

# Housing PEOPLE



www.housinginstitute.org

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Australasian **Housing** Institute

## Each One – Reach One!

### AHI kicks off member recruitment drive

On Tuesday last week the Australasian Housing Institute launched its first major member recruitment campaign. As the name suggests, we want every AHI member to reach out and recruit at least one other housing professional to join our ranks.

And this time there is a serious incentive to go out and spread the good word – the chance to **win a \$1500 Flight Centre voucher to spend on a holiday of your choice**. Every existing member who recruits at least one person is in the draw to win; two people recruited equal two chances to win and so on...



Shirley Trebilcock

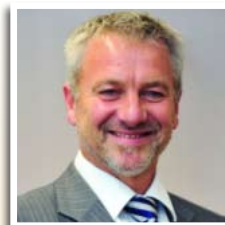
Shirley Trebilcock, the SA rep on the AHI's Board and a member of the Institute's Membership Committee was a co-architect of the campaign: "We really don't mind what motivates people to go out there and convince others to join – whether it's the prize or a desire to build the future of the AHI – or both," Shirley said.

"It is just so important that we continue to grow the Institute's membership base. More members mean more professional development and networking events, a

stronger policy and practice debate, and a more secure basis for the Institute's future," Shirley explained.

Shirley said that the Institute has in fact done relatively well in the past, with the membership base growing from 16 to over 600 during the AHI's short history. "But we need many more," she added. "Put simply a bigger membership means more resources – in people and money – which are both needed to help support and develop a vibrant social housing profession."

The campaign runs until 15th November 2009, with the winner of the competition to be drawn at the National Housing Conference in Melbourne. For full details, terms and conditions, and up-to-date news on the campaign visit <http://www.housinginstitute.org/mbrship/recruitment.php>, or call 02 6494 7566.



**Philip Fagan-Schmidt**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Housing SA

"Like most AHI members, housing is in my blood – it is my passion, my work, my contribution to a better world. Housing means many things to many people – it represents security, community, inclusion, creativity, social justice. AHI helps the exchange of ideas and practice on housing. That's why I joined."



**Karina Hogan**  
MANAGER, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY  
PROGRAMS  
Salvation Army EastCare

"I became a member of the Housing Institute as this was a 'platform' for me to engage in appropriate discussions, be involved in specific 'housing related' forums, conferences and workshops and generally to be kept up to date with new legislation, trends and studies and overall impact on service delivery."





# NSW members speak out

**In an effort to engage even more closely with our members and let your views directly influence the activities of the AHInstitute, we are embarking on a regular dialogue through short, sharp opinion surveys.**

First cab off the rank was NSW – our biggest branch – where a survey sent out on 13th August to all members elicited a 25% response rate. Not only is this considered statistically satisfactory for analysis and interpretation, but represents a great result for a survey requiring a voluntary self-motivated response, especially since 91% of these were received by the next business day!

The survey broadly canvassed members' opinions of the AHInstitute's products and services, how it is travelling and where it should be headed in the near future. We

are proud to report that 85% of respondents said they would recommend the AHInstitute to colleagues.

Members value both our publications, *HousingWorks* and *HousingPeople*, much more than any other activity, with 82% and 73% respectively taking an interest [NB: A big thank you from the editor!]. Professional development training, seminars, breakfasts and lunches also drew solid support at more than 40% of responses.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the top two issues members would like us to focus on in future are continuing professional development and homelessness; however sustainability now comes in at a close third. When asked about concrete actions over the next 12 months, members offered a significant variety of ideas, ranging from more information about good

practice in service delivery to taking a greater leadership role in the sector.

The respondents also highlighted one serious challenge for the AHInstitute – namely delivering our products and services in regional NSW (nearly half of those who commented). The Institute's very limited resource base means that it has thus far only been able to offer its activities in state and territory capitals. Expanding our geographical reach is major priority for the AHInstitute and we will pursue any regional opportunities as resources become available.

Our gratitude goes to NSW members for their strong and prompt response to the survey. The AHInstitute will be asking various sections of its membership for your opinions on a diverse range of topics in future. Please keep a look out for the next survey – we look forward to hearing your views.

## Capturing the face of homelessness



Kate Lewis is a young photographer who has been changed by her contact with homelessness. The title of her travelling exhibition, **Thirteen: Faces of Edel Quinn**, coincides with the number of beds available each night at the Edel

Quinn Men's Shelter in her home town of Wagga Wagga. "I didn't even know this place existed; that was kind of a shock for me," Kate recalls. "Initially the concept was beyond my world – how do you become homeless?"

Originally started as a project for a university assignment in 2007, Kate ended up attending the shelter every week for nine months to have conversations with its residents, who openly shared their stories with her. "To me as a photographer, to get a more truthful and honest representation of a person in a portrait you need to know a bit about them," says Kate.

"I met a diverse range of people at the shelter and I developed a deep respect for them all. I'm very intrigued by what a face can convey. These images are essentially shades of grey and that's a good reflection of the sorts of



lives these men have had. I wanted to keep it really stark – black and white is a play on good and evil, innocence and guilt."

Kate's first solo exhibition has inspired locals and seen Edel Quinn receive an amazing response in Wagga, including an increase in donations, in-kind contributions, people calling in with offers of help... "But for me it was also about exposing this issue and I think I have achieved that, which was great," Kate adds.