



Community Housing Council of South Australia Inc (CHCSA)

"The Peak Body for Community Housing Organisations in SA"

Weekly E-Bulletin 29/05 - Friday 19th August 2005

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2005 NATIONAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY HOUSING – CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS 12TH OF SEPTEMBER

Applications for the 2005 National Awards for Excellence in Community Housing will close on **Monday 12th September** and community housing providers are urged to get their applications started.

The Awards, established in 1998, aim to recognise the outstanding achievements of community housing organisations. They will be presented on the **27th October** at the conference dinner being held as part of the National Housing Conference in Perth.

The 2005 Awards will be presented for six categories:

- overall excellence (\$7,000 in prize money)
- excellence in service to tenants and communities (\$4,000 in prize money)
- excellence in service to tenants and communities in remote and rural areas (\$ 4,000 in prize money)
- excellence in organisational management (\$4,000 in prize money)
- excellence in asset management (\$4,000 in prize money)
- excellence in corporate governance (\$4,000 in prize money)

The National Awards are open to all not for profit, and local government organisations, involved in the development and delivery of community housing. Entry forms and selection criteria for all categories are available from the National Community Housing Forum's (NCHF) website <http://www.nCHF.org.au> or by ringing NCHF on (02) 9211 0422 or via e-mail to <mailto:awards@nCHF.org.au>. **Remember the closing date is the 12th of September!**

TRAINING FOR CHOs IN HOW TO ACCESS REBATES AND CONCESSIONS

CHOs are reminded that free training is available in how to access property-based rebates and concessions; for example in regard to Council rates, Water and Sewerage rates and the Emergency Services Levy.

Some CHOs seem to be unaware that new, streamlined systems were introduced last year, which should make it easier for you to access these concessions.

A free training session is available. The time and venue are flexible - usually the trainer will come to a venue of your choice. After-hours sessions and country trips can be arranged.

If you would like to access this training, please contact Frances Richards at SACHA on (08) 8207 0151 to discuss your requirements.

'FIRST AID CERTIFICATE' TRAINING - FREE TO THE SECTOR ~ from SACHA **Are you interested in gaining a First Aid Certificate for free?**

SACHA as part of their extensive training calendar, has arranged for the Red Cross to deliver this 3-day course to the community housing sector on Wednesday 31st August, Thursday 1st & Friday 2nd September 2005. The Course will run from 9am - 4pm each day and is offered at Bagster House, Salisbury North, and Red Cross at Marleston.

Places are still available, so please contact Frances Richards, Education & Training Co-ordinator on (08) 8207 0233 by Tuesday 23rd August to confirm your booking.

HOMELESSNESS, HEALTH AND HOUSING EXPO

The **2005 Homelessness, Health and Housing Expo** will be held this year on **Tuesday 15th November 2005** at Whitmore Square in the City from 10am - 2pm.

This is a multi agency event with representation from across the homeless, health and housing sectors. The Expo provides informal opportunities for interaction with a variety of organisations and homeless people and it's **free!** There will be live music and a **free** BBQ for all.

This year, the CHCSA will have a marquee and stall at the Expo, and invites registrations of interest from CHOs who may want to display and promote their organisation on the day.

For further information or to register your interest, please contact Maria at the CHCSA on (08) 8362 1022 or via e-mail to <mailto:info@chcsa.org.au>.

'COMMUNITY BUILDING, PARTNERSHIPS AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE' NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Community building has emerged in almost every institution and government in the country. Yet precisely how '*community*' is to be built remains an open question, and what the role of governments and large institutions should be in this process has yet to attract any real consensus across the social and political spectrum.

Small voluntary groups, informal family and community networks, and small businesses remain the agencies that generate most of the real community building that happens.

Governments, large institutions and corporates may help or hinder this process. How can they help? What kind of partnerships are of genuine long-term value in community building? These are two of the critical questions this two-day conference will explore.

Interest in social enterprise has also emerged rapidly. It too remains subject to a wide variety of interpretations. Social enterprise may mean the adoption of more business-like methods in not-for-profits, or it may mean the discovery of collective economic power on the part of a marginalised community. Does the corporatisation of Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) enhance community building? In what circumstances? These are also critical questions for this conference.

This event is an opportunity for community and business leaders, social entrepreneurs, policy makers and investors to do a national stocktake on community building, partnerships and social enterprise to determine where we are heading and what needs to be done to produce real impacts.

This conference will be held on Thursday 8th and Friday 9th September 2005 at the Darebin Arts Centre in Melbourne. To view Registration Fees and complete the online Registration Form please go to <http://www.partnerships.org.au/Forms/NationalConferenceForm.htm>.

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.

<p><u>STAFF</u> 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</p>	<p><u>CASUAL TRAINERS AND VOLUNTEERS</u> Casual Trainers – Liz McCarthy, David Edwards and Graeme Gow Volunteers – Renfrey Ansell and Evette Johnson</p>
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DIARY DATES

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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