



Community Housing Council of SA Inc. (CHCSA)

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

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Weekly E-Bulletin 04/07 - Friday 23rd February 2007

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Housing Co-operative is Seeking Expressions of Interest to Fill a Current Property Vacancy

A Housing Co-operative is seeking expressions of interest for non-member tenants to fill a current vacancy.

The property is located at Largs Bay, has 3 Bedrooms, large unsecured yard, (dogs may not be appropriate) although pets are allowed, would like to house a family as it is a big house. Close to transport on Jetty Road. The Co-op would prefer a tenant who is willing to eventually go through a Memberships process.

All applicants **must** meet the eligibility criteria as defined by government, as well as meet the specific criteria of the Co-operative. To register your interest, please contact Maria at the CHCSA in the first instance on (08) 83621022.

Please note; eligible "Registrations of Interest for Co-operative Housing" Forms already on File at the CHCSA that meet their specific criteria will be forwarded on to the Co-operative.

Investment in Community Housing to Tackle Affordable Housing Crisis ~ from Community Housing Federation of Australia (CHFA)

This week Prime Minister Howard commented that the Government was considering rental assistance to address the problem of rising rents across the country. In response the Community Housing Federation of Australia (CHFA) put out a media release welcoming an increase to Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA) and promoting investment in community and public housing as a direct way to get more housing on the ground to meet the demand.

The full media release can be accessed by clicking [http://www.chfa.com.au/Docs/Downloads/Press release 21 Feb 07.pdf](http://www.chfa.com.au/Docs/Downloads/Press%20release%2021%20Feb%2007.pdf)

Australian Financial Review Housing Congress 2007: Community Sector Discounts Available ~ from Community Housing Federation of Australia (CHFA)

The **Australian Financial Review Housing Congress 2007** will be held 8th and 9th March 2007 at the Rendezvous Hotel in Melbourne. The Congress features a broad range of speakers including several State/Territory Housing Ministers, leading industry players, community housing representatives and academics.

There is a substantial discounted registration available to community sector organisations. If you are interested in attending, please contact CHFA for cost information. Please call CHFA on (02) 6232 5043 or via <mailto:chfa@chfa.com.au>

Information about the **Housing Congress** and the conference program can be accessed by clicking;

http://www.informa.com.au/ibcoz/marlin/system/render.jsp?MarlinViewType=MARKT_EFFORT&siteid=0&marketingid=20001475100&proceed=true&MarEntityId=10014724552&entHash=254b3e7b9.

Social Housing Allocations Seminar ~ Australasian Housing Institute (AHI)

The AHI are pleased to announce details of their next half-day seminar on social housing allocations. **Social housing allocations systems**, policies and practices are a hot topic for policy makers and social housing professionals. What we do and how we do it can have a major impact, not only on individuals, but also on the broader communities. Decisions about allocations can affect individuals wanting housing assistance, the communities in which social housing tenants live, communities poorly served by social housing and, of course, social housing workers going about their day-to-day work.

Social housing organisations are implementing major changes now, such as tightening the eligibility criteria and increased targeting of limited housing resources to those in greatest need. Additional policy and practice changes are proposed or in the research phase.

Dr Kath Hulse of Swinburne University of Technology, and Director of the Swinburne-Monash AHURI Research Centre, will share her experience and findings from her recent research, which involved the review of allocations policies and practices in the Australian social housing sector, comprising public housing, community housing and an emerging affordable housing sector.

This Seminar will be held on **Tuesday 5th June 2007** from 9.30am to 12noon at the James Alexander Room, Mercure Grosvenor Hotel, 125 North Terrace, Adelaide. The cost is \$90.00 for AHI Members and \$120 for non-AHI Members. To Register on-line please click <http://www.housinginstitute.org/events/register/register.php>.

Attention: All NON-Comhouse Member Community Housing Organisations ~ from Comhouse

All Community Housing Organisations can now access COMHOUSE as a non-member, on a fee for service basis. The best prices and the best service. All maintenance services prioritised to meet your needs. Emergency break down maintenance 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Your CHO can still become a member of Comhouse if you want to have your major maintenance become a Comhouse liability after a five-year no draw down period – please contact Comhouse for information.

Now, CHOs do not have to be Members of Comhouse to access its services. Comhouse is pleased to be able to offer to CHOs that are not members, access to the complete range of Comhouse services on a fee for service basis. This includes painters, plumbers, electricians, roofers, gas fitters, glaziers and any other form of maintenance skill you may need for your CHOs properties for cyclical breakdown and emergency maintenance.

An extensive range of white goods are also available on request and includes HWS, stoves, air conditioners and heaters where you specify the make and model. You will be amazed at the money you can save on your purchase orders. Try Comhouse for top quality (GPC) paints, our prices will please you.

All maintenance services are provided by appropriately licensed and qualified tradespeople for the larger and more complex work where trades licenses are required, to handymen for minor maintenance for the entire community housing sector:

Comhouse make appointments, they keep you informed, and they are part of the not for profit community sector. Simply send them a work order; they will have the work organised by their qualified tradespeople, all you need to do is pay the invoice.

Please contact us if you wish to become a member and utilise the many additional benefits of being a Comhouse member. E-mail your work orders to: <mailto:admin@comhouse.org.au> Or phone (08) 8235 1422 Fax 8235 1566.

For emergency after hours break down maintenance, ring 8355 5821

Work orders will only be accepted from Community Housing Organisations, via their nominated representatives and must be accompanied by written confirmation by fax or e-mail.

March 2007 CHCSA Associations' Forum and Invitation extended to Disability Focus Group Members to Attend

The CHCSA wishes to advise that the March Associations' Forum scheduled for Friday **2nd March 2007 from 9.15am** and will feature **two Guest Presenters**.

- **Ms Lyn Young, Director of Disability SA** will be attending the meeting to discuss Disability and Housing.
- **Helen Ottaway, (Senior Project Officer, DFC Connected Services Project, Special Needs Housing Unit)** will provide information about the new Assistance to Ageing Tenants program within DFC. (This program will help community housing tenants too).

The Associations' Forum has invited Members of the CHCSA Disability Focus Group to attend this meeting to hear the Guest Speakers.

For catering and seating purposes, it is essential that Members RSVP their intention to attend. Please contact the CHCSA on (08) 8362 1022 or via <mailto:info@chcsa.org.au>

Please Note: The CHCSA Disability Focus Group will still proceed with its specified March meeting scheduled for Wednesday 7th March 2007 from 10am to 12noon (at Royston Park).

Guest Speakers at the March 2007 Disability Focus Group meeting include;

- Noelene Slaven (Office for Community Housing) - Disability Modifications
- Lynley Street (Office for Community Housing) - Review of the Disability Action Plan

With regard to Noelene, if people have any specific questions to do with property modifications for people with disabilities, it would be appreciated if you can forward them through to the CHCSA ASAP. This will enable Noelene to bring the information or answers to your questions with her to the meeting. Please forward your questions marked "**DFG**" to <mailto:info@chcsa.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, Kate Reynolds Volunteers – Evette Johnson, Renfrey Ansell and Anton Studt
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DIARY DATES

Friday 2 nd March	CHCSA Associations' Forum
Monday 5 th March	CHCSA Hills and Southern Forum
Wednesday 7 th March	CHCSA Disability Focus Group
Friday 9 th March	CHCSA Co-op Rep. Council Meeting
Friday 9 th March	CHCSA Policy Committee
Saturday 10 th March	CHCSA Spanish Speaking Forum
MONDAY 12 TH MARCH	PUBLIC HOLIDAY
Tuesday 13 th March	CHCSA Northern Forum
Wednesday 14 th March	CHCSA Central Forum

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