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**Weekly E-Bulletin 08/08 ~ Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2008**

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- **Australasian Housing Researchers' Conference**
  - **Drug Awareness for Property Inspections and Site Visits ~ Office for Community Housing**
  - **Residential Energy Efficiency Scheme (REES) ~ Community Sector Consultation**
  - **Upcoming Events**
  - **Towards a Common Equity Model in South Australia ~ A Special Forum for Housing Associations and Co-operatives ~ repeated item**
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**Australasian Housing Researchers' Conference**

The Third Annual Australasian Housing Researchers' Conference will be held in Melbourne from 18-20 June. This year, the conference theme is ***Housing Research for a Sustainable Affordable Future***.

Community Housing Federation of Australia (CHFA), is currently preparing an abstract for a joint presentation with another member of the 'community housing mafia' from last year's conference, Tony Gilmour.

For more information about the conference, please see [www.rmit.edu.au/dsc/research/AHRC08](http://www.rmit.edu.au/dsc/research/AHRC08)

**Drug Awareness for Property Inspections and Site Visits ~ Office for Community Housing**

The Office for Community Housing in conjunction with SA Police is pleased to offer this one-hour information session open to all Community Housing Organisations to attend.

**The session will cover areas such as;**

- Identifying the signs of illegal use of a property
- Clandestine Drug Labs and cultivation of crops
- What to do with this information and how to go about reporting these signs
- How to do this in a safe manner and avoid confrontation or risking personal safety
- And, more.

This Session will be held in a Central location only and will be confirmed upon your booking. The Session will be held on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2008 for 9.30am - 10.30am.

Bookings are essential. To book your place, please contact the Learning and Development Team at the Office for Community Housing via phone on (08) 8207 0171, or <mailto:communityhousing@dfc.sa.gov.au> or via bookings <http://wwwcommunityhousing.sa.gov.au>.

## Residential Energy Efficiency Scheme (REES) ~ Community Sector Consultation

A new **Residential Energy Efficiency Scheme (REES)** is being implemented for South Australia commencing 1 January 2009.

The REES requires energy retailers in South Australia to achieve targets for improving energy efficiency in households, through implementing measures such as ceiling insulation, draught proofing and more efficient appliances. They are also required to deliver energy audits to low income households. Further details on the REES, including a Consultation Paper are available through the <http://www.climatechange.sa.gov.au> website, or click [http://www.dte.sa.gov.au/energy/government\\_programs/REES.html](http://www.dte.sa.gov.au/energy/government_programs/REES.html).

The Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure is holding a **community sector forum** on the REES at SACOSS, 47 King William Rd, Unley at **11am on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008**. This will be an opportunity for the community sector to learn more about the scheme and provide feedback to ensure it is implemented appropriately and effectively and meets the needs of low income households in South Australia, particularly as there are likely to be energy price increases from emission trading schemes. Initial expressions of interest to attend can be sent to <mailto:sacoss@sacoss.org.au> by 28 March 2008.

### Upcoming Events

- **5<sup>th</sup> National Homeless Conference** (<http://www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au>)  
Hosted by Homelessness Australia from **21 to 23 May in Adelaide**, the theme is *New Horizons: Practice, Research and Emerging Issues*. Early Bird registration closes April 4. (Please click on the Link above to access the Conference Website).
- **National Homeless Persons Week 2008**  
**Monday 4 to Sunday 10 August**. This year's theme is *Homelessness: its not who you think*. Contact Homelessness Australia <http://www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au/site/index.php> for details.

## Towards a Common Equity Model in South Australia ~ A Special Forum for Housing Associations and Co-operatives ~ repeated item

A new way of managing volunteer-run Housing Associations and Housing Co-operatives in South Australia is currently being examined by a working party of interested Co-operatives, Associations, Office for Community Housing and the Community Housing Council. The proposal is known as the '**Common Equity Housing Model**' and is modelled on the Common Equity Housing Program, which has been running in Victoria for the last twenty years.

The purpose of the Forum is to report progress on the development of the Common Equity Housing Model and seek feedback from Housing Associations and Housing Co-operatives on the **Roles and Functions Consultation Paper** for the South Australian Common Equity Housing body. **A copy of the Consultation Paper is available for viewing or download from the <http://www.chcsa.org.au>**. Please feel free to share it and discuss it within your organisation.

A senior representative of the Department for Families and Communities has been invited to address the Forum.

CHCSA is currently negotiating for several members of Victorian Housing Co-operatives to attend the Forum and address participants on their experience of the Victorian Common Equity Housing Program (CERCs).

Participants will have an opportunity to ask questions of the visitors.

We will be seeking your views on whether we should proceed with the development of the Common Equity Housing model in South Australia and if so, how?

A light lunch will be provided.

This Forum will be held on **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2008** from **10am - 3.00pm** at the Payneham Library Complex & Community Facilities (Torrens & Trinity Rooms) 2 Turner Street, FELIXTOW (Corner O.G. Road).

**RSVPs are Essential.** Please contact the CHCSA on (08) 8362 1022 or via <mailto:info@chcsa.org.au>

**We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Office for Community Housing in making this Forum possible.**

<b><u>STAFF</u></b>	<b><u>CASUAL TRAINERS AND VOLUNTEERS</u></b>
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**

<b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March</b>	<b>PUBLIC HOLIDAY - GOOD FRIDAY</b>
<b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>PUBLIC HOLIDAY - EASTER MONDAY</b>
<b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	<b>CHCSA Disability Focus Group Meeting</b>
<b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>CHCSA Associations' Forum</b>
<b>Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>CHCSA Central Forum</b>
<b>Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>CHCSA Co-op Rep Council</b>
<b>Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>CHCSA Policy Committee</b>
<b>Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>CHCSA Spanish Speaking Forum</b>
<b>Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>CHCSA Hills &amp; Southern Forum</b>
<b>Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Towards a Common Equity Model in South Australia - Special Forum</b>

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