Council on the Ageing Queensland

SENIORS SOCIAL ISOLATION PREVENTION PEAK

Seniors Social Isolation Provider Community of Practice (SSIP-CoP)

Minutes of Meeting SSIP-COP No. 5 – October 2026

Date/Time	**Wednesday 28 October 2026 (2.00pm –3.00pm)**
Topic	**Housing and Homelessness**
Location	**Online via Zoom**
Facilitator	**Karen Wilson**, Executive Officer, Seniors Social Isolation Prevention Peak, Council on the Ageing (COTA) Queensland
Guest Speakers	• **Niura Martinez Casas**, Coordinator, Older Women's Network (Qld) Inc, Mackay Housing Workshop Insights (*SSI funded service*) • **Kylie Lowe**, Community Engagement Lead, Footprints Community, Housing Older Women's Support Service (HOWSS) and Laura Sinclair • **Alison Gray**, Executive Officer, Sharing with Friends, Innovative Co-Housing for Older Women
Recording	https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSBQ_X_Fip5cxULRI1faqwQ
Attendees	**Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety** • Jean Lagan, Principal Policy Officer, Strategy and Reform, Commissioning | Seniors and Carers • Julie Bailey, Regional Commissioning at Hervey Bay • Mikhaila Juchau, Contact Officer, Maroochydore Hub • Sarah xxxxx, Regional Commissioning in Ipswich • Teresa Binoka, SW Queensland region **SSI Providers (*n* = 7)** *As noted in the Zoom Chat* • Debbie Gliddon, YMCA Cannon Hill Community Centre • Ellen French, Encircle Community Services, Coordinator Homelessness Programs - HOAP, Homestay & IHR • Frank Pearce, Queensland Men's Shed Association • Greg McGuirk, Queensland Positive People (Brisbane/Meanjin) Better Connect+ Program and Carefinder service for PLHIV and LGBTQ Populations • Jean Williams, Barcaldine 60 & Better, Barcaldine Regional Council • Philippa Adams, Marlin Coast Neighbourhood Centre • Shannon Wade, The Older Men's Network (TOMNET) **To be confirmed** • Julie (Guest) tbc • Sarah (Guest) tbc

Discussion, Key Points and Actions

	Topic and Key Discussions Points	Actions
1	**WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**	
1.1	**Acknowledgement of Country** Karen acknowledged the Traditional Custodians and paid respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants attending the meeting. All **participants** were welcomed.	
1.2	**Housekeeping** • Providers were asked to add their name, organisation, program and location to the chat for attendance recording. • Providers were advised the meeting would be **recorded** and the link shared on the SSIP Hub, with the option to turn cameras off.	**Please confirm attendance if you are not listed above**
1.3	**Why are we here today?** • Today's conversation will focus on Housing and Homelessness	
1.4	**Confirm Previous Minutes and Actions** The Minutes of **SSIP-COP4 (23/9/26): Mental Health and Dementia Awareness** were confirmed	Recording starts at **2.54 mins**
1.5	**SSIP Peak Updates** • **Seniors Month:** Karen attended several events, engaging with community and creating opportunities to hear stories of connection. • **Diversity of activities:** creative and engaging events across the state, including drag bingo, Segway experiences and more. • **Thank you:** A big thank you to everyone for their hard work and commitment to supporting older people to stay socially connected. • **National Loneliness Conference – Melbourne:** The conference provided an opportunity to connect with current research and learn about initiatives addressing loneliness and social isolation. Insights, notes and connections from the older people's parallel session will be shared on the SSIP Hub. St John's Community and Inclusee were guest speakers and Thomas from the Donald Simpson Centre, Redlands (SSI funded service) attended. • **Annual SSIP Survey:** will be circulated to gather feedback and consider how the SSIP peak can better support your program delivery. Responses will be confidential and anonymous, with reporting to the Department due by the end of January. • **November follow-up:** Phone calls will be made throughout November following distribution of the survey to gather further feedback and provide an opportunity for discussion	Recording starts at **3.41 mins**

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2	**GUEST SPEAKERS**	**Recording starts 11.00 mins**
2.0	**Guest Speakers introduced themselves**	
2.1	**Guest Speaker 1: Niura Martinez Casas**, Coordinator, Older Women's Network (Qld) Inc Nuira shared that earlier this year, they received funding through the Office for Women's Empowering Queensland Women Grant Program to deliver a one-day workshop in Mackay. The workshop aimed to support women to make informed decisions about their housing and living arrangements and strengthen their economic security. The workshop was open to a broad audience, rather than being limited to women at risk of or experiencing homelessness. Niura shared key insights from the workshop, including its delivery format, which concluded with an open panel discussion where audience members could ask questions until all questions had been addressed. **Contact Details** Niura Martinez Casas (she/her) Coordinator, Older Women's Network (Qld) Inc T. 07 3358 2301 E. coordinator@ownqld.org.au	**Recording starts at 13.00 Mins**
2.2	**Guest Speaker 2: Kylie Lowe**, Community Engagement Lead, Footprints Community, Housing Older Women's Support Service (HOWSS) and Laura Sinclair Kylie gave an overview of the Housing Older Women's Support Service (HOWSS), what they can and can't do, and providing strategies to best support providers to support clients experiencing housing stress. • Laura talked about the HOWSS Coffee Catch-ups • Kylie shared information about the Pathways to Home guides. **Contact Details** Kylie Lowe, Community Engagement Lead, Footprints Community, HOWSS. T. 07 3252 3488. E. KylieL@footprintscommunity.org.au	**Recording starts at 22.20 Mins** PPT presentation available on the SSIP Hub
2.3	**Alison Gray**, Executive Officer, Sharing with Friends, Innovative Co-Housing for Older Women Alison shared that they are developing a new co-housing model and will be updating us on what they are doing, and where they are up to. **Contact Details** Alison Gray, Executive Officer, Sharing with Friends, Innovative Co-Housing for Older Women. M: 0427 151 844 E. alg@sharingwithfriends.org www.sharingwithfriends.org	**Recording starts at 32.45 mins**

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	Topic and Key Discussions Points	Actions
3	**PANEL DISCUSSION / Q&A**	**Recording starts at 42.38 mins**
3.1	Karen invited attendees to put their questions to the panel members.	
4	**CLOSE & DATE OF NEXT MEETING**	
4.1	Karen thanked presenters for their contributions and advised providers that meeting minutes and the recording would be available on the SSIP Hub within the next fortnight. The November meeting has been cancelled. The **December meeting** has been brought forward and will be held on: **Wed 9 Dec (2-3pm)** with a focus on Reflecting on the Year: Stories, Achievements and Impact.	**Recording starts at 55.27 mins** **Agenda** can be downloaded from the SSIP Hub

Minutes by Karen Wilson, Executive Officer, Seniors Social Isolation Prevention Peak, Council on the Ageing Queensland at: karen.wilson@cotaqld.org.au

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