



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

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

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**Weekly E-Bulletin 40/06 - Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2006**

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**Changes in Referrals to Community Housing by Housing SA Offices, and in particular, Access to Information on and Applying to Housing Co-operatives**

This week, the **Office for Community Housing** in consultation with the **Community Housing Council of SA (CHCSA)**, affected a new process for referrals to Community Housing, in particular to Housing Co-operatives, by Housing SA Offices.

All Community Housing Organisations were notified by the Office for Community Housing early in November, of the proposed new process for referrals to Community Housing, as well as information provided to the Sector via our E-Bulletin 36/06 ~ Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2006.

Part of the new process, included the development of an updated "**Information Pack**" on Community Housing which will be distributed by;

- Housing SA offices
- Office for Community Housing
- Community Housing Council of SA (CHCSA)

The "**Information Pack**" includes the following;

- "**What is Community Housing?**" pamphlet, giving information on what a Housing Co-operative is, and what it means to be a member of such a group. It also briefly describes Housing Associations.
- "**Registration of Interest for Housing Co-operative Membership**" form.
- Updated list of **Housing Co-operatives**, their target population / interest groups and regional bases. (The list of Co-operatives does not include contact details, as the Registration of Interest process is being centralised to reduce the administrative burden for Co-operative members).
- Updated list of **Housing Associations**, including direct contact details where Associations have agreed
- Information on eligibility

**In summary, the process is as follows;**

Those people seeking access specifically to Housing Associations will have access to their direct contact details via the "Information Pack" and information about how to access their services or referral agencies.

Those people seeking access specifically to Housing Co-operatives will be advised that they must attend a "Public Information Session" on Community Housing, which is conducted regularly by the CHCSA. They will also receive in the "Information Pack" a "Registration of Interest for Housing Co-operative Membership" Form, which they must complete and send to the CHCSA. Their Registration of Interest will not be activated until they attend a Public Information Session. This attendance will be recorded on the Registration, thereby making the Registration "Active". Housing Co-operatives seeking new members can then contact the CHCSA whereby specified criteria will be matched against the "active" Registrations of Interest. Copies of those Registrations that meet the specified criteria will be forwarded to the Co-operative to action as per their individual membership selection processes.

To view the new "Information Pack" on Community Housing, please go to the Office for Community Housing Website, please click

<http://www.communityhousing.sa.gov.au/site/page.cfm?u=161>

If you have any questions, please contact either Maria Demasi at the CHCSA on (08) 8362 1022 or Jane Fletcher at Office for Community Housing on (08) 8207 0115.

### **Date of next CHCSA "Public Information Session"**

The CHCSA wishes to advise that the next "Public Information Session" will be held on **Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2007**, from 10am - 12noon at the CHCSA Training Room, 285 Payneham Road, Royston Park.

Please note, that bookings are ESSENTIAL and numbers will be limited. To book, please contact Anthony at the CHCSA on (08) 8362 1022, alternatively, you can book on-line via the CHCSA Website.

### **Community Housing Appeals Panel Information Session ~ Papers Now Available**

On **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2006**, the CHCSA held an Information Session for all Community Housing Organisations on the new Community Housing Appeals Panel.

The Chairperson of the Panel, along with officers from the Appeals Unit, addressed the gathering and answered questions.

We have now added items from this Information Session to our website for Members to access. This includes:

- The presentation by Kath McEvoy, the Chairperson of the Appeals Panel
- A summary of the questions and answers which followed the presentations.

These documents can be accessed from the CHCSA <http://www.chcsa.org.au/reports.htm>:

### **CHCSA Forum - Vision Plan for Community Housing - 5<sup>th</sup> December 2006 ~ repeated item**

The CHCSA will be holding a "*Vision Plan Forum for CHOs*" on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2006 from 2pm to 4.30pm** at the **Payneham Library Complex**, corner Turner St and OG Rd. The Forum will start at 2pm and conclude at 4.30pm.

We invite all CHOs to send representatives to this Forum so that we can gather your feedback and response to the **Vision** presentations being conducted by the Office for Community Housing.

It is now planned that CHOs will spend the first two hours in two separate meeting rooms, one each for Housing Associations and Housing Co-operatives. This recognises that the issues are somewhat different for the two sub-sectors. However, we will reconvene with enough time to share and compare viewpoints and at **4.00pm**, **Andrew Lambert** from the Office for Community Housing will attend to hear feedback and answer questions.

To help us use the time optimally; we invite CHOs to submit questions in advance to us. We will pass them to Office for Community Housing prior to the Forum. Questions will be submitted to Office for Community Housing without any identifying information, to preserve confidentiality. Questions will still be invited on the day. Questions can be <mailto:info@chcsa.org.au> or phoned through on (08) 8362 1022.

It is necessary to register for the Forum, please register by phone on (08) 83621022 or via <mailto:info@chcsa.org.au>. Afternoon Tea will be provided.

<b><u>STAFF</u></b>	<b><u>CASUAL TRAINERS AND VOLUNTEERS</u></b>
Executive Officer - Ciarán Synnott Manager, 4Admin/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**

<b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>CHCSA Member's Workshop for Vision Plan</b>
<b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>CHCSA Policy Committee</b>
<b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>CHCSA Co-op Rep Council Meeting</b>
<b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>CHCSA Spanish Speaking Forum</b>
<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>CHCSA Hills &amp; Southern Forum</b>
<b>Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>CHCSA Northern Forum</b>
<b>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>CHCSA Central Forum</b>
<b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>CHCSA Offices close for Christmas/New Year Break</b>

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