



## Community Housing Council of SA Inc. (CHCSA)

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

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### Weekly E-Bulletin 03/08 ~ Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2008

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- **CHCSA Workshop ~ Prime Minister's 2020 Vision Summit**
- **Habitat for Humanity '08 Construction Challenge ~ Actually DO Something about Affordable Housing!**
- **New Appeals System for Community Housing**
- **Mental Health Council of Australia ~ One-Off Grants to Community Organisations**
- **Community Housing Organisation Description and Listing ~ Office for Community Housing ~ repeated item**
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#### **CHCSA Workshop ~ Prime Minister's 2020 Vision Summit**

As you are probably aware, the Prime Minister has announced that he will be convening an **Australian 2020 Summit** on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> March in our meeting room at 283-285 Payneham Rd Royston Park.

RSVP's are essential. **Please RSVP by Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.pm.gov.au/media/Interview/2008/interview_0055.cfm).

### **Habitat for Humanity '08 Construction Challenge ~ Actually DO Something about Affordable Housing!**

**Habitat for Humanity** has finalised the details for the Construction **Challenge** being held on the **Anzac Day long weekend** at the **Home Living Show Expo at the Adelaide Showgrounds**.

Most of you will know about the work of **Habitat for Humanity** around the world, but may not know about its Australian program. Locally, Habitat has built 68 homes in partnership with Australian families in need since it commenced here approximately 20 years ago and is now looking to expand its capacity in SA. There are two homes currently being built at Smithfield Plains with another on the drawing board.

Over the Anzac Day long weekend the first **Habitat for Humanity '08 Construction Challenge** will be held at the new Home Living Expo in the Wayville Pavilion in the Showgrounds. Sponsored teams of 4 - 6 members will compete to design and build the 'best' cubby house:

- in a 4 hour time period,
- against a set of stated criteria, and
- with a core set of given building materials.

The event, which will be held over the three days of the Expo, will be divided into the following three categories:

1. Youth (14 - 24 yrs and including one adult)
2. Community, and
3. Corporate

Upon registration, team leaders will receive a list of the building materials, which will be waiting for each team at their allocated site on the day. Awards will be given in each category to the teams building the most creative model house that best meets the criteria and to the teams raising the most money. Cubby houses, which meet the sound construction criteria, will be offered for sale through a silent auction. (Does your playgroup, child care centre, community/neighbourhood house, back need a cubby?)

You are invited to join other people concerned about affordable housing of Habitat for Humanity SA's new signature event. Your support will help generate funds for the 'revolving fund' which provides no interest mortgage loans to low-income families. The building happen indoors, so weather is not a problem and, as a bonus, all team members will receive free entry to the Home Living Expo and associated Food & Wine Show. Teams can actively seek sponsorship, or have businesses donate funds in return for their sign on you cubby. All donations are tax deductible!

Teams are already forming – from Local Government, the private sector (landscape architects, engineers, planners, bankers) and the community.

If you would like to discuss ways of getting involved then please give **Susan Smalldon** a call on 8237 0564 or 0434 981 848; or send her a line at [ssmalldon@habitat.org.au](mailto:ssmalldon@habitat.org.au).

### **New Appeals System for Community Housing**

The challenge of the new appeals system continues to exercise the minds of CHCSA's forums and committees, including the Co-operatives' Representative Council. Lengthy discussions were held with officers from the Office for Community Housing (OCH) at this month's Policy Committee meeting.

CHCSA's Senior Policy Officers, David Kilner and Matt Fisher, have prepared a short paper which they believe will assist in resolution of current issues. This is available from our website by clicking <http://www.chcsa.org.au>.

The CHCSA Policy Committee has written twice to the Hon. Jay Weatherill, Minister of Housing recently. An answer to the first letter has been received. Once the answer to the second letter is received, all this correspondence will be placed on the CHCSA website.

### **Mental Health Council of Australia ~ One-Off Grants to Community Organisations**

The Department of Health and Ageing has provided the **Mental Health Council of Australia (MHCA)** with **\$6 million** to assist in the development of the capacity of non-government mental health organisations and other organisations delivering services relating to mental health. **There are two opportunities:**

- One-off grants of up to \$40,000.
- 14 free, full day workshops around the country, designed to build stronger organisations;

#### **ABOUT THE GRANTS:**

MHCA invites a broad range of services to find out more and apply. MHCA is keen to hear from organisations working in: drug and alcohol rehabilitation, counselling, telephone help lines, family support services, men's services, asylum seeker support, eating disorders, suicide prevention and addiction.

Grant application forms & info available at <http://www.mhca.org.au> from 1st February 2008.

#### **ABOUT THE WORKSHOPS:**

Providers of mental health services can also attend the 14 free, full day workshops around the country designed for building smarter and stronger not for profit organisation and also better projects. Everything from HR, IT and maintaining staff in a not for profit organisation will be covered.

For more information or to book please contact Rachele Irving at <mailto:rachele.irving@mhca.org.au> or (02) 6285 0812.

### **Community Housing Organisation Description and Listing ~ Office for Community Housing**

Last year Office for Community Housing wrote asking Community Housing Organisations to review the description of their Group provided in the listing of Housing Co-operatives and Associations that is made available to members of the public enquiring about Community Housing. Office for Community Housing asked that your description be broadened to include any specific eligibility criteria, stock location and type.

The additional information included in this new listing will assist Registrants to make an informed choice about the Organisation/s that best suit their needs. Those registering an interest in your group will not only be eligible for Community Housing but will also identify with your Organisation's requirements, match any specific eligibility criteria and have an understanding of the type/location of your properties.

Those Community Housing Organisations that have responded to this request from Office for Community Housing have had their information updated and included in the new Listing. For those groups yet to respond, Office for Community Housing have ensured that the description/eligibility criteria included for your group has been framed using information extracted from your Rules and By-laws.

Office for Community Housing have recently sent out to all Community Housing Organisations a letter and a copy of their proposed description/listing requesting any changes be made directly by contacting Lynley Street at Office for Community Housing.

Office for Community Housing wish to remind all Co-operatives and Associations that the new Listing will be made available to the General Public via their Website at the end of February. Please take a look at your listing, which was sent to your Organisation earlier this month. If you would like to make any amendments or request another copy, please contact Lynley on ph: 8207 0131 or e-mail your comments to <mailto:lynley.street@dfc.sa.gov.au>.

**Positions Vacant ~ Projects Officer ~ Shelter SA**

**Shelter SA** is the peak housing organisation in South Australia representing consumers' views to government, the housing industry and the broader community.

**SHELTER SA IS OFFERING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A PROFESSIONAL AND HIGHLY MOTIVATED PERSON TO UNDERTAKE A VARIETY OF PROJECTS AND DEVELOP POLICY ON HOUSING ISSUES AFFECTING CONSUMERS WITH LOW INCOMES AND/OR SPECIAL NEEDS.**

Flexible working arrangements can be negotiated.

The successful candidate will demonstrate:

- *Highly developed written, verbal and presentation skills*
- *The ability to write about complex issues in 'plain English'*
- *Experience in a social science, education or journalism*
- *Ideally, experience working within a social or welfare policy context.*

Job and person specification criteria are available from Cheryl Shepley, ph. 8221 6488, fax; 8221 6292, email: <mailto:sheltersa@asn.au>, or on sheltersa.asn.au

**Deadline for applications is 5 pm on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2008**  
*This position is subject to on-going funding.*

<p><b><u>STAFF</u></b>          Executive Officer - Ciarán Synnott          Manager,          Admin/Finance/Communications - Maria Demasi          Administration Officer - Ante Gajic          Senior Policy Officers - Matt Fisher &amp; David Kilner          Sector Resource Worker - Philip Studt          Spanish Speaking Worker - Domingo Garcia</p>	<p><b><u>CASUAL TRAINERS AND VOLUNTEERS</u></b>          Casual Trainers – Liz McCarthy, Graeme Gow, Philip Studt, Kate Reynolds</p>
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**DIARY DATES**

<b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>CHCSA Management Committee Meeting</b>
<b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>CHCSA Disability Focus Group</b>
<b>Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>CHCSA Associations' Forum</b>
<b>Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>CHCSA Spanish Speaking Forum</b>
<b>Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>ADELAIDE CUP PUBLIC HOLIDAY</b>
<b>Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>CHCSA Central Forum</b>
<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>CHCSA Co-operatives Representative Council</b>
<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>CHCSA Policy Committee</b>
<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>CHCSA Hills &amp; Southern Forum</b>

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<mailto:info@chcsa.org.au>.

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