



# NATIONAL BULLETIN

An eBulletin from CHFA - your national community housing peak organisation

## Edition 54 – April 18, 2008

### CHFA activities

The CHFA secretariat has been very busy over recent weeks. On 28 March, Eddy attended the Greenpaper Roundtable on Homelessness, held in Sydney. There were six sessions through the day, with each session opened by a number of speakers. Eddy was one of the speakers, and extolled the virtues of community housing and its capacity to respond to the diverse needs of people who are homeless.

On the same day, Carol was in Brisbane, presenting to the Informa 2008 Housing Congress. Not content with only touring the northern half of the east coast, Carol and Eddy attended the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) Social Inclusion Conference in Melbourne a fortnight later, where Carol again presented, wowing the assembled masses despite her 'polar bear' outfit (Eddy's woolen jumper), necessitated by the Antarctic temperatures in the room.

This victory of substance over style is becoming a CHFA hallmark. Only

two (known) comments were made about Eddy's choice to wear a tee-shirt during his presentation (see below).



### How long is a piece of red tape?

People in the community sector have been known to ponder this very question. To get an objective picture of the cost of government generated

paperwork, Christine Ryan, Cameron Newton, and Myles McGregor-Lowndes, from the Australian Centre for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Studies at the Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane, conducted a study involving 14 not-for-profit organisations in Queensland to measure the administrative burden of complying Queensland and Federal Government reporting requirements.

The study participants kept logs to record government generated paperwork as they completed forms over a 12 month period in 2005. The grant recipients also provided, through a series of interviews, their experiences of government paperwork and in particular grant submission and reporting processes.

The report, *How long is a piece of red tape?* can be viewed at [www.eprints.qut.edu.au/archive/00012986/01/WP\\_39\\_Paperwork\\_Reporting\\_Cost\\_of\\_Govt\\_Grants\\_March\\_2008.pdf](http://www.eprints.qut.edu.au/archive/00012986/01/WP_39_Paperwork_Reporting_Cost_of_Govt_Grants_March_2008.pdf).

### **'Oasis' documentary**

The ABC documentary, *The Oasis*, follows the daily workings of The Oasis youth refuge in Surry Hills, Sydney, and its tireless manager, Salvation Army Captain Paul Moulds screened on 10 April. For anyone who missed this superb and moving documentary, it can be downloaded at [www.abc.net.au/tv/oasis/about/watch/watchFilm.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/tv/oasis/about/watch/watchFilm.htm).

### **Mississippi housing update**

Since Hurricane Katrina destroyed much of New Orleans in 2005, there are still over 30,000 families living in temporary trailer-style

accommodation. The Federal Emergency Management Authority (FEMA) has been criticised for its handling of the 'temporary' accommodation for the Hurricane victims. One solution, described in a New York Times article, is the use of 'Mississippi Cottages'—colourful little houses, complete with porches (verandahs!) and tin roofs, that have been designed and built by the Louisiana State Government.

Despite the success of these cottages, the article notes that "local governments in Mississippi have resisted the cottages. They fear people who get cottages will simply live in them and not rebuild their houses, said Mike Womack, executive director of the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency. 'They're too nice,' he said. 'I've heard this over and over again.'"

The article can be viewed at [www.nytimes.com/2008/04/13/us/13trailers.html?\\_r=1&scp=14&sq=housing&st=nyt&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/04/13/us/13trailers.html?_r=1&scp=14&sq=housing&st=nyt&oref=slogin).

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## **Contributions**

If you have news or resources that you think would be interesting or helpful to others in your State/Territory or colleagues interstate, contact CHFA and we can plug your news into NB. Email your news to: [chfa@chfa.com.au](mailto:chfa@chfa.com.au)