graduate Diploma in HRM and a BSc.

Prior to working in DFC, Peter spent four years working in Centrelink where he held the position of Area Manager for the Hunter Region of NSW and more recently the position of National Manager Service Delivery, based in Canberra.

Prior to this, Peter spent nearly 10 years working in the NSW Department of Housing in a number of senior management roles, covering both housing operations and strategy and policy roles.

The early part of Peter's career was spent in the NSW Department of Community Services where he was initially involved in the large scale deinstitutionalisation of people with disabilities before moving to a number of training, HR and general management roles in disability services and in child and family services.

Housing and mental health - an integrated system

Dr John Brayley

Director Mental Health Unit

A qualified psychiatrist, Dr Brayley has been the leader of mental health services at Noarlunga Health Service and Flinders Medical Centre.

In his current role as Director of Mental Health at South Australia's Department of Health, Dr Brayley is responsible for overseeing state-wide mental health services.

Dr Brayley has skills across areas such as service planning, safety and quality systems, promoting consumer involvement and advocacy, and improving organisational systems that promote mental health and prevent illness.

Dr Brayley is involved in several Boards and Committees, including *beyondblue*, the national depression initiative.

Speakers' Biographies

What works in an accommodation support service

Cecile Dutreix
OARS

Cécile is currently managing Freshstart Accommodation Services at Offenders Aid and Rehabilitation Services of SA (OARS SA). Freshstart Accommodation Services comprises three distinct services. The Women's Accommodation Support Service provides case management and support to women released from prison who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in order to gain access to, and maintain, accommodation. The Men's Accommodation Service provides accommodation and case management to men experiencing homelessness, with particular expertise for men involved with the criminal justice system, throughout the state. The Housing, Information and Referral program delivers housing information, referral, advocacy and assessment to people in all correctional facilities in SA who will be homeless or at risk of homelessness on release from correctional facilities

Jane Borda and Natasha Miliotis
MIFSA

Jane Borda works at the Mental Illness Fellowship of South Australia (MIFSA) as a Community Outreach Worker and has been a member of the MIFSA Education Group for many years. Jane has worked with consumers and service providers as a community support worker and more recently with culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) young people and the services that support them. Jane's interests lie in trans-cultural Mental Health and Education, and she is passionate about community support and advocacy.

Natasha Miliotis is the Executive Director of the Mental Illness Fellowship of South Australia; a community based, not for profit organisation providing a range of education, training, information and support programs for people affected by mental illness. Natasha is a psychiatric social worker by profession and has worked in mental health for over a decade in both the public mental health services and the non-government sector.

Steve Lowe
Diamond House (a service of Clubhouse SA Inc)

Steve has been Director of Diamond House since April 2002. Prior to this he spent 11 years in independent living and community accommodation services in Non-Government Organisations for people with an intellectual disability, the majority of whom also have a mental illness. He has a graduate certificate in disability studies (dual diagnosis) and a graduate certificate in Public Sector Management (Non Government Organisations) both from Flinders University. He is on two NGO Boards - the MHCSA and a Community Housing Association based in North-West Adelaide.

Phil Jones
UCWPA

Coordinator of GP Access, community support and housing program for people with a mental illness living in the western suburbs who see a GP for their clinical management. Phil has worked in UCWPA's Community Mental Health Programs since 1996. Phil will also be providing information supplied by ROOFS SA Housing Association within his presentation.

Housing Forum Report and Contact Information

The Mental Health Coalition of SA Inc will publish a report on this forum in our July edition of Peak Action—the MHCSA newsletter if you wish to receive a copy just email info@mhcsa.org.au to join the mailing list.

Shelter SA - www.sheltersa.asn.au, shelter@shelter.asn.au T: 08 8221 6488 F: 08 8221 6292

is the peak housing organisation in South Australia and represents the views of people, especially those on low to moderate incomes, who live in a wide variety of housing tenures.

Mental Health Coalition of SA - www.mhcsa.org.au, info@mhcsa.org.au T: 08 8212 8873 F: 08 8212 8874

is the peak body for the non-government mental health sector in South Australia