



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 31/06 - Friday 15th September 2006

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"WorkChoices" - Constitutional Corporations

The question of whether Community Housing Organisations (CHOs) are covered by new Commonwealth industrial laws ("WorkChoices") has been raised with CHCSA. It appears a number of CHOs are in the process of getting their own advice on this.

The Australian Catholic Commission for Employment Relations has recently prepared a briefing paper on the topic of constitutional corporations. Although it was written for Catholic organisations, it appears to be of broader application.

This paper is useful in clarifying some of the issues around whether CHOs will be covered by WorkChoices. The answer may not be easy to determine – it depends on whether the CHO is a **trading** corporation. The legislation is currently subject to challenge in the High Court.

The briefing paper is available at:

www.accer.asn.au/docs/papers/documents/Churchemployment.pdf

CHCSA "Participation Workshops" - Update to Members ~ by Nick Watts, Student Placement CHCSA

"Thank you to all those people that participated in the two "participation workshops". The information gathered was extensive and it will take me a little time to go through it all. However, I have come up with a general contents page for item/ topics that will form the basis of the "Best Practice Guide" previously known as the "Participation Manual". It was felt within the workshops that the manual should be positively focused, be free of large complicated and technical jargon, and should be practically focused.

In the coming weeks I will compile all the information requested together in one booklet. I have drafted an outline of the "contents" of the Participation Best Practice Guide for your information, which is available for viewing or downloading from the CHCSA Website.

If you have any questions or comments on the 'draft' contents of the Guide, please contact me at the CHCSA by phone on (08) 8362 1022 or <mailto:info@chcsa.org.au>

Concessions and Rebates for Community Housing Organisations (CHOs) Workshop

The Office for Community Housing is holding this Workshop on Thursday 21st September 2006 from 9.30am - 12.30pm at a Central location (the location will be confirmed at the time of booking).

The workshop will be presented by David Kilner and has been developed for CHOs to assist with understanding the processes required to access and apply for property-based concessions for your CHO.

The Workshop will provide;

- overview of 'concessions and rebates'
- opportunity to be involved in an interactive session addressing your CHOs specific needs (so bring along your Accounts (Water, ESL, Council Rates etc) and work with real examples!

Some of the learning objectives for this Session include;

- Understand the different types of property-based rates and charges to apply to CHOs
- Know what types of concessions and rebates CHOs can apply for
- Have a good understanding of eligibility criteria for each type of concessions and rebate
- Understand the process of application and be able to complete the various application forms
- Understand your options in regard to water and sewerage rates when a shared meter exists
- Be able to assess different options for obtaining concessions and rebates
- With the assistance of your individual Trainer, David Kilner, undertake, explore and determine options available for your specific CHO.

To book in, please contact [Education and Training at the Office for Community Housing](#) on (08) 8207 0171 or you can book <http://communityhousing.sa.gov.au/>.

CHCSA 2006 Country & Remote CHO's Forum, AGM and Member's Celebration Dinner ~ repeated item

The CHCSA 2006 AGM will be held on **Friday 27th October 2006 at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre.**

The day will start in the "Rubikon Room" with the [Country and Remote CHO's Forum](#) from 10am - 3.00pm (registrations from 9.30am). This will be followed by the AGM from 4.15pm - 5.30pm.

The day will conclude with our [Celebration Dinner](#) for Members and invited Guests from 6pm until late. This fun filled night will include a **3-course meal, refreshments, door prizes, give-aways, MC/DJ and Karaoke.** The [Hon Ian Hunter MLC \(representing Minister Weatherill\)](#) will be a Guest Speaker at the Dinner.

Next week, the AGM papers, which include proposed Constitutional changes, agendas etc., will be sent out to Members. **RSVP's** are due by COB **Friday 20th October 2006.** Attendance at the Member's Dinner is limited per CHO, so **please book early.**

It is important that Members note the following;

- Community Housing Organisations **MUST** be current financial members of the Community Housing Council of SA Inc (CHCSA) to be eligible to nominate and vote at the AGM and to attend the Member's Dinner
- Representative/s **MUST** attend the AGM in order to be eligible to attend the Member's Dinner
- Attendance at the Member's Dinner is limited per CHO that meet the above 2 points.

If you have any questions or would like to confirm the current financial status of your Organisation, please contact Maria at the CHCSA on (08) 8362 1022.

Community Housing Appeals Panel (CHAP) ~ Information Session for CHOs ~ repeated item

The CHCSA will be holding a Community Housing Appeals Panel Information Session for CHOs.

The Information Session will be held on **Friday 20th October 2006** at the **Adelaide Riviera Function Centre** (31-34 North Terrace, Adelaide). Registrations will be from 1.30pm with a **2.00pm** sharp start. The Session is expected to conclude at 4pm.

Attending the Information Session will be:

- Kath McEvoy, Chairperson of the Community Housing Appeal Panel
- Theresa Walker, Manager, Public & Community Housing Appeal Unit
- Sue Gosden, Hearings Administrator – Community Housing, Public & Community Housing Appeal Unit

The Panel have been invited to address CHOs on the following topics:

- The constitution of the Appeals Panel
- Scope of appeals especially in regard to tenancy issues
- What to expect when an appeal is lodged
- Representation before the Panel
- Effective record keeping by CHOs
- What happens after a hearing
- Other relevant matters.

The Information Session will also provide the Panel with the opportunity to meet CHOs and learn more about their work. The CHCSA will invite one experienced CHO to give a short address outlining a community housing perspective on external appeals.

There will be opportunities for questions and general discussion. Whether or not you have faced an appeal, it is **vital** that your CHO understands the external appeals process. To this end, the CHCSA encourages the attendance of at least 1 representative from each CHO.

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL. Please contact Anthony at the CHCSA on (08) 8362 1022 or via <mailto:info@chcsa.org.au> to book your place. **The CHCSA does wish to stress that this Information Session is held for the benefit of Community Housing Organisations in South Australia, therefore attendance to this Session is limited to CHOs.**

STAFF	CASUAL TRAINERS AND VOLUNTEERS
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 Volunteers – Evette Johnson, Renfrey Ansell and Anton Studt

DIARY DATES

Wednesday 27th September	CHCSA Co-op Rep. Forum
Monday 2nd October	PUBLIC HOLIDAY
Wednesday 4th October	CHCSA Disability Focus Group
Friday 6th October	CHCSA Associations' Forum
Monday 9th October	CHCSA Hills & Southern Forum

Tuesday 10 th October	CHCSA Northern Forum
Wednesday 11 th October	CHCSA Central Forum
Saturday 14 th October	CHCSA Spanish Speaking Forum
Friday 20 th October	CHAP Information Session for CHOs
FRIDAY 27TH OCTOBER	CHCSA COUNTRY FORUM, AGM AND MEMBER'S CELEBRATION DINNER

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