



283-285 Payneham Road, Royston Park SA 5070

Ph. (08) 8362 1022 Fax. (08) 8362 1944

E-Mail info@chcsa.org.au Website <http://www.chcsa.org.au>

Weekly E-Bulletin 16/08 ~ Friday 27th June 2008

- **CHCSA Disability Focus Group ~ Update**
 - **Mental Health First Aid Workshop ~ Australasian Housing Institute (AHI) ~ Adelaide 21 and 22 July 2008**
 - **"Change, Challenge, Innovation, Inclusion" ~ NSW Community Housing Conference & Aboriginal Housing Summit to be held in Sydney NSW**
 - **Interim Registration of Interest (ROI) Process for Community Housing Co-operatives ~ How it Works**
 - **Governor's Leadership Foundation, applications close 15 September**
 - **Anti Poverty Week Sunday 12 – Saturday 18 October 2008**
 - **Housing Co-operatives ~ Good News Stories ~ *repeated item***
-

CHCSA Disability Focus Group ~ Update

The **Disability Focus Group** has been an important part of the business of the Sector and CHCSA over many years. However, following a long period where attendance has fluctuated due to the ever increasing demands of running Community Housing Organisations and following broad consultation, the CHCSA has decided to restructure the way in which disability issues are addressed by Sector members.

The CHCSA Associations' Forum, has agreed to address disability issues as they arise within the current structure of the monthly Associations' Forum meetings, and Co-operative Forums will have disability issues as a standing item on their monthly agendas. If there is a substantive Disability issue that needs to be addressed a special Disability Forum will be held and organised by the Policy Committee.

If members have any Disability issues they wish to raise then they can be forwarded to the CHCSA where they can be addressed either through the Associations' Forum, Co-operative's Representative Council and or the Policy Committee. You can contact the CHCSA on 8362 1022 or by sending information to the CHCSA info@chcsa.org.au. Members are of course always welcome to initiate ad-hoc meetings themselves and use the services of the CHCSA.

Mental Health First Aid Workshop ~ Australasian Housing Institute (AHI) ~ Adelaide 21 & 22 July 2008

This workshop, customised for those of you who work on the frontline with clients and the broader community and it will teach you:

1. The signs and symptoms of the most common mental health problems so that you can begin to recognise them and make appropriate referrals to mental health or other services as needed
2. To dispel the myths around mental illness so you can respond appropriately and compassionately to clients with confidence and without fear
3. How to respond to crisis situations such as aggression and disclosure of acute suicidality.

The presenter, **Raichel Green**, has extensive clinical mental health experience and knowledge, and has tailored this course to meet the needs of frontline workers.

Comments from other participants

- Raichel is a fantastic teacher and very knowledgeable
- A lot of my clients have mental health issues, which affect their tenancies. I now have a better understanding of their complex needs
- Excellently facilitated discussion
- Course was excellent - interspersing video and real-life examples was excellent. Raichel's skills were brilliant - lovely communication style, best presenter I've seen in many years
- Course content all directly related to our clients. All disorders discussed can help me better serve our tenancy clients
- Presentation skills of presenter were excellent. Pacing of provision of info was good - not too slow, not overloaded.

Cost: \$295 (AHI members) / \$350 non-members

To find out more or to register online:

Go to their website at <http://www.housinginstitute.org> – follow the link under “Events & Seminars”.

"Change, Challenge, Innovation, Inclusion" ~ NSW Community Housing Conference & Aboriginal Housing Summit to be held in Sydney NSW

Day 1: Tuesday 9th September – Aboriginal Housing Summit

(Aboriginal Housing Office summit for NSW Aboriginal housing providers)

Day 2/3: Wednesday 10th – Thursday 11th September – NSW Community Housing Conference

Affordable, appropriate, accessible and secure housing is one of the cornerstones of building a more inclusive society. Community and Aboriginal housing providers already play an important role in working towards this.

What changes at a national, state and local level are shaping the way we might respond to low – moderate income housing needs?

How might community and Aboriginal housing providers best position themselves to meet those needs into the future?

What role might other stakeholders have?

This event will look at the role these sectors can play within the housing system in the emerging operating environment.

Conference themes:

1. A new national context – opportunities and challenges
2. Innovation in a new environment
3. Community Housing, building social inclusion
4. Developing the industry – human, financial and technological
1. resources
5. Financing, building and providing affordable housing
6. Aboriginal housing and partnerships

Attendance will be of particular value to housing associations, Aboriginal housing providers, Church based providers; cooperatives; tenants of social housing; support and other community partners; peak bodies; national, state and local government; potential private sector partners; academics and others with an interest in social and affordable housing.

Further Information including, Conference Programs and Online Registrations are available from the Conference Website. Please click <http://www.hotelnetwork.com.au/conferences/conferences>.

Interim Registration of Interest (ROI) Process for Community Housing Co-operatives ~ How it Works

For the past 17 months, the CHCSA has been responsible for the management of the **Community Housing Register** for those registering interest in Community Housing Co-operatives.

The CHCSA would like to use this opportunity now to remind Housing Co-operatives and in particular the Membership Officers, Tenant/Member Selection Committees, Tenancy Officers etc, to contact the CHCSA to request information on potential new tenants/members for current vacancies, upcoming vacancies or even to build up your own independent 'Waiting Lists'.

This Register is available for all registered Housing Co-operatives to access, in order to shortlist persons suitable to join your own Co-operative. Just ensure that you provide the CHCSA with a clear list of criteria for the Registrant you are seeking. The CHCSA will do a cross-match of your criteria against the Register Database and send you copies of the Registration forms of those that meet your criteria. It is then the responsibility of your Co-operative to carry out your own eligibility Assessment. The identity of your Co-operative is kept confidential in this process and your Co-operative is not obliged to contact or house each Registrant that is sent to you.

The CHCSA reminds all Housing Co-operatives that you can still maintain your own Waiting Lists, especially with those people that come directly to you through 'word of mouth' etc, but we wish to stress that this will only limit that person to the possibility of being housed with your Co-operative only, if at all. It is suggested that they be encouraged to undertake the Registration of Interest process and note your Co-operative on their Form as a first choice as well as being afforded the opportunity of matching the criteria set by another Co-operative. One of the principles underpinning this process is fair and equitable access to Co-operative Housing for all.

All Registrants remain active on the Register until such time they request for their Registration to be deactivated or they have achieved a successful housing outcome.
For more information on this, please contact the CHCSA on (08) 8362 1022.

You may also like to enquire about attending the Public Information Session, where this process is also explained. The schedules for the Public Information Sessions and the Introduction to Community Housing Course has now been finalised and approved for the July to December 2008 period. Please contact the CHCSA for further information.

Governor's Leadership Foundation, applications close 15 September

The Governor's Leadership Foundation (GLF) was established in 2000. It is a program for the development of emerging and established leaders. Applications are now sought from South Australians to participate in the 2009 program.

The GLF program builds strategic foresight capacity, enhances knowledge of complex issues in society, develops self-awareness and wisdom, broadens networks, and strengthens leadership potential and skills. Numbers are strictly limited. Participants are selected on merit and must have the support of their employers (where applicable). The program runs for ten months, including a structured program of weekly seminar sessions that will stretch people intellectually and personally and three or four weekends away between February and November.

On completion, successful participants will be awarded a Fellowship by the Governor of South Australia.

The GLF is substantially funded by sponsors. Participants and/or their employers are required to fund a contribution for participation in the program of \$7,500 (+GST). Limited part and full scholarships are available for outstanding applicants without means to pay.

For more information and to download a 2009 prospectus and application form go to www.lisa.com.au or contact Raeleen Day at raeleen.day@lisa.com.au

Applications close at 5.00 pm 15 September 2008.

Anti Poverty Week Sunday 12 – Saturday 18 October 2008

Anti-Poverty Week aims to raise awareness of the causes and consequences of poverty and hardship and to encourage people to take action to address these problems. To achieve this, individuals and groups are encouraged to organise or participate in activities during the week.

Help fight poverty and hardship in Australia and overseas by organising an activity during the Week – big or small, local or national.

For information about activities held during Anti-Poverty week, or for resources about poverty and hardship issues go to www.antipovertyweek.org.au or contact 1300 797 290; or contact apw@antipovertyweek.org.au

Housing Co-operatives – Good News Stories ~ repeated item

The Community Housing Council of SA Inc wishes to publicise that Housing Co-operatives house a range of people – some are fit and active, some are young, some are older, some are frailer or have disabilities and need support.

Yet we sometimes hear from Government people and others that Co-operatives are only about people without any serious problems, in contrast to Housing Associations. We know this isn't true but the rest of the world may not.

Does your Co-operative house anybody who falls into the category of being frail or having a disability? If so, we would like to hear from you!

Problems could include physical, emotional or psychological disabilities, or serious long-term illness as well as frailty.

What we want is a short story of about 100-200 words, telling us a bit about the person or persons you house – no names need to be used, or rather you can use a made-up name if you like.

Tell us a bit about the person, what their situation is and maybe how the Co-operative helps them or keeps an eye out for them.

When we have sufficient material, we will put together a publication, which can be used to tell Ministers, Government officers and others the good news stories about Housing Co-operatives.

We would appreciate hearing from you by **30th June 2008**. Please info@chcsa.org.au your submissions to CHCSA.

<u>STAFF</u> Executive Officer - Ciarán Synnott Manager, Admin/Finance/Communications - Maria Demasi Administration Officer - Ante Gajic Senior Policy Officers - Matt Fisher & David Kilner	<u>CASUAL TRAINERS AND VOLUNTEERS</u> Casual Trainers – Liz McCarthy, Graeme Gow, Philip Studt, Kate Reynolds
--	---

Sector Resource Worker - Philip Studt Spanish Speaking Worker - Domingo Garcia	
---	--

DIARY DATES

Friday 4th July	CHCSA Associations' Forum
Wednesday 9th July	CHCSA Central Forum
Friday 11th July	CHCSA Co-op. Rep. Council Meeting
Friday 11th July	CHCSA Policy Committee

To unsubscribe to the CHCSA Weekly E-Bulletin, please click on the following link and place the word "unsubscribe" in the Subject Header. <mailto:info@chcsa.org.au>.

Disclaimer

CHCSA makes every effort to provide accurate and useful information in its E-Bulletin and other publications but accepts no liability for the use of the material by individuals or organisations. Individuals or organisations may need to seek independent professional advice regarding their specific situation.