



Community Housing Council of South Australia Inc (CHCSA)
"The Peak Body for Community Housing Organisations in SA"

Weekly E-Bulletin 19/05 - Friday 10th June 2005

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HOUSING CO-OPERATIVES, AGEING MEMBERSHIP AND DISABILITY

The **CHCSA's Central Forum** this week focused on two issues; Housing Co-operatives housing members reaching their elder years, and housing members with a permanent disability affecting their capacity to participate in Co-op life.

The **PERCH** Co-op put these topics on the Forum agenda, and several members of PERCH attended to lead the discussion. Members also considered two draft PERCH policies: a **retirement policy** for members over 70 years of age, and with at least 10 years active service in the Co-op, and **members with a permanent disability policy**.

These two draft policies are a significant part of PERCH's thinking on these issues to date, and how to deal with them effectively. PERCH is most happy for other Housing Co-operatives to have copies to consider, or to hear feedback from other Co-ops about them. Copies of the PERCH policies are available through the CHCSA please phone (08) 8362 1022.

A number of important points were made in the discussion:

- Most agreed that ideally long standing members should be respected for their contributions, and not be required to leave their Co-op home (or feel they 'should' leave), even if age or disability has limited their ability to participate. However, it must also be recognised if this was the situation for a significant proportion of a Co-op's membership, it could compromise their ability to function.
- Members discussed the fact that sector's insurance cover for Co-op members as **volunteers** does not provide cover for those over 80 years of age.
- It was emphasised that many people with a disability are able to participate in the running of a Co-op, and activities can be tailored to suit a particular person's needs.

- It was reported that several Co-ops in the sector house people with significant physical and/or intellectual disabilities. Some allow for a person acting as a carer to participate on behalf of a disabled member.
- Occupational Health and Safety issues also were discussed in relation to people with a disability or infirmity undertaking maintenance work in their own homes.
- SACHA's policies on allocations become important where, for example, an ageing member is transferred with their property to tenancy with a Housing Association. New allocations enable a Co-op to seek new members.

It was agreed that, while this is an issue that can be addressed by individual Co-ops within their own by-laws and practices, it is also an issue that must be acknowledged by SACHA and dealt with a sector-wide level also. The CHCSA will raise this issue with their Policy Committee and Co-operative Representative Council.

83rd INTERNATIONAL CO-OP'S DAY CELEBRATION

The **CHCSA Co-operative's Representative Council** is pleased to invite Members of Housing Co-operatives and Associations to join in the:

"International Co-ops Day Celebrations"
to be held on **Friday 1st July 2005**
at the **Rob Roy Hotel**, 106 Halifax Street, Adelaide
from **4.00pm - 7.00pm**

(Please click below to view its location)

<http://www.whereis.com/whereis/mapping/geocodeAddress.do?advertiserId=&streetNumber=106&streetName=halifax+street&poiType=&suburb=Adelaide&state=South+A>

The Celebrations will include nibbles, refreshments, giveaways and door prizes. Invitations to all CHOs and special guests have been sent out this week.

We welcome all CHO members to attend this event and join us in celebrating Co-operatives and their commitment to providing an affordable and accessible housing option for disadvantaged South Australians.

The **CHCSA Co-op Rep. Council** would like to take this opportunity in thanking **SACHA** for its support of this Celebration. SACHA has welcomed the opportunity in providing ongoing support in realising this Celebration each year.

RSVP's ARE essential. Please contact Anthony or Maria at the CHCSA on (08) 8362 1022 for further information and to book your attendance.

The Hon Bob Hawke AC confirmed Speaker at the "CLOSER THAN YOU THINK" CONFERENCE - SACOSS

SACOSS is South Australia's non-government peak representative body for community services organisations and on 18 March 2005 launched a broad-based **Anti-Poverty Campaign, "Closer Than You Think"**. The campaign will raise awareness and change perceptions of poverty and hardship in South Australia. They will be hosting a 2-day Conference on 28-29 July here in Adelaide.

The Hon Bob Hawke AC will be the first speaker of the two-day **Closer Than You Think** conference next month, giving the first Plenary Session on Thursday 28 July as Keynote Speaker.

Other confirmed speakers include;

- Elisabeth Wynhausen (senior journalist at *The Australian*, and author of the recently published *Dirt Cheap*);
- Mons David Cappo;
- The Hon Jay Weatherill MP;
- Mr Brian Cunningham;
- Mr Rob Kerin.

The "What's happening in your backyard?" sessions will feature speakers on current projects and research that are alleviating poverty and disadvantage in South Australia.

Registration fees are on a sliding scale based on taxable income, and SACOSS members get significant discounts when registering more than two registrants.

Full conference details, and a registration form, are on the website:

<http://www.closerthanyouthink.org.au>

Closer Than You Think conference

Thursday 28 to Friday 29 July

The University of Adelaide

Cost: \$50 / \$125 / \$195 depending on income (details on registration form).

Sponsored places are still available to attend the *Closer Than You Think* conference – nominations are being sought for individuals on a low income who would like to attend the conference at no cost to themselves.

Details of how to apply, and what criteria will be used to assess each application, can be requested from **Jennifer Duncan at SACOSS**, or found on the conference website: <http://www.closerthanyouthink.org.au> (select "Conference" and then "Registration Information").

Nominations are due by the end of June. Send nominations to Jennifer Duncan at SACOSS via e-mail to <mailto:jennifer@sacoss.org.au> or phone (08) 8226 4111.

HOMELESSNESS SA ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE

Homelessness SA extends an invitation to the Sector to attend its annual Memorial Service to remember those who have died whilst homeless on **Thursday 23rd June 2005 at 6.00pm at St Peters Cathedral, King William Road, North Adelaide.**

Dr Bill Lawton, National Chaplain for Mission Australia will be the Guest Speaker at the Service. During the Service, people will be invited to name those that have died and to light a candle in remembrance.

If you are unable to attend the Service, but would like someone remembered please forward the name/s to Margo at Shelter SA via e-mail to <mailto:margo.johnson@sheltersa.asn.au> or by calling Shelter SA on (08) 8221 6488.

"NATIONAL BEST PRACTICE IN DISABILITY " CONFERENCE ~ CALL FOR PAPERS

The **National Best Practice in Disability Conference** is about vision and practice, celebrating the very best that disability services in Australia and beyond have to offer.

The range of subjects will include, but not be limited to;

- governance and management,
- ageing and disability,
- health wellbeing,
- innovation in employment and accommodation support programs,
- day programs,
- therapy service, and
- Children's service.

The conference will be held from the 29th November - 1st December 2005 at the University of New England, Armidale NSW.

Abstract submission deadline is 30th June 2005 and you can submit your abstract on-line. For further information about the conference, visit the conference website at <http://www.une.edu.au/campus/confco/bpdc2005/> or contact the **UNE Conference Company** by phone on (02) 6773 2154 or via e-mail to <mailto:confco@pobox.une.edu.au>.

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DIARY DATES

Saturday 11 th June 2005	CHCSA Spanish Speaking Forum
Monday 12th June 2005	PUBLIC HOLIDAY - QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY
Tuesday 13 th June 2005	CHCSA Hills & Southern Forum
Tuesday 13 th June 2005	CHCSA Northern Forum
Wednesday 22 nd June 2005	CHCSA Co-op Rep Council

Wednesday 29 th June 2005	CHCSA Public Information Session on Community Housing
Friday 1 st July 2005	CHCSA Associations' Forum
Friday 1st July 2005	INTERNATIONAL CO-OP'S DAY CELEBRATION
Wednesday 6 th July 2005	CHCSA Disability Focus Group meeting
Monday 11 th July 2005	CHCSA Hills and Southern Forum
Tuesday 12 th July 2005	CHCSA Northern Forum
Wednesday 13 th July 2005	CHCSA Central Forum

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