



Community Housing Council of SA Inc. (CHCSA)

"The Peak Body for Community Housing Organisations in South Australia"

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Weekly E-Bulletin 35/07 - Friday 7th December 2007

- **A New Federated Structure for Housing Co-operatives & Smaller Housing Associations? ~ Updated Information**
 - **2007-08 CHCSA Management Committee Members**
 - **Responding to Homelessness in South Australia - A Call for Contributions: the April 2008 Special Edition of Parity**
 - **Community Housing Register ~ Call for Expressions of Interest to be part of the System Development Steering Group ~ Office for Community Housing ~ timeline extended**
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A New Federated Structure for Housing Co-operatives & Smaller Housing Associations? ~ Updated Information

For some time now, the CHCSA has been promoting ideas for new infrastructure arrangements in the sector. We reported on progress with these ideas at the OCH Information Day in June 2007, looking at two main options: 1) a 'service-network' of new, regionally-based service provider organisations; and 2) a 'common equity' model similar to the *Common Equity Housing Ltd* (CEHL) structure in Victoria

Then in August 2007, as an initiative of the **Co-operative Representative Council**, we ran the '*State Seminar ~ Small Community Housing Organisations: Making a Future*'. At this meeting we heard from two representatives from CEHL, about how their organisation works. Those attending were generally impressed with the level of support and service that CEHL provides to its members, being over 100 small, independent Housing Co-operatives. The meeting agreed to establish a working group through the CHCSA to investigate and pursue the development of a new structure.

The CHCSA has uploaded updated information on this topic. Please click <http://www.chcsa.org.au> to access or download the document. Please forward all feedback to the CHCSA via the Website Feedback Form or via direct <mailto:info@chcsa.org.au>

2007-08 CHCSA Management Committee Members

The CHCSA wish to advise Members that the first Management Committee meeting following our AGM in October, the following members have been elected to their respective positions.

Chairperson	Mr Tony Roach	(Frederic Ozanam Housing Association)
Deputy Chair	Ms Evette Johnson	(Copper Triangle Housing Co-operative)

Treasurer	Ms Kerry Gray	(Red Shield Housing Association)
Secretary	Mr Ciarán Synnott	(CHCSA)
Associations' Rep.	Mr D'Arcy Button	(Minlaton & District Centenary Cottage Homes Housing Association)
Co-operatives' Rep.	Ms Julia Hennekam	(Northern Suburbs Housing Co-operative)
Co-operatives' Rep.	Ms Sue Grant	(PERCH Housing Co-operative)

Responding to Homelessness in South Australia

A Call for Contributions: the April 2008 Special Edition of *Parity*

The April 2008 Edition of *Parity* will be devoted to discussing homelessness and in particular, the response to homelessness in South Australia. The idea for this edition developed out of the very strong response to the chapter in the April 2007 *Gimme Shelter: Responding to Primary Homelessness* edition of *Parity* where key South Australian services involved in responding to primary homelessness articulated over several articles, a distinctive model of responding to primary homelessness in South Australia.

In addition, there have been many articles in *Parity* from South Australian contributors to the discussion of the manifold issues and themes connected with the understanding of and response to homelessness in Australia since the publication went national in 1998. Indeed, it would be fair to say that there has been both a disproportionate number of contributions as well as a developing distinctively South Australian response to homelessness that can be said to have found expression in ideas connected with the social inclusion framework.

The April 2008 *Responding to Homelessness in South Australia* Special Edition of *Parity* will seek to discuss all aspects of the homelessness in South Australia. The edition will seek to comprehensively set out the parameters of all the issues connected with the nature and understanding of homelessness in the State. Similarly, the edition will set out the framework of the distinctive if not uniquely South Australian response to homelessness.

The twin aims of this project will be to provide a vehicle for all those interested in homelessness in South Australia to participate in this discussion, and to develop a comprehensive resource for all those wanting to find out more about what is happening in South Australia. Thus the publication will be made widely available throughout South Australia and in those states and territories wanting to learn from the South Australian experience.

The publication will be launched at a presentation at the May 2008 National Homelessness Conference in Adelaide.

For further information, please click <http://www.chcsa.org.au> to access their flyer from the CHCSA Website.

Community Housing Register ~ Call for Expressions of Interest to be part of the System Development Steering Group ~ Office for Community Housing ~ timeline extended

A tender has been called to appoint a developer to work with us to build the **Community Housing Register**, a web-based IT tool that will centrally record **Registrations for Community Housing**. The selection process will be finalised before Christmas with a provider contracted to commence development in the New Year.

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to provide feedback along the way and has helped to frame system requirements.

As we enter the system development phase, it is more crucial than ever that what we build is workable for you, as providers of Community Housing. We therefore invite Sector Representation onto the Steering Group who will work alongside Developers to guide design and implementation of the Community Housing Register. It is anticipated this group will meet at least monthly during development (approximately 6 months) commencing in the New Year.

The Steering Group will also comprise representatives from the Office for Community Housing, Housing SA and the Community Housing Council of SA. If you are interested in being part of this Steering Group, please complete the **Expression of Interest Form** (from CHCSA Website, click <http://www.chcsa.org.au> to download the form). Return the completed Form to the Office for Community Housing at the address on the Form. **The closing date for Expressions of Interest has been extended until the end of January 2008.**

Four positions are available on the Steering Group (two Association representatives and 2 Co-operatives representatives) however, everyone expressing their interest will be invited to be part of a larger Reference Group who will play an important role in testing system functionality at key milestones.

For an overview of how the Community Housing Register will operate, visit our website at www.communityhousing.sa.gov.au and go to News/Sector Information Day Presentations/Community Housing Register, to take a look at the presentation provided at the Sector Information Day held in June.

If you have any questions about this project, please contact Lynley Street, Project Officer at the Office for Community Housing on (08) 8207 0131 or via <mailto:lynley.street@dfc.sa.gov.au>.

<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 Sector Resource Worker - Philip Studt Spanish Speaking Worker - Domingo Garcia</p>	<p><u>CASUAL TRAINERS AND VOLUNTEERS</u> Casual Trainers – Liz McCarthy, Graeme Gow, Philip Studt, Kate Reynolds</p>
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DIARY DATES

Saturday 8th December	CHCSA Spanish Speaking Forum
Monday 11th December	CHCSA Hills & Southern Forum
Wednesday 12th December	CHCSA Central Forum

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

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