



Community Housing Council of SA Inc. (CHCSA)

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

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Weekly E-Bulletin 25/06 - Friday 4th August 2006

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2006 Census and "Voluntary Work"

Tuesday 8th August 2006 is Census night in Australia. All households will be required to complete a Census form. For the first time, the Australian Bureau of Statistics is asking people to provide information about **voluntary work**. The Information Guide provided by the Bureau states:

"Only include help willingly given, in the form of time, service or skills, to a club, organisation or association."

People involved in one capacity or another with a community housing organisation provides a considerable amount of voluntary work. It is a moot point if unpaid work performed by **Co-operative** members is "willingly given" due to participation requirements. However, Co-operative members voluntarily joined the Co-operative so that could be construed as "willingly given".

Another question asks people who are tenants to describe who their landlord is. There is provision for people who rent from a community or co-operative housing group.

When cross-classified against the question relating to Tenure of Dwelling, the question on unpaid work should enable us to gain considerable insight into the amount of unpaid work being carried out by people connected with CHOs. This may help bolster arguments which housing co-operatives have raised consistently over many years that the quantity and quality of unpaid work performed within co-operatives should be taken into account when rent policy is determined.

CHCSA Submission to the Office for Community Housing ~ Housing Options ~ Vision for Community Housing

The **Community Housing Council of SA (CHCSA)** has made a submission to the Office for Community Housing in connection with the State Government's current **Housing Vision – Options for Community Housing** project. This vision will set key directions for the community housing sector for the next ten years.

The CHCSA submission is based on extensive consultation over the last twelve months including a significant survey of all Community Housing Organisations in June 2006, to which over 50 CHOs have now responded.

The submission is too large to post a hardcopy to all CHOs. A copy of the **recommendations** in the submission made by the CHCSA to the Office for Community Housing has been circulated to all CHOs. If you would like to have a hardcopy of the complete submission, there are three options:

1. Phone the CHCSA and request a copy to be posted – telephone (08) 8362 1022
2. E-mail to <mailto:info@chcsa.org.au> your request to CHCSA
3. Download it from the CHCSA WebSite at <http://www.chcsa.org.au/reports.htm>

We understand that the Office for Community Housing has prepared a high-level strategic Vision document, which is now working its way through various government processes including Cabinet approval. Following this, we understand the Office for Community Housing intends to consult further with the community housing sector. We are advised by Office for Community Housing that;

“Once the strategic view is presented there will be more opportunity for CHCSA and the Office for Community Housing to share views and ideas as the Vision is developed into actions, policy positions, various work streams or projects for change, and analysed against financial viability for whole of housing and considers funding and resource constraints (ie. the what, how and who will commence once we have final approval for the Vision document).”

The CHCSA will provide further information, as it becomes available.

CHCSA "Participation Workshop" for Housing Co-operatives

Following on from our E-Bulletin last week introducing [Nick Watts, Student Placement at the CHCSA](#), we wish to advise that Nick will be facilitating a number of Participation Workshops for Housing Co-op members.

These workshops are designed to examine current and potential participation strategies in the management of Housing Co-operatives.

At this time, there are 2 Workshops scheduled at the CHCSA Boardroom, 285 Payneham Road, Royston Park.

- **Tuesday 5th September 2006 from 10am - 12noon, or**
- **Wednesday 6th September 2006 from 7pm - 9pm**

The CHCSA are keen to meet your needs! If your Co-operative prefers the scheduling of a **Participation Workshop** in your region (ie Southern, Northern, Country), then please let us know. Numbers and Resources permitting we will endeavour to make these Workshops as accessible to you as possible.

Numbers to the 2 Workshops scheduled above are limited. It is important that you register your interest to attend either of the Workshops with the CHCSA. Please contact the CHCSA via phone on (08) 8362 1022 or via e-mail to <mailto:info@chcsa.org.au>, remember to advise which Workshop you wish to book in to.

Accommodation and Personal Support for People with Disabilities ~ Review

Community Housing Organisations (CHOs) may be aware that a review of accommodation and personal support for people with disabilities is underway in the Department for Families and Communities.

Consultation meetings have been held throughout the State. The Government is proposing new legislation and new licensing arrangements for certain types of facilities. To quote from the Department's consultation paper:

“One option is for the new Act to apply to all state government, non government and private-for-profit operators who operate any form of accommodation (ie with more than two unrelated persons in premises) with or without personal support being provided, for

people with disabilities. This includes group homes, hostels and disability institutions funded by government as well as Supported Residential Facilities, boarding houses and other similar arrangements."

It appears that this definition is broad enough to incorporate accommodation provided by some CHOs beyond the traditional Supported Residential Facility model. For example, it might include group homes or other forms of congregate living.

There will be three levels of licensing and associated inspection. The inspection function will move from local government to the State Government.

If you believe you may come within the scope of these proposals, you can obtain more information from the DFC WebSite at <http://www.familiesandcommunities.sa.gov.au/default.aspx?tabid=912> or via phone on (08) 8415 4306.

Please note that the cut off date for submissions is **18th August 2006**.

"Housing Plan for South Australia" ~ Newsletter Updates ~ from Department for Families and Communities

The first edition of an online newsletter for the Housing Plan for South Australia has been launched on the Housing Page of the Department for Families and Communities' WebSite;

<http://www.familiesandcommunities.sa.gov.au/housingplan/>

The Newsletter provides general interest stories and a summary of Housing Plan outcomes.

Articles include an update on the Affordable Housing Innovations Program; a new community housing project in the inner city; and a special-needs home opened in the North-West.

The first edition contains stories about social housing tenants who have brought their Housing Trust home through the EquityStart initiative and the Minister's Awards for Excellence in Social Housing.

The Newsletter also provides a quick update on some broad initiatives and achievements that are happening under the Housing Plan's objectives of high need housing, Aboriginal housing and environmental sustainability.

For those people that do not have access to the Internet, a hardcopy can be requested by phoning (08) 8207 0263.

Community Housing Federation of Australia (CHFA) Mapping Project ~ Reminder from CHFA

The nationwide **CHFA Mapping Project** is underway with community housing providers.

The survey is collecting a broad range of information about the community housing sector so we can build up a detailed picture of what the sector is doing and what new projects are underway and on the horizon.

For future funding, the Government needs evidence showing what a great job the community housing sector does housing and supporting people. To help the community housing sector grow, move forward and harness new and exciting opportunities, CHFA needs a picture of what community housing providers are doing and what they want to do in the future.

If you have not already completed and returned the Mapping Project survey, **could you please fill out the survey and return it to CHFA as soon as possible!** Your participation in this project is most valuable.

If you have any questions about the Mapping Project, please contact Eddy at CHFA by phone on (02) 6232 5043 or via e-mail to <mailto:policy@chfa.org.au>

<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

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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