



NEWS

CANBERRA TALES



Homeshare Australia lobbying team at Parliament House, Canberra:

L-R: Lee Harrison, Homeshare Manager, Community Connections; Janaya Cox and Rod Campbell, co-authors The Australia Institute's Homeshare discussion paper and HANZA's Beris Campbell.

Our intrepid Homeshare champion, Beris Campbell, has been to Canberra to meet with and convince politicians and senior public servants of the value of Homeshare. This is something that HANZA has wanted to do for many years.

Our relationship with The Australia Institute (TAI) has helped to make this possible. TAI produced a discussion paper on the issues facing Homeshare as the NDIS and Aged Care reforms roll out. These changes threaten the future of Homeshare because it doesn't fit easily into priced, billable hours. As a result, Homeshare is not on the NDIS Price List or the lists of options in My Aged Care. As block funding from states runs out, without Homeshare being on these lists, the programs will disappear.

TAI has helped to organise some very constructive meetings with Government and several Commonwealth Government departments to discuss this crisis.

The purpose of our campaign is to achieve:

- Recognition and acceptance of Homeshare as a functioning and effective service and
- Expansion of Homeshare around Australia

The lobbying team of HANZA, TAI and Community Connections, met with Aged Care Minister Ken Wyatt and his senior advisor on 1st March for a very good discussion. The Minister was already aware of the Homeshare program because of meetings he has had in his own electorate with a group who are keen to pilot Homeshare. The suggestion of a Round Table on Homeshare in the coming months came out of this meeting. Details were not discussed but we think this would be a great idea and will be doing everything we can to make it happen.

ALEX FOX AWARD

Alex Fox is CEO of *Shared Lives Plus*, the UK network for Shared Lives and Homeshare. He was awarded an OBE (Order of the British Empire) for services to social care in the 2017 New Year's Honours including his work for Homeshare. This is important to us as it reinforces the perception of governments that Homeshare is a great contribution to the lives of many people.

Congratulations Alex! We will see you in Madrid.

INTERNATIONAL HOMESHARE

5th WORLD HOMESHARE CONGRESS - MADRID

25th – 26th May 2017

The Congress is rapidly approaching! The theme is:

GROWING HOMESHARE: BUILDING BRIDGES



Host organisation *SOLIDARIOS* has secured the support of the Madrid local government office. The congress is to take place in the magnificent Cibeles palace, in the centre of Madrid.

Four of the HANZA committee will be present to represent our membership. (And to have a nice holiday in Spain and elsewhere) We will tell you all about it later.

HOMESHARE INTEREST IN NSW

A constant stream of Homeshare enquiries comes from NSW. Householders and Homesharers alike express their frustration at not having a program in Sydney and elsewhere in NSW. We are sympathetic and suggest that they bestir themselves to write to local authorities and government to advocate for Homeshare.

There are many individuals and organisations keen to give Homeshare a go. There are encouraging signs that the City of Parramatta is considering a pilot project in their budget deliberations, so fingers crossed!

HOMESHARE TRAINING

As reported last year, HANZA secured funding from the Jean McCaughey Social Justice sub fund of the Victorian Women's Benevolent Trust to develop *Education/Training for Homeshare facilitators*.

Great progress has been made in developing the curriculum but our plan to pilot the course in March/April 2017 was just a tad ambitious! In addition, it has been realised that we need to explore how to offer a significant part of the course as 'on line' learning. We have received a significant additional donation from an individual donor which will allow this essential work. We need to get this first pilot training program right and to be available to aspiring homeshare coordinators across the country. Hopefully we will be ready to run later this year. Contact us via the website to keep up-to-date with progress.

WORKSHOP WASH UP

Our February planning day was a bit confronting. Our facilitator, Dr Meg Montague, as usual, gave us no opportunities for self-deception. Harsh reality set in. There were many positive aspects of the day, in that we had done a lot of good work in 2016 and can brag about our Congress in 2015. But goodness and hard work "ain't enough"

Looking at HANZA objectively we were forced to face harsh realities:

We do not have enough money to continue as we are forever
We are all getting older and need to replace ourselves

Perhaps those noble souls who read this newsletter may feel that they would like to help us. Who knows?

HOMESHARE AROUND AUSTRALIA

lifeAssist (Vic)

Jeremy and Peri at *lifeAssist* have been crunching the numbers recently, and came up with :

In the first three and a half years of the program's operation:

- 50% of householders and 56% of homesharers were born overseas
- The average age of the householders was 84.6 years and of homesharers 37.8 years
- 15% of matches were of people of the same culture or country
- Nearly all householders, including those born overseas, are happy to share with someone from another culture, the obvious exception to this being those who do not speak English.
- Homesharers born overseas prefer not to share with someone from their own country as they wish to improve their English and 'learn about the Aussie way of life' and they include in this householders born overseas but who have lived in Australia for a lengthy period.
- 10% of matches did not last through the 4 week trial period. However there was a pleasing proportion of matches going into their second year and we now have some in their third year.

How do they find us?

- Householder referrals come from a wide range of sources, including a range of service providers, family members searching the net for extra in home support for their aged relative, *lifeAssist* website; word of mouth and publicity on radio, newspapers and television always draw a lot of enquiries. Over the past year we have noticed many more referrals come through individuals "finding us" through methods other than the service sector, which is decreasing as a percentage of referrals.
- Homesharer enquiries come from our ads on flatmates.com.au, homesharers googling accommodation options including *lifeAssist* website, word of mouth; publicity on radio, newspapers and television always draw a lot of enquiries. In the past 6 months we are receiving far fewer enquiries from Flatmates, with most coming from the other options mentioned above."

Independent Disability Services (IDS) (Vic)

IDS Homeshare

IDS have no HS matches at the moment. They are still without funding. But below is a recent story:

Finding suitable accommodation is one of the key issues faced by people with a disability. Therefore the opportunity to take up a long-term lease on a three bed roomed property at an affordable rent was too good for the team at IDS to pass on, especially when it is fully modified and serviced by a lift.

The property is surrounded by bush and offset from the road. Around the home there is a wonderful seasonal garden of herbs, vegetables and fruit trees for tenants' enjoyment. The home is accessible, with a large kitchen and living area, a fully modified bathroom including a ceiling hoist from bathroom to a bedroom.

There were two potential clients (people with a disability), wanting to move out of family homes to a more independent life, and so IDS took up the lease. It was important that the tenants got on well together, and we worked with clients and their families, establishing guidelines of responsibility and ensuring compatibility.

Introductory meetings were arranged for compatible clients with similar interests. However, it was apparent that a third person would be required to assist carers with activities and to take up household duties.

The idea of a Homesharer was introduced to our clients and their families. Client support needs and limited available funds made the decision easy! The process of introducing a Homesharer was relatively straightforward, as one of the clients knew of a suitable person, and a support plan was set up prior to the Homesharer moving in. The property provides ideal accommodation for the clients and for the Homesharer, who has his own living area, separate front door access and bedroom with ensuite and walk in robe.

Our clients look forward to installation of the automated door system, which the owner is keen about, as daughter too, has a physical disability.

They all moved in March of this year and while there were some early anxious moments and the parents found it difficult to let go, our clients have enjoyed the challenges and life with a much higher degree of individuality and independence.

As with many things there have been a few hiccups. However the IDS support team has worked hard to ensure the guys' needs are met and they can now live independently in the community.

Community Connections (ACT)

Lee Harrison writes:

Undoubted highlight was accompanying HANZA and the Australia Institute to meet Federal Minister Ken Wyatt in his office at Parliament House. Ian and I attended.

Ian and I also attended a meeting with ACT Government senior officer re Homeshare – they are looking into innovative housing solutions and like the sound of Homeshare. They could be interested in backing a much wider homeshare program but it won't happen quickly.

Two new homeshare matches have been made taking us to 49 – tantalizingly one short of the half century!

We have been invited to Melbourne "Belonging Matters" to present at a Home / Housing workshop – May 12th. We hope to offer an angle for their delegates to think about.

Karingal St Laurence (Vic)

Former "Geelong Do Care" has been involved in a number of amalgamations recently and with so many changes, does not have HS at the top of its list. We will watch their progress closely and hope that we can move Homeshare further up the list of priorities.

Macarthur Diversity Services Initiative (NSW)

Sue Gordon is not discouraged that she has not yet achieved funding for a Program. To illustrate this trust, she has recently set up a volunteer to research her HS documents with a view to designing paperwork in case a program arrives. She also bemoans the fact that she constantly hears from clients for whom HS would be a solution to their care needs.

South Port Community Housing Group and Launch Housing (VIC)

Our newest HANZA members, South Port Community Housing Group (SPCHG) and Launch Housing have formed a partnership to establish a Homeshare pilot within the next 6 months. This is an exciting development for Homeshare in Australia.

South Port and Launch are leading community/social housing organisations with a strong commitment to finding additional options for people struggling to maintain or find housing within areas where affordability is a major issue. The Melbourne local government area of the City of Port Phillip is the initial trial area. Port Phillip is an inner city area with huge problems in housing affordability and increasing risks of homelessness. The local council is deeply concerned to address these issues and is willing to support the pilot Homeshare project.

A working group has been established to set the ball rolling. HANZA is supporting and resourcing this much awaited venture into Homeshare as a 'housing' program.

Carmel Hurst OAM
Editor

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH HANZA AND HOMESHARE IN AUSTRALIA

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