

Community Housing Council of SA Inc. (CHCSA)

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

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Weekly E-Bulletin 35/05 - Friday 30th September 2005

Contents:

- **CHCSA Memberships 2005/06 and other Interesting 'Tid Bits'**
- **Regional Infrastructure Networks Working Party - last call for registrations of interest for Housing Associations and Housing Co-ops Reps.**
- **Community Housing Application System (CHAS) Update ~ from Lynley Street, Project Officer at SACHA**
- **Latest Information from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) for Non-Profit Organisations**
- **State Wide Energy Coalition (SWEC) ~ a Public Discussion**
- **Disability Forum "Social Inclusion and Unmet Need" ~ Dignity for Disabled**
- **CHCSA 2005 Country Forum, AGM and Member's Celebration Dinner**

CHCSA Memberships 2005/06 and other Interesting 'Tid Bits'

The CHCSA would like to extend its deepest gratitude to all CHOs and the Sector for their continued support. We thought you might find the following statistics of interest.

As at the date of this E-Bulletin, the CHCSA Memberships consist of the following;

- Of the 46 Housing Associations (according to our Records) - 41 of which are current financial members. This represents **90%** of Housing Associations are represented
- Of the 71 Housing Co-operatives (according to our Records) - 59 of which are current financial members. This represents **83%** of Housing Co-operatives are represented
- **Overall the CHCSA represents 86% of Community Housing Organisations in South Australia**
- The CHCSA currently has **7** Associate Memberships
- The CHCSA currently has **4** Subscribers in South Australia, **5** Inter-State Subscribers and **6** Overseas Subscribers.

~ The CHCSA facilitates 7 monthly meetings or forums.

~ The CHCSA facilitates 2 by-monthly meetings.

~ Since the launch of the new CHCSA Website on the 17th December 2004, the website has received approximately 4,638 'hits' which represents approximately 129 'hits' per week.

~The CHCSA Weekly E-Bulletin has a current database of almost 400 recipients, 195 of which are community housing associations and co-operatives members and tenants.

- ~ The CHCSA currently posts out approximately 20 "Community Housing Information Kits" per week.
- ~ The CHCSA currently receives approximately 45 'enquiries' and 'information calls' per week.

Regional Infrastructure Networks Working Party ~ last call for registrations of interest for Housing Associations and Housing Co-ops Reps.

As a follow-up from the CHCSA Weekly E-Bulletin 25/05 - Friday 22nd July 2005, the CHCSA wish to remind CHOs that representative positions are still available on the above Working Party.

A copy of the **Terms of Reference** for the Working Party can be accessed via the CHCSA's Website. Please go to <http://www.chcsa.org.au/docs/RegionalNetworks-Terms-of-Reference.pdf>. Further information can be obtained by contacting David Kilner at CHCSA on (08) 8362 1022 or via e-mail to <mailto:info@chcsa.org.au>.

Community Housing Application System (CHAS) Update ~ from Lynley Street, Project Officer at SACHA

You may notice a name change for this project, previously referred to as the "New Application System"! Given once we have one it won't be new anymore, we have decided to call the project the "**Community Housing Application System (CHAS)**" from this point forward.

In case you were wondering why you haven't heard anything about this project for a while, I have been on 5 weeks leave and have just returned.

Thank you to all who attended our "**Conversations**" held May 25th and 26th at the Riviera Function Centre. The issues, questions and comments raised were thought provoking and have certainly influenced our thinking about the design of a new system.

We continued our "**Conversation**" with the Associations on September 15th to further explore specific issues raised and agree on how the new system will respond. In coming weeks I will prepare for your comment, a summary of how we see the **Community Housing Application System** will work. This will be distributed to all CHOs and posted on SACHA's website at <http://www.sacha.sa.gov.au>.

A **draft** Application Form will follow for consultation later this year. I would appreciate examples of CHO application forms to help decide what needs to be included! **Please** forward these to me (if you haven't done so already, thanks to those of you that have!) at SACHA, GPO Box 1669, Adelaide, SA 5001 or e-mail me at <mailto:lynley.street@dfc.sa.gov.au>.

Latest Information from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) for Non-Profit Organisations

- **Induction Package for new Administrators** - If you are a new treasurer, office bearer or employee involved in the administration of a non-profit organisation - such as a charity, club, society or association - this package introduces you to the information and services we have to assist you in your role. The package is also useful for existing non-profit administrators, as it contains an overview of non-profit tax issues and links to other sections of their Website. To view or print this Pack please go to <http://ato.gov.au/print.asp?doc=/content/64227.htm>.

- **ATO Mail Out to Non-Profit Organisation Registered for GST** - In October 2005, the Tax Office will write to approximately 16,000 non-profit organisations that are voluntarily registered for GST with a view to encouraging them to **de-register**.

The main purpose of the mail out is to help these organisations **clarify** whether they are eligible to cancel their GST registration, and if so, assist them in undertaking this option if desired.

The mail out comprises:

- a letter
- a questionnaire
- the fact sheet [Cancelling your GST registration](#), and
- an [Application to cancel registration](#) form.

The questionnaire helps recipients to self-assess their eligibility to cancel their GST registration. If an organisation determines it is eligible to cancel its GST registration. Recipients need to complete the questionnaire and return it in the envelope provided **whether or not** they choose to cancel their GST registration.

The **GST registration turnover threshold** for a non-profit organisation is **\$100,000** (\$50,000 for other organisations). **This means a non-profit organisation is not required to be registered for GST unless its annual turnover is \$100,000 or more.**

A non-profit organisation may voluntarily register for GST if its annual turnover is under \$100,000. This may be because it wants to claim back the credits for the GST it pays in the price of goods and services it purchases for use in its activities. However, the decision to remain voluntarily registered for GST is one that ought to be based on the administrative needs of the organisation.

Benefits of not being registered for GST

Non-profit organisations with an annual turnover **under** \$100,000 may prefer not to register for GST because they consider that it is better to forgo the GST credits that may be available, rather than undertake the tax obligations that registration places on them. These tax obligations include:

- paying GST on memberships
- paying GST on other sales (unless they are GST-free or input taxed)
- issuing tax invoices for sales of \$55 or more, and
- completing and lodging *Business activity statements*.

This is the best way the ATO can ensure that non-profit organisations not only have an understanding of their entitlements and obligations but that they are compliant. The ATO is available for phone assistance by calling **13 28 66** between 8.00am and 6.00pm, Monday to Friday. Your Accountant or Auditor can further assist you with once you receive this letter from the ATO.

State Wide Energy Coalition (SWEC) ~ a Public Discussion

SWEC will be hosting a Public Discussion on **"Energy Supplies and Vulnerable Households: A Shared Responsibility?"** on Tuesday 11th October 2005 at the Conservation Centre, 120 Wakefield Street, Adelaide from 6.30om - 8.00pm (*light refreshments available*).

Take this opportunity to join a public discussion and question time with **Patrick Gibbons** from the National Energy Retailers' Association of Australia. Please RSVP to Richard Smith by Friday 7th October 2005 on (08) 8353 0243 or via e-mail to <mailto:swecsa@hotmail.com>.

Disability Forum ~ "Social Inclusion and Unmet Need" ~ from Disability for Disabled

All interested people are invited to attend the above Disability Forum to be held on **Saturday 29th October 2005** from 1.30pm - 4.00pm (*free entry*) in the Union House, Level 4, Eclipse Function Room, Adelaide University. The Venue is wheelchair accessible. Hearing loops, AUSLAN interpreters and personal assistance is available if required. Please contact Disability Advocacy and Complaints Service of SA (DACSSA) on (08) 8324 5699 to arrange for any Special Needs.

Who's Invited? People with a disability, service providers, carers family and people who wish to support the critical need for change in Disability Service in South Australia.

What is the Future? Come prepared to ask questions. Special Guest Speakers

include:

- **Monsignor David Cappelletti** - Chair of Premier's Social Inclusion Committee and Member of State Government, Cabinet Executive
- **Ms Jane Lomax-Smith** - The Hon Minister for Education
- **Dr Christopher Cain** - President of the Australian Medical Association (SA)
- **Mr Phil Martin** - Chief Executive Officer, Minda Inc
- **Mr David Holst** - Parent and Spokesperson, Dignity for Disabled

CHCSA 2005 Country Forum, AGM and Member's Celebration Dinner ~ Guest Speaker is the Minister for Housing, the Hon Jay Weatherill MP. The CHCSA wish to remind members that our **2005 AGM** will be held on **Friday 21ST October 2005** at the [Sunnybrae Function Centre, Regency Park](#).

The day will start with the **Country and Remote CHOs Forum from 10am - 3.00pm** (*includes lunch*). This will be followed by the **AGM from 4.15pm - 5.30pm**. Country and Remote CHOs have been sent their information packs today for the Forum.

The day will conclude with a **Celebration Dinner** for Members and invited Guests arriving from 6.00pm. The formalities, which feature the **Minister for Housing, the Hon Jay Weatherill MP** as our Guest Speaker will be from 6.30pm - 7.00pm. This will be followed by the dinner, which includes a wonderful 3-course meal, refreshments, entertainment and give-aways.

RSVP's are due by Monday 17th October 2005, please remember to advise of any special dietary requirements.

It is important that Members note the following;

- *Community Housing Organisations **MUST** be current financial members of the Community Housing Council of SA Inc (CHCSA) to be eligible to vote at the AGM and to attend the Member's Dinner*
- *Representative/s **MUST** attend the AGM in order to be eligible to attend the Member's Dinner*
- *Attendance at the Member's Dinner is limited per CHO that meet the above 2 points*

If you have any questions or would like to confirm the current financial status of your Organisation, please contact Maria at the CHCSA on (08) 8362 1022. Please book in by calling the CHCSA or via e-mail to <mailto:info@chcsa.org.au>. (remember to advise of special dietary requirements).

<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

Monday 3rd October 2005	PUBLIC HOLIDAY
Wednesday 5 th October 2005	CHCSA Disability Focus Group Meeting
Friday 7 th October 2005	CHCSA Associations' Forum
Saturday 8 th October 2005	CHCSA Spanish Speaking Forum
Monday 10 th October 2005	CHCSA Hills & Southern Forum
Tuesday 11 th October 2005	CHCSA Northern Forum
Wednesday 12 th October 2005	CHCSA Central Forum
Friday 21st October 2005	CHCSA Country & Remote CHOs Forum, AGM and Member's Celebration Dinner - Sunnybrae Function Centre

If you want to unsubscribe to the 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.