



Community Housing Council of SA Inc. (CHCSA)

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

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Weekly E-Bulletin 05/07 - Friday 9th March 2007

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CHCSA Northern Forum ~ Temporarily Suspended

The CHCSA wishes to advise its Members that the Northern Forum has been temporarily suspended until further notice.

The re-instatement of this Forum, how and when it will be delivered will be considered by the CHCSA following receipt of 'survey sheets' currently before affected and appropriate Community Housing Organisations (CHOs).

The CHCSA has sent out a letter with a number of survey questions attached to these CHOs last week. For your convenience, we did include a 'reply paid' envelope.

The CHCSA requests that Members return the completed 'survey sheets' to us ASAP to assist us in assessing the feedback. If you consider your Organisation within the confines of the Northern Forum areas and you did not receive a letter, and would like the opportunity to provide some feedback to us, then please let us know. We would gladly forward to you a copy of the letter and survey questions.

Please contact Philip or Anthony at the CHCSA on (08) 8362 1022 or via <mailto:info@chcsa.org.au>

"Communities in Control Conference 2007" ~ From Advocacy to Policy - Communities Driving Change

Communities in Control is the biggest annual gathering of community sector workers, volunteers and supporters - each year bringing together a stellar list of speakers and around 1,500 delegates to listen, debate, network, exchange tips and strategies, and - perhaps most importantly - recharge.

Since its inception in 2003 the conference has provided a platform and outlet for the very premise of Communities in Control - that for communities to survive and thrive, they must be in charge of their own destinies; that they must be given practical support to set their own priorities, design their own approaches, and create their own solutions; and that to do this will ultimately create safer, healthier communities.

The **Communities in Control** conference is the result of an ongoing partnership between the CEO of '**Our Community**', Dr Rhonda Galbally, and the CEO of **Centacare Catholic Family Services**, Fr. Joe Caddy, and their respective organisations.

Communities in Control Conference will be held at Moonee Valley Racecourse on Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th June 2007.

This year's program also includes a Pre-conference Skills Day on Marketing, Media & Advocacy (Sunday, June 3), plus a Youth in Communities Forum (9.30am-midday, Wednesday, June 6).

Further information including, cost, program and bookings please click;
http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/control/control_main.jsp.

'Responsible Officer' Training available to CHCSA Members

The CHCSA is pleased to provide opportunities to CHOs that may be interested in undergoing **'Responsible Officer' Training**.

Under **Section 61** of the [Occupational, Health, Safety and Welfare Act](#), every body corporate (Associations and Co-operatives) is required to appoint one or more Responsible Officer/s. The Responsible Officer is required to *"take reasonable steps to ensure compliance by the body corporate of its obligations under the Act"*. Changes to the Legislation now makes training for Responsible Officers compulsory.

Did you know that the occupational health and safety accountability lies with the Responsible Officer? Do you know who is the Responsible Officer in your organisation?

Business SA now offers 'Responsible Officer' Training **on-line**. The training options fall under 2 categories;

1. small to medium organisations
2. large organisations

The 'Responsible Officer' on-line training will provide you with:

- an understanding of the role of the Responsible Officer,
- the strategies, tools and resources your Organisation can utilise to demonstrate a commitment to improve OH&S performance in your organisation, and,
- a Forum to explore and discuss a range of operational and legal issues.

The Course is managed by **Business SA** and is supported by an on-line Tutor who provides assistance, facilitates discussion and assesses your work.

Learning aids include audio case studies, video and template forms that your business can use as a starting point to assist in the improvement of safety in your workplace and you will be issued with a Certificate of Completion after you successfully finish the assessment. Participants have 3 months from the time of registration in which to complete the course and an e-mail reminder will be issued to the participant 2 weeks prior to the deadline.

The cost for this training is \$132 (including GST) per participant. Arrangements will be made by the CHCSA on your behalf. If you are interested in further information or to arrange Training for your Organisation, please contact Maria Demasi at the CHCSA on (08) 8362 1022.

'Experiencing the Housing Affordability Problem' Research Paper Available ~ Institute for Social Research, Swinburne University

This paper focuses on how the issue of housing affordability hurts the general well-being of renters.

One of the findings of Professor Terry Burke's research is a conclusion that rent prices have remained constant and not become excessive, but incomes are too low and uncertain, due to the exclusivity and casualisation of the labour market.

Among the results of his survey:

- A household paying more than 40 per cent of their income in rent has 60 per cent less likelihood of becoming an owner, twice the rate of having to sell or pawn possessions and almost twice the rate of children missing out on school activities,
- About 43 per cent of all low income renter households had been in arrears at some time in the previous three years,
- A \$30 a week increase would force 63 per cent of low quintile renters to move or share.

"Rental is the tenure of the future, and more policy attention should be given to providing this sector with more of the elements of ownership (security, ability to adapt to tenants' needs, long-term affordability), but without undermining continued investment in new stock that is appropriate and sustainable," concludes Professor Burke.

Click HYPERLINK; <http://chirs.infoxchange.net.au/cms/items/2007/03/140379-upload-00001.pdf> to access the full report.

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

Saturday 10 th March	CHCSA Spanish Speaking Forum
MONDAY 12 TH MARCH	PUBLIC HOLIDAY - ADELAIDE CUP
Wednesday 14 th March	CHCSA Central Forum
Friday 30 th March	CHCSA Associations' Forum
Monday 2 nd April	CHCSA Hills & Southern Forum
Wednesday 4 th April	CHCSA Disability Focus Group
Wednesday 11 th April	CHCSA Central Forum
Friday 13 th April	CHCSA Co-op Rep Council
Friday 13 th April	CHCSA Policy Committee
Saturday 14 th April	CHCSA Spanish Speaking Forum
Wednesday 25 th April	PUBLIC HOLIDAY - ANZAC DAY

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Disclaimer

CHCSA makes every effort to provide accurate and useful information in its E-Bulletin and other publications but accepts no liability for the use of the material by individuals or organisations. Individuals or organisations may need to seek independent professional advice regarding their specific situation.