

COMMUNITY HOUSING COUNCIL OF SA CONCESSIONS AND REBATES PROJECT 2003/2004

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE PROJECT

Background

Community Housing Organisations (CHOs) are eligible to apply for a range of rebates or concessions for water rates, local council rates, and the emergency services levy, for properties tenanted by eligible people.

The CHCSA has commenced a project aiming to simplify and improve CHO access to these rebates and concessions. This 12-month project is being undertaken through funding made available by the South Australian Community Housing Authority (SACHA).

Project Officer

A Project Officer, **David Kilner**, has been appointed to undertake the project. David has been involved in community housing from its inception in South Australia and is an active volunteer with Northern Suburbs Housing Co-op. He also was involved in setting up provision for CHO rates concessions through the original Co-operative and Community Housing Act.

The Work of the Project

The project aims to tackle a range of issues. The application processes for council and water rate rebates vary according to the circumstances of the tenant, and can be very time consuming for both tenant and CHO. Some CHOs can also access rate rebates under the Local Government Act, but sometimes the interpretation of the provisions can vary between local government jurisdictions. For those CHOs with properties across more than one local government area, this can mean multiple applications, with each having to address a somewhat different interpretation of the rules. It is to be hoped the project will result in measures to ensure simplicity and consistency for both local government administrators and CHOs.

Getting Involved

There will be a range of opportunities to get involved. Those attending CHCSA Forums can look forward to meeting David and discussing the issue in person. It is also intended to circulate a questionnaire to all CHOs seeking information on current practices, issues and suggestions concerning concessions and rebates. David will also be available to speak in depth to individual CHOs about their concerns and suggestions. David can also be contacted by phone or e-mail (see contact details below). We are keen to hear your ideas for improving the process.

Duration

The project commenced on 16th July 2003 and should be completed by mid-July 2004. It is thought that such a long-term timeframe is necessary to fully address the complexities of the project.

Project Management

A Reference Committee of key stakeholders has been established for the project:

- CHCSA
- PEACH Co-op (Co-ops sector)
- Local Government Association
- The Women's Housing Association (Associations sector)
- SACHA
- Office of Local Government

The Reference Committee will meet as necessary to assist the Project Officer in the work of the project.

Making Contact

David can be contacted as follows :

Telephone : 8362 1022

E-Mail :
mailto:projects@chcsa.org.au

Facsimile : 8362 1944

If you would like to make a comment about rebates and concessions for community housing organisations, please send an e-mail to <mailto:projects@chcsa.org.au>.