



Community Housing Council of SA Inc. (CHCSA)

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

283-285 Payneham Road, Royston Park SA 5070
Ph. (08) 8362 1022 Fax (08) 8362 1944
E-Mail info@chcsa.org.au Website <http://www.chcsa.org.au>

Weekly E-Bulletin 24/06 - Friday 28th July 2006

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Update from CHCSA Sector Resource Worker ~ Philip Studd

"Greetings to you all. Over the last month as the new CHCSA Sector Resource Worker, I have had the opportunity to meet a lot of our members at various Forums and Committees. Regularly, via this E-Bulletin, I will provide a 'round-up' of issues and topics currently on the agendas of our Regional Forums and Committees.

Over the past month, the various CHCSA Forums and Committees has had the opportunity to hear directly from representatives from the Office for Community Housing. These Representatives provided these meetings with an overview of the various changes that are taking place within the restructuring from SACHA to the Office for Community Housing. A common concern from those members in attendance was how these changes will directly affect their particular CHO. The Office for Community Housing Staff indicated that the relationship between CHOs and the Office for Community Housing will not change, and that the main changes are in the relationship between the Office from Community Housing, the Minister and the Department for Families and Communities.

I will be compiling a summary of the major questions raised and the answers given by the Office for Community Housing representatives and will distribute that to Members via our various Forums and Committees as well as via this E-Bulletin.

As requested by a large number of our Members, I am currently negotiating the attendance of Nick Cockram from Comhouse to attend the next round of Regional Forums to answer Member's questions on Comhouse and Maintenance definitions.

If you have any questions, concerns, ideas etc that you wish the CHCSA to address or seek clarification on, or about our monthly Regional Forums or Committees, please contact me at the CHCSA by phone on (08) 8362 1022 or via <mailto:info@chcsa.org.au>

Introducing Nick Watts, Student Placement at CHCSA

"Hi, my name is Nick Watts, and I am a final year Social Work student at the University of South Australia. I have recently joined the team at CHCSA on a Student placement basis as part of my studies.

I will be working on a project examining current and potential participation strategies in Housing Co-operatives. I will be attending the next round of CHCSA Forums to introduce myself. I will also be making direct contact with a number of Housing Co-operatives to discuss the project in more detail.

I am looking forward to talking with you and assisting you to find solutions to achieving your goals in relation to issues you may identify specifically around 'participation' in your Housing Co-operative.

I am available at the CHCSA offices Monday afternoon to Friday (work hours) and can be contacted on (08) 8362 1022 or directly via <mailto:info@chcsa.org.au>

Fringe Benefits Tax for Not-For-Profit Organisations ~ Update

A fringe benefit is a 'payment' to an employee but in a different form to salary and wages. Non-profit organisations that provide non-cash benefits to their employees may have fringe benefits tax (FBT) obligations.

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) in consultation with the not-for-profit sector has developed a new Guide for the non-profit sector. This Guide will help Organisations;

- decide whether their non-profit organisation has a FBT obligation
- recognise the FBT concessions that apply to the organisation, and
- calculate the organisation's FBT liability.

This Guide is now available to the Sector. It can be viewed from the ATO Website <http://ato.gov.au/nonprofit/content.asp?doc=/content/76660.htm> or you can request a hardcopy by contacting the ATO on 1300 720 092 and quoting NAT number **14947**.

"South Australian Business Leaders Tackle Homelessness" ~ Media Release from the Housing Minister's Office

The following Media Release was distributed via the office of the **SA Minister for Housing, the Hon Jay Weatherill MP** earlier this week.

"A group of South Australia's most powerful and influential business leaders have joined forces in the State's fight against homelessness.

Housing Minister Jay Weatherill said that in an unprecedented example of collaboration, eight entrepreneurs have formed a working party to help the community kickstart an internationally-proven project to provide sustainable housing for rough sleepers.

The eight business leaders are: Theo Maras; Anthony Toop; Bob Boorman (Caversham Property); Stephen Young (Equity and Advisory); Kim Boehm (Clemenger); Stephen Norris (Pickard Group); Jim Kouts (National Power) and Deborah Hamilton (Adelaide Development Company).

"When the Rann Government announced the Strategic Plan for South Australia, we stressed the need for everyone to work together to achieve the ambitious goals we set - individuals, Government, non-Government, community and corporations alike," Mr Weatherill, who also is the Families and Communities Minister, said.

"These men and women are among the State's most successful people across a wide range of areas. The value of their commitment to this cause is immeasurable and it is a significant step in solving one of the most pressing issues facing our community."

The group was among 70 business and community leaders who gathered on Wednesday night to listen to Thinker in Residence Rosanne Haggerty. Ms Haggerty is the founder of the Common Ground projects in New York – a non-profit housing and community development organisation that unites business, community and government to solve homelessness.

Social Inclusion Commissioner Monsignor David Cappo said: "I am very proud of Adelaide's business leaders. Joining forces with us in the fight against homelessness will produce great results."

The approach has been adopted by Ms Haggerty to renovate derelict hotels in New York and turn them into affordable apartment/bed sit housing for a mix of people including the homeless and those on low incomes. Through Common Ground, housing has been provided to more than 1,600 tenants and has an annual turnover of in excess of US\$25 million.

"The project starts by creating a community where housing is safe, affordable and comes with a range of on-site support and security services that create a sustainable solution and also reduce the need for costly institutional and emergency care," Mr Weatherill said.

"The Common Ground approach has proven that with support attached to housing, homeless people can be housed in normal community settings. The overseas experience has demonstrated that over time, individuals have been able to overcome the damage that homelessness has caused to their lives and move forward to a more independent lifestyle."

Bob Boorman, a renowned member of the national property industry, said the strong show of support by Adelaide's business and philanthropic community would add momentum to the first Australian Common Ground project in Adelaide.

"This is an important initiative because homelessness is an issue that often doesn't capture the interest of businesses when it comes to corporate giving," Mr Boorman said.

"Stable housing is essential before people can be involved in society and take up employment, education and participate in the community in a positive way."

More than 1000 people at immediate risk have been prevented from being homeless through State Government initiatives.

- As at April 2006, 1136 homeless people have been housed through the Social Inclusion programs announced by the State Government in August 2003 and an additional 60 through the Street to Home program. Nearly all had had an experience of sleeping rough prior to being housed.*
- This includes 42 people who had been sleeping rough for three years or more, including 4 well-known individuals who had been sleeping rough for between 9 and 20 years. These previously were the homeless people least likely to be housed and are now in secure accommodation."*

Interested Members can view this and other Media Releases from Minister Weatherill's Office by clicking <http://www.premier.sa.gov.au/news/php?minister=11>

2005/06 Community Housing Annual Household Data Collection ~ from the Office for Community Housing

The **Office for Community Housing** would like to remind all Community Housing Organisations (CHOs) that the 2005/06 Community Housing Household Data Collection is due on 28th July 2006 (today).

It is very important that all CHOs send back their data collection forms with accurate information because:

1. The Office for Community Housing needs to report back to the Commonwealth Government as part of the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement.
2. Office for Community Housing will use this data to explain how much Community Housing has to offer the broader social housing system.

For any queries regarding this year's data collection please contact Jennie Folland at **New Focus Research** (on behalf of the Office for Community Housing) on (08) 7224 6800 or Country Callers on 1800 807 535 or via <mailto:jennie.folland@newfocus.com.au>

Please send all completed forms to;

Attention: Jennie Folland
New Focus Research
PO Box 270
MARDEN SA 5070

<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	<u>CASUAL TRAINERS AND VOLUNTEERS</u> Casual Trainers – Liz McCarthy, Graeme Gow, Philip Studt Volunteers – Evette Johnson, Renfrey Ansell and Anton Studt
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DIARY DATES

Wednesday 2nd August	CHCSA Disability Focus Group Meeting
Friday 4th August	CHCSA Associations' Forum
Tuesday 8th August	CHCSA Northern Forum
Wednesday 9th August	CHCSA Central Forum
Friday 11th August	CHCSA Policy Forum
Saturday 12th August	CHCSA Spanish Speaking Forum
Monday 14th August	CHCSA Hills & Southern Forum

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