



Community Housing Council of SA Inc. (CHCSA)

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

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Weekly E-Bulletin 35/06 - Friday 19th October 2006

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Community Housing Stock Inspections ~ follow up

Following the article in the E-Bulletin last week, the CHCSA wishes to advise that a response has now been received from the Office for Community Housing in relation to the letter from the CHCSA Associations' Forum.

The response from the Office for Community Housing has been made available to Members for viewing via our Web Site on; <http://www.chcsa.org.au>

The Women's Housing Association Inc (TWHA) ~ "25 years and still going strong" ~ article by Karen Burnes, Chairperson

"The Women's Housing Association Inc. was very proud to recently celebrate its 25th AGM on Monday 25th September 2006 at the Enfield Community Centre. Vicki Lachlan, long-term Executive Director commented, *"It was one of the best and most positive AGM's we have had for a long time.....lots of comments from people that they got a lot out of it."*

Guest Speaker, Minister Jennifer Rankine, Minister for the Status of Women talked about the barriers women and children escaping domestic violence face, and that domestic violence crosses all socio-economic areas and backgrounds. The **Theme** of the AGM was the clients – women that the association houses. Metropolitan Community Tenancy Officers, Pauline and Jayne talked about the journeys and experiences of just two of the tenants of the association – how Women's Housing had assisted them to change their lives – for the better.

Representatives from the Office for Community Housing were present, including Acting General Manager of the Office for Community Housing, Maria Fidge as well as representatives from Homestart, Community Housing Council of SA, local Government, Domestic Violence Services, the Office for Women and of course, there were tenants there to hear about how their own community housing association was doing. A PowerPoint presentation was also a powerful edict to what it is that the association does, and what the women and children are faced with and survive through.

In a year of celebration and special events to earmark the **Silver Jubilee** of the association, there was a good financial result at the end of the 2005/2006 year. Chairperson, Karen Burnes said, *“Staff work tirelessly and with great dedication to secure the association’s assets – we have such a low rent arrears figure, and a low eviction rate because of the great staff we have and their dedication to sustainable tenancies. Of course, we have a lot of great tenants too – after all, where would we be without our tenants?”*

So, after 25 years, are there any signs of this dynamic proactive organisation slowing down? Both Vicki and Karen echo, *“Not at all! While there is escalating domestic violence, there must be growth for our organisation.”*

Vicki adds, “We are very proud to have reached this milestone of 25 years, but we must not rest – not while our waiting list remains so high.”

One of the Silver Jubilee events that the organisation held this year was the launch of **Women housing Women**
1980 – 2005

The first 25 years of The Women’s Housing Association

Books can be purchased for \$30.00(postage and handling included) by calling TWHHA office on (08) 8349 4460.

Women’s Housing acknowledges its supporters and is up-front about their intention to be around for at least another 25 years!"

CHCSA 2006 Country & Remote CHO's Forum, AGM and Member's Celebration Dinner ~ Last Chance to Book In!!

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 and a Magic Show**. The **Hon Ian Hunter MLC (representing Minister Weatherill)** will be a Guest Speaker at the Dinner.

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.

Numbers to the dinner are limited and filling fast, please RSVP your attendance before **COB Friday 20th October** on (08) 8362 1022 or via <mailto:info@chcsa.org.au> (remember to advise of any special dietary requirements).

Just a reminder to those people that have booked in, **your attendance is important**. As we have had to **limit** attendance due to budget constraints, it would be appreciated if you could **advise the CHCSA** of any change in your circumstances that would affect your ability to attend any or all of these activities on the 27th. Thankyou.

FREE Corporate Governance Training ~ 13 Places Available ~ DFC Learning and Development Unit

The DFC Learning and Development unit in conjunction with the Social Inclusion Unit Workforce Development Project is proud to offer this Course and is fully funded by the Department for Families and Communities Special Needs Housing Unit.

Some of the topics covered in the day include;

1. To clarify and strengthen participants existing understanding of Governance
2. To achieve competency in Board roles, responsibilities and practices
3. To assist participants to identify Governance improvements

Attendance is suitable for staff, volunteers, board members, managers and project co-ordinators.

Course Details

Course Date: 1st November 2006

Course Duration: 9:00am to 4:30pm

Course Venue: Conference room, Australian Education Union, 163 Greenhill Road, Parkside

Car Parking: Limited on site and on the northern side of GHR, street parking between 9 and 4.30.

Disability Access Yes, will need to use the lift to get to the first floor from reception.

Presenter: Keith Furniss, Senior Consultant - Community Business Bureau

Registration Queries**Wendy Ware**

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

DIARY DATES

FRIDAY 27TH OCTOBER	CHCSA COUNTRY FORUM, AGM AND MEMBER'S CELEBRATION DINNER
Wednesday 1 st November	CHCSA Disability Focus Group Meeting
Friday 3 rd November	CHCSA Associations' Forum
Wednesday 8 th November	CHCSA Central Forum
Friday 10 th November	CHCSA Policy Committee
Saturday 11 th November	CHCSA Spanish Speaking Forum
Monday 13 th November	CHCSA Hills & Southern Forum

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