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Weekly E-Bulletin 05/08 ~ Friday 29th February 2008

- **Positions Vacant ~ Comhouse**
 - **Affordable Housing Rental Projects ~ Call for Proposals ~ from DFC**
 - **Residential Energy Efficiency Scheme (REES) ~ Department for Energy, Transport and Infrastructure**
 - **Asset Management Planning Workshop ~ Comhouse and CHCSA ~ *repeated item***
 - **CHCSA Workshop ~ Prime Minister's 2020 Vision Summit ~ *repeated item***
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Positions Vacant ~ Comhouse Co-operative Ltd

Comhouse Co-operative Ltd., is seeking a suitable person to undertake the role of receptionist and clerical worker. Intermediate computer literacy is essential.

An understanding of the community sector and or previous experience would be an advantage but not essential.

Comhouse is an equal opportunity employer and all applications will be considered on their merit.

Applications can be forwarded to <mailto:admin@comhouse.org.au> or interested individuals may contact:

NICK COCKRAM
GENERAL MANAGER
COMHOUSE CO-OPERATIVE LTD
Ph: 8235 1422
Fax: 8235 1566

Affordable Housing Rental Projects ~ Call for Proposals ~ from DFC

The **Affordable Housing Innovations Program** is an initiative of the State Government to facilitate the delivery of innovative, affordable housing solutions for low to moderate income South Australians, by working with the private sector, government agencies and community partners. **The objectives of the program are to:**

- develop investment strategies, in collaboration with government, private, local government and community partners, to maximise value for money and to address the strategic housing priorities of South Australia
- implement innovative housing solutions not previously undertaken by Government, which may have valuable demonstration/ expansion potential
- contribute to a diverse portfolio of responses across a number of target groups, tenures, and locations
- provide a greater diversity of housing options that match the changing community profile
- promote planning initiatives to facilitate improved affordable and high needs housing supply.

A Call for Proposals is now sought from potential non-government and private partners who are interested in providing affordable rental housing to individuals and to families with low to moderate incomes through projects that are funded in part by:

- philanthropic contributions
- equity contributions by the project partner raising debt finance (secured against the project or other partner properties) to deliver the project. No government guarantees will be available to support debt raising.

All proposals must demonstrate that projects are financially sustainable, that is the project's eligibility criteria and the rents applied will need to meet both affordability and target group objectives. The proposals must also ensure that rent revenue can meet all costs of the project once it is developed. Costs include debt servicing, tenancy management and maintenance (capital and responsive).

Closing Date for all Submission is **Monday 31st March 2008**.

Further Information and a Grant Application Form is available from the CHCSA Website. Please click <mailto:info@chcsa.org.au> to view or download the document.

Residential Energy Efficiency Scheme (REES) ~ Department for Energy, Transport and Infrastructure

I am writing to advise you of a new **Residential Energy Efficiency Scheme (REES)** which has recently been announced for South Australia, and which is likely to be of interest to your membership. A letter informing you as to the REES is attached.

The scheme continues the Government's commitment to fighting climate change. Its primary objectives are to cut greenhouse gas emissions and improve energy efficiency within the residential sector.

The REES requires electricity and gas retailers in South Australia to achieve targets in relation to delivery of energy audits to low income families; and implementation of energy efficiency measures (such as ceiling insulation, draught proofing and more efficient appliances) in households. The REES will commence on 1 January 2009 and will be administered by the Essential Services Commission of South Australia.

In achieving their targets, retailers are expected to offer incentives to households to adopt energy saving measures. This is likely to be at little or no cost to the householder, particularly for those within the priority group of low income households. All South Australian households will be able to participate. They will also be able to take up incentives offered by any retailer, not just their own.

The REES presents an opportunity for energy efficiency businesses, welfare groups, local governments, manufacturers and other service providers to work in partnership with energy retailers in achieving their targets.

The Government has released a consultation paper to obtain stakeholder feedback as to key design elements and ensure the scheme is appropriately and effectively implemented. The paper can be accessed at <http://www.climatechange.sa.gov.au>. Written comments are invited by Friday, 4 April 2008. The Government will also be conducting a number of forums and meetings during March to engage directly with stakeholders. Details of these forums will be published on the REES website, accessed through the above link.

Asset Management Planning Workshop ~ Comhouse and CHCSA ~ repeated item

In response to the PMS Stock Inspection reports, Comhouse in conjunction with the Community Housing Council of SA (CHCSA) will be hosting a Workshop for Housing Associations and Housing Co-operatives.

Purpose:

- Allow Comhouse to explain to members the process to be used to validate, develop and finalise major maintenance action plans, based on the data supplied by PMS and Asset Services Division of DFC
- Allow members to have a dialogue with Comhouse and answer any questions that members may have concerning Comhouse's response to the Comhouse obligation for members major maintenance obligations
- Allow Housing Associations and Housing Co-operatives who are not members of Comhouse to gain a better understanding of the asset planning process
- Allow CHCSA to collect the concerns and issues raised by Housing Associations and Housing Co-operatives, with a view to providing feedback to Asset Services Division
- Facilitate information exchange and networking between Housing Associations and Housing Co-operatives

This workshop is open to all Housing Associations and Housing Co-operatives - you do not need to be a Comhouse member to attend.

The Workshop will be held on Thursday 13th March 2008 from 10.30am - 12.30pm in the main Hall of the Payneham Community Centre, 374 Payneham Road, Payneham

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL. Please RSVP your attendance by contact the CHCSA on (08) 8362 1022 or via <mailto:info@chcsa.org.au>.

CHCSA Workshop ~ Prime Minister's 2020 Vision Summit ~ repeated item

As you are probably aware, the Prime Minister has announced that he will be convening an **Australian 2020 Summit** on the 19th and 20th of April 2008. In his announcement the Prime Minister said,

"The reason we are doing this is because we believe the nation faces serious long term challenges which go well beyond the normal electoral cycle.

We also believe that part of the problem in the past has been that previous Governments have been far too short sighted in their approach to these long term challenges which are there staring us in the face.

Another reason is this: we believe, as a Government, that there is much expertise, energies, ideas, and enthusiasm, which lie beyond the ranks of Government itself. And we, therefore, want to open the doors of this great parliament building to the nation's best and brightest brains in order to harness those ideas to shape the nation's long term future.

It's time for the nation to come together to bring forward all of our ideas, talents and energies to deal with this nation's long term challenges."

One of the nominated areas to be discussed at the Summit will be **"strengthening communities, supporting families and social inclusion"**. Housing fits well within this framework.

As a contribution to the work of the Summit, CHCSA is holding a **lunchtime workshop** for anybody interested in mapping how the Community Housing Sector could contribute to the wellbeing of Australia in 2020. The workshop is open to members, staff and tenants of Community Housing providers, as well as government officers and anyone else with an interest in the future of Community Housing.

We will record your ideas and contribute them to the national melting point.

The workshop will be held from 12.30pm to 2pm on Monday 3rd March in our meeting room at 283-285 Payneham Rd Royston Park.

RSVP's are essential. **Please RSVP by Wednesday 27th February.** We will provide tea and coffee but please bring your own lunch.

More information about the Summit can be found at:
http://www.pm.gov.au/media/Interview/2008/interview_0055.cfm.

STAFF	CASUAL TRAINERS AND VOLUNTEERS
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	Casual Trainers – Liz McCarthy, Graeme Gow, Philip Studt, Kate Reynolds

DIARY DATES

Monday 3rd March	CHCSA Workshop - Prime Minister's 2020 Vision Summit
Wednesday 5th March	CHCSA Disability Focus Group
Friday 7th March	CHCSA Associations' Forum
Saturday 8th March	CHCSA Spanish Speaking Forum
Thursday 13th March	Asset management Planning Workshop
Monday 10th March	ADELAIDE CUP PUBLIC HOLIDAY
Friday 14th March	CHCSA Co-operatives Representative Council
Friday 14th March	CHCSA Policy Committee
Monday 17th March	CHCSA Hills & Southern 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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