



Homeshare Australia and New Zealand Alliance HANZA NEWSLETTER

Issue No 6 December 2011

NEWS

HANZA's second Teleconference went off on 30th November and was a marked improvement on our first effort, thanks to Beris' investigation of the mysteries of talking to the multitudes. Next time, we plan to do it perfectly so that we don't have to shout into our phone at this end!

We were delighted with the responses of members. We had only one apology, and that from Canberra, where alternate plans are being made for a face-to-face visit in the New Year. We found the comments and inquiries very interesting, useful and hopeful of the ultimate success of this venture. Minutes of the discussions are being prepared and will be sent to members in the near future.

Several issues were very prominent however: Everyone remains keen to strive for the success of Homeshare. Progress is being made in many directions in many places. Members see the value of keeping together, helping one another and sharing information and insights. It is obvious that new strategies will emerge from our joint efforts.

THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF WORKING TOGETHER

HANZA has achieved Deductible Gift Recipient status. This means that we can receive donations that are tax deductible. To encourage this desirable state of affairs, see below our banking details:

Bendigo Bank, BSB Number 633-000 Account No. 14130033

331 Glenhuntly Rd. Elsternwick 3185

Our financial situation may be described as fragile, with the committee paying for our running costs at the moment. We will be glad of any help we can get.

Later we will invoice organizational members of HANZA for fees, but any individual can become a member at a small fee of \$10 per year.

Below we have added a new section. For this issue labelled “Homeshare Hints”, but we challenge you to come up with a smarter name and await your brilliant suggestions.

Homeshare Hints:

WHAT ARE HOUSEHOLDERS LOOKING FOR IN A HOMESHARER?

“There must be hundreds of good women out there,” 86 year old Stan said to the Homeshare Coordinator, as he described his ideal homesharer. “Women on their own for whatever reason, whose kids have grown up, who’d like to live in a nice house and help me manage.” Old Stan has not been alone in his request. In fact it is probably the most sought after homesharer description! So much so that we found ourselves running what we affectionately called the “good woman” recruitment campaign.

Are there ‘hundreds of good women out there’? We know there are *some* because we have several wonderful ones in our program right now. But they are not rushing us – or maybe we are not getting to them.

One of the most common questions asked of us is who wants to do homesharing? Of our potential homesharer contacts so far over 60% have been female - a third have been under 30, a third in their 30s and 40s and a third over 50. They are predominantly Anglo-Australian, some from the country or interstate and a significant number of overseas students from all around the world. Three main groups have applied – those in full time work, those studying full or part time, and some on a pension. Reasons for wanting to homeshare vary enormously and usually include needing to manage on a limited or reduced income. A critical factor for us is the applicant’s understanding of older people and their motivation to live with an older person.

Most of our householders are not keen to have a *young* student live with them. Our youngest homesharer is 23. Our oldest is a ‘good woman’ of 55! Mature age and return to study people are ideal as they will usually have some day time at home as well as a commitment to quiet study rather than wild partying! Part time or semi-retired people are also very suitable. But the bottom line is that all sorts of people are interested and fortunately householders’ requirements are very varied. It all makes for a fascinating program!

COMMUNICATION IS VITAL

The teleconference highlighted the value of communication between the memberships of HANZA. However, asking for written responses to such matters as quarterly reporting has proved disappointing, but quite understandable. There is so much to do. So little time. We may have to think of something else. We would welcome suggestions!

Another issue is the value of members communicating amongst themselves. I append an up-to-date membership list for your interest.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

We keep promising a website. It is still coming. You may believe me. I am an honest woman.

DISABILITY HOMESHARE

This area of Homeshare is likely to become more significant as time passes. We note the increase in Disability matches around the country. There are few, but we maintain that slow is the way to go.

NEWS FROM HANZA MEMBERS AROUND AUSTRALASIA

Input into this section of the newsletter is gleaned from the Teleconference discussions.

Communities @ Work Inc. (ACT)

Lyn Harwood was an apology, but plans to come to Melbourne to visit HANZA in the New Year. Or Beris might go to Canberra.

Community Based Support South (Tas.)

Viv Beattie described her difficulty with Householders, many of who live in outlying areas and have difficulty adjusting to the idea of having someone live with them.

She notes that one can't keep potential homesharers on waiting list indefinitely.

Enliven Homeshare - Presbyterian Support East Coast (NZ)

Their three-year pilot program is now ongoing and permanent. Funding is from Community Support. Deb's program has a new Advisory group. The first match involving a person with a disability is now in place. Their Homeshare Evaluation Review is available to HANZA members

Perth Home Care Services

Kate O'Neill from PHCS presented to group on their Disability program and the findings of the Interim report completed in August 2011.

Request made for the Interim Report to be distributed to all delegates.

Kate has all email addresses and will send paper to all.

Julie Wulff presented the final report on the Homeshare demonstration project for the Health Workforce Reform. Hopefully this report can be made available for HANZA members too.

St. John Ambulance (Qld.)

Judith Allen sent apologies and a deputy, Nathan, who assured us that St. John's is still determined to mount a program and is working towards that end.

Queensland Community Care Network Inc.

Ken reported that he is 'soldiering on' and it is a slow business. All agreed. Ken asked the question 'does any other program work with mental health organizations?'

Agreed that many mental health clients may not meet the criteria of "Capable of sharing a home" and "capable of abiding by the values of Homeshare"

Mackay Regional Housing Company Ltd.

Margaret Robinson reports that the committee has been running for three years, and now that an auspice body has been established, they are 'ready to go.'

All they need is money.

Uniting Care Wesley Adelaide Inc.

Kellie reports that HACC funding commenced in June 2011. There has been one match, which is drawing to a close.

There are three potential Householders and three potential Homesharers. However, no match likely among those people.

Official Launch is to be the 1st December.

Congratulations were conveyed from everyone.

C.A.R.A. S.A.

Andy is frustrated by the Housing Association, which wants to extract a fee from Homesharers. Not in the spirit of Homeshare. CARA is essentially a disability program.

Uniting Care Community Options (Vic.)

Tony reported that a submission for Homeshare funding is almost ready. If successful the program will be in the Eastern region of Melbourne. Tony thanked HANZA for the help he has received from Beris, Carmel and Shirley.

Tony has had preliminary discussions with Transport Accident Commission (TAC) regarding provision of Homeshare to TAC clients,

INTERNATIONAL HOMESHARE



2nd WORLD HOMESHARE CONGRESS

1 – 3 July 2011 Cologne, Germany.

INTRODUCTION

The Congress was a great success on a number of fronts – the participants, the knowledge gained, information shared and the valuable networking experienced. Thirty keen participants attended over two days representing eight different countries – UK, Ireland, USA, Australia, France, Germany, Belgium, Japan.

In spite of language differences, the engagement and contribution by all attending was really impressive.

PRESENTATIONS – Day 1

Professor Anne-Lotte Kreickemeier started the presentations with a brief history of “Wohnen für Hilfe”(Help for living). There are more than fifteen of these programs in different University cities in Germany that network and liaise with each other and have an annual meeting of program coordinators.

Alex Fox, Chief Exec, National Association of Adult Placement Services (NAAPS), UK.

Alex outlined the challenges experienced by the UK Homeshare movement trying to position Homeshare within the UK policy context. Alex’s organisation, NAAPS, supports a number of linked, small-scale initiatives, which build on real relationships through matching people – two of these initiatives are Homeshare and Shared Lives. Shared Lives is a big program in the UK but Homeshare is still developing and is actually struggling.

The UK has strong advocacy and umbrella groups who are supporting self -directed care and person centred approaches and Homeshare fits very comfortably into this policy context, so that a marketing approach makes a lot of sense

Alain de Penfentenyo, Founder and President, ensemble2generations (E2G) – inspired us with his enthusiastic and thoughtful business planning approach. E2G is in the ‘Senior-Student Homesharing’ category of Homeshare programs, like Wohnen für Hilfe. E2G is very successful. In just four years the program has multiplied and now boasts 25 active programs in France, three of which are in the Paris Region. They attribute their success to developing skills in Business Planning and designing a robust business model that is simple but effective. A key element to E2Gs success, in Alain’s view, is developing a clear message about what Homeshare is all about and then staying on message.

Kirby Dunn from the USA – HomeShare Vermont – was stimulating as she always is. Kirby loves to say: “If someone could sell you a drug and offer you those three attributes: sleeping better, eating better and being happier—you would pay a lot of money for these benefits. But you can have all that just by homesharing.”

Kirby also talked about the decline in the number of Homeshare programs in the US since the heady days of the mid 90s when there were over 400 programs (both homesharing and shared residences – just under half of which were match up homesharing). Numbers have dropped back to those of the mid 80s with only 65 match up homesharing programs remaining. There are clearly lessons to be learned from the US experience. Kirby gives the following explanations:- Lack of

standardized program meant no replicable model developed; no nationwide program took it on; lack of concerted marketing; no universal funding source; very different in different places and focus on different types of clients.

In spite of this depressing picture, there are many very successful, long running programs like HomeShare Vermont which are still strongly supporting the Homeshare cause but facing a daunting emphasis on development – money for buildings – not services. Interesting, as it is such a contrast to the UK vision for aged housing.

Younger Householders with Disabilities is the last presentation to mention. I talked about the experience at Wesley of testing the Homeshare model with younger householders with disabilities and the review of the disability program that was undertaken mid 2010. The review concluded that “ Homeshare Disability has proved to be a very worthwhile program for the people with a disability participating in the program. Critical to the success of the Homeshare program in disability is who manages the program and how it is managed.”

PRESENTATIONS DAY 2

The second day was devoted to workshops, more details of which will be available on our HANZA website in due course.

WORKSHOP FEEDBACK AND CONCLUSION

The workshops demonstrated more than anything else the common ground we all share in pursuing the ideal of promoting homesharing in our own countries and internationally. The issues and the challenges we face are similar. We can learn so much from each other. We were left wondering with amazement that one small, but significant, service can fire up such interest, enthusiasm and passion worldwide!

All committed to meet again for the 3rd World Homeshare Congress to be held in Oxford 2013!

BerisCampbell

HANZA (Homeshare Australia & NZ Alliance), founding Coordinator Wesley Homeshare, Trustee – Homeshare