



Community Housing Council of South Australia Inc (CHCSA)

"The Peak Body for Community Housing Organisations in SA"

Weekly E-Bulletin 26/05 - Friday 29th July 2005

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CHCSA CO-OPERATIVES' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL - UPDATE

Below is a brief summary on some of the recent and current topics and activities of the Co-op Rep. Council. To those that are interested in representing their Co-op sector the CHCSA AGM is fast approaching where you all will have an opportunity in nominating for a position on the Co-op Rep Council for 2005/06.

- The International Co-operative's Day - was celebrated on the 1st of July whereby eighty members attended along with MP Vinni Ciccarello, CHCSA Staff and SACHA Staff. The Celebration was filled with great food, drinks, door prizes, seedlings and fun by all. Special thanks to those involved and to SACHA for their continued support of this Celebration each year.
- It was suggested that the Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA) Program be reviewed/investigated.
- The Funding Agreement - Sector Response Forum held on the 22nd July was a great success. 18 Co-operatives and 12 Associations were represented and it was critical for the CHCSA to receive the feedback and input it has from the Sector. The new Rent Policy was provided to those that were present and this will be discussed at the next meeting of the Co-op Rep Council. For members who haven't seen this document yet, it is available from the SACHA Website at <http://www.sacha.sa.gov.au>.
- Two Co-op Sector Representatives are being sought, to sit on the Reference Group for the Regional Infrastructure Project

- Suggested that the Co-op Rep Council look at 'job descriptions' for positions operating within Co-ops with a view to providing consistency
- It was agreed that the Co-op Rep. Council would provide regular updates to the Sector via this E-Bulletin.

Both current Co-op Sector Reps to the SACHA Board, Liz McCarthy and Graeme Gow are regular guests to the monthly Meetings. The current Members of the Co-op Rep Council are;

Chair Ms Evette Johnson	(Copper Triangle Housing Co-operative)
Megan Heitmann	(Merz Housing Co-operative)
Anne Bartlett	(INCH Co-operative)
Jill Virago	(PEACH Housing Co-operative)
Judi Shore	(North East Housing Co-operative)
Cholly Winter	(Lansones Village Co-operative)
Viv Boxall	(NARU Housing Co-operative)
Alan Watson	(Paris Flat Housing Co-operative)

CHCSA "PUBLIC INFORMATION (P.I.) SESSIONS"

The CHCSA **PISession** provides up-to-date information and hopes to answer questions individuals may have about Community Housing. The CHCSA welcomes and encourages people who are investigating what affordable housing options are available to them or who would like to know more about Community Housing in general, to attend.

Generally, the PISessions are **positive** in their attendance numbers, with many people indicating on our feedback forms that newspaper advertising through the local Messenger as being the first place that they have heard about Community Housing. As with previous articles in the Weekly E-Bulletin, we thank the many organisations and community groups that advertise our fliers and calendars throughout the year and for those that have kindly informed a friend or family member about Community Housing and the PISessions.

The CHCSA will continue to run these Sessions throughout 2005, as it presents a timesaving opportunity for anybody looking into Community Housing as a housing option to decide whether this is something they would like to pursue. And for those individuals that have decided they have the Community Housing spirit, the CHCSA encourages attendance to the **Introduction to Community Housing Course**, which is popularly referred to as the 'ICH Course'.

The dates for the PISessions for the July to December period are;

- August, Wednesday 24th from 7pm - 9pm
- November, Wednesday 23rd from 7pm - 9pm

For further information or to book On-line please click

http://www.chcsa.org.au/education_session.htm

If you would like to book by telephone for either the Public Information Sessions or the Introduction to Community Housing Course, please contact Anthony at the CHCSA on (08) 8362 1022 to ensure your placement. Thank you to SACHA for their ongoing support of the PISessions and the ICH Courses.

INNER CITY HOUSING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE - CONFERENCE

The **Inner City Housing for Young People Conference ~ *Building Opportunity - Building Community*** will be held on **Friday August 12th 2005** at the Adelaide Town Hall from 9am - 5pm.

The **Lord Mayor Michael Harbison** will open the event; Keynote Speaker is **Ken Millroy** - Foyer Federation Board Member and Chief Executive of Aberdeen Foyer, Aberdeen, Scotland.

The **Hon Jay Weatherill**, Minister for Families and Communities and Minister for Housing, will present the State Vision for Housing Young People.

Other interstate and local speakers include; representatives of the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, Housing Industry Association and University Living.

Registration fee is \$110 (includes GST) and includes coffee all day, morning and afternoon tea, lunch and cocktails.

This is a great opportunity to hear the latest ideas about the role of inter-Government linkages in supporting innovative projects and partnerships with the business, private and community sectors, to ensure that support and housing can be delivered to young people who aspire to belong to community and to live, learn and work in the city.

This Conference is organised by St. John's Youth Services - a community based organisation providing accommodation and support services to the most disadvantaged young people in Adelaide - in association with the South Australian Council of Social Service *Closer Than You Think* Campaign.

For further information including the program and registration forms please go to <http://www.stjohnsyouthservices.org.au>

"DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES: WORKING ON OR WORKING WITH?" - AUSTRALASIAN HOUSING INSTITUTE (AHI) SA BRANCH

The AHI SA Branch is pleased to invite interested people to attend the above **FREE** seminar and discussion to be held on **Monday 5th September 2005** at the Stamford Plaza Hotel, North Terrace, Adelaide from 9.15am - 11.30am. (Refreshments will be provided).

Mark Peel of Monash University, will be presenting this seminar and leading the discussion. In this presentation, Mark will examine how residents and local workers in disadvantaged Australian communities identified the goals, outcomes and processes of 'good policy' in public housing, welfare and other areas of provision. He will focus on the issues that they prioritised, such as trust and distrust and the importance of being listened to, and on the difficulties - as well as possibilities - they associated with community consultation, redevelopment and regeneration. Against the implicit and explicit notion that these communities await importations of social capital, ideas or values from the outside, he will consider the strengths and capacities they already exhibit, and emphasise the importance of approaches based upon collaboration and hope.

Please RSVP your attendance by Thursday 25th August 2005 to AHI. For further information and Registration Forms please go to <http://www.chcsa.org.au/docs/AHIform.pdf>

"PROPERTY MANAGEMENT" SERVICE AVAILABLE TO COMMUNITY HOUSING ORGANISATIONS (CHOs) ~ Mr Chris Truscott

"In my time as a property manager in the community housing sector I became very aware of difficulties faced by both housing associations and housing co-operatives. Issues relating to lack of finances, maintenance issues and political agendas were all too common to many groups in the sector. Having worked as a property manager I dealt with many different people and issues that arise in community housing.

This was most evident in the hardship that some CHOs have in undertaking a number of the property management roles including house inspections, lease renewals and dealings with the Residential Tenancies Tribunal.

These tasks can be made more difficult to undertake when members of CHOs are familiar with one another, which can further add to what already maybe strained relations and role ambiguity between members.

I am a qualified social worker who has worked in the Community Housing sector for 10 years. I started in 1995 as a support worker in the Supported Accommodation Assistance program (SAAP). In the last 6 years I worked for one of the larger Community Housing Associations as a property manager.

It is in this instance that I wish to offer a service that understands and has empathy with CHOs when it comes to dealing with people. The service is not looking to manage the properties, but offer a service for hire that keeps the control in the hands of the CHOs.

*If you or your CHO are having difficulties in any of the above issues and would like to discuss possible options, I encourage you to contact me through the CHCSA". **Chris Truscott.***

If you would like to speak with Chris Truscott, please contact the CHCSA in the first instance on (08) 8362 1022 or via e-mail to <mailto:info@chcsa.org.au> for his contact details.

NEW INITIATIVES IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING - AN INFORMATION FORUM ~ repeated item

The CHCSA, in conjunction with the [Affordable Housing Consortium of SA Inc](#), is holding a forum on new initiatives in affordable housing. The forum is being held in response to announcements about affordable housing in the recently released State Housing Plan.

The Forum is scheduled for **Wednesday 7th September 2005 from 1pm - 4.30pm**. The Venue is the **Torrens and Trinity Rooms** at the **Payneham Library Complex**, Corner of O.G. Road and Turner Street, Felixstow.

The purpose of the Forum is;

- to help inform CHOs about current initiatives locally and interstate in affordable housing
- to give CHOs the opportunity to provide some initial input into the development of affordable housing strategies in South Australia.

The Program includes;

- **Mr Phil Fagan-Schmidt**, Manager of the Affordable Housing Initiatives Unit, will talk about the role of the Unit in light of the 'State Housing Plan
- **Mr Brendan Moran**, General Manager of SACHA, will give his perspective on affordable housing
- **Mr Matthew Woodward**, Executive Officer of MACHA, will talk about MACHA's current affordable housing initiative in the City
- **Ms Vicki Lachlan**, Chairperson of the Affordable Housing Consortium, will discuss two proposals by the Consortium to assist in expanding affordable housing
- **Mr Ciarán Synnott**, Executive Officer of CHCSA, will give some examples of affordable housing interstate, based on his attendance at the recent National Affordable Housing Conference.

Please RSVP to the CHCSA on (08) 8362 1022 or via e-mail to <mailto:info@chcsa.org.au> by Friday 2nd September 2005 at the latest.

STAFF Executive Officer - Ciarán Synnott Manager, Admin/Finance/Communications - Maria Demasi Administration Officer - Ante Gajic Senior Policy Officers - Matt Fisher & David Kilner Spanish Speaking Worker - Domingo Garcia	CASUAL TRAINERS AND VOLUNTEERS Casual Trainers – Liz McCarthy, David Edwards and Graeme Gow Volunteers – Renfrey Ansell and Evette Johnson
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DIARY DATES

Wednesday 3 rd August 2005	CHCSA Disability Focus Group (DFG)
Friday 5 th August 2005	CHCSA Management Committee Meeting
Monday 8 th August 2005	CHCSA Hills & Southern Forum
Tuesday 9 th August 2005	CHCSA Northern Forum
Wednesday 10 th August 2005	CHCSA Central Forum
Saturday 13 th August 2005	CHCSA Spanish Speaking Forum
Wednesday 24 th August 2005	CHCSA Co-op Rep. Council
WEDNESDAY 24TH AUGUST	CHCSA PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION ON COMMUNITY HOUSING
Friday 2 nd September 2005	CHCSA Associations' Forum
Wednesday 7 th September 2005	CHCSA Disability Focus Group Meeting
Wednesday 7 th September 2005	New Initiatives in Affordable Housing - Information Session
Monday 12 th September 2005	CHCSA Hills & Southern Forum
Tuesday 13 th September 2005	CHCSA Northern Forum
Wednesday 14 th September 2005	CHCSA Central Forum
Wednesday 28 th September 2005	CHCSA Co-op Rep Council Meeting

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