



# NATIONAL BULLETIN

An eBulletin from CHFA - your national community housing peak organisation

## Edition 56 – May 19, 2008

**Check CHFA's web site for a continuous news feed of housing articles:**  
[www.chfa.com.au](http://www.chfa.com.au)

### Federal Budget targets housing affordability

Last week's Federal Budget outlined several Government housing initiatives that were launched earlier in the year: the National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS), the First Home Savers Fund, the Housing Affordability Fund and A Place Called Home. CHFA put out a media release noting these were solid steps towards a new National Affordable Housing Agreement. CHFA's media release can be accessed at our web site: [www.chfa.com.au](http://www.chfa.com.au)

As they do every year, ACOSS put together a comprehensive Budget briefing with all the facts and figures covering the social service sector. This will be available on their web site by Friday 23 May at: [www.acoss.org.au](http://www.acoss.org.au)

### Three part strategy for people with a disability

Joseph Connellan, former CEO of Supported Housing Ltd in Victoria, has written a thought-provoking article for an upcoming issue of *Parity* magazine. It is meant to promote discussion on how to best include housing and support for people with a disability in the new National Affordable Housing Agreement. The three part strategy includes:

- Stock take of existing disability housing;
- Quarantining a portion of growth for people with a disability; and
- Developing state disability housing plans.

The paper is available on CHFA's website: [www.chfa.com.au](http://www.chfa.com.au).

*Parity* is a publication of the Council for Homeless Persons, published ten times a year, with each issue focused on a central theme around homelessness. To subscribe, go to:

<http://www.chp.org.au/parity/subscribe.shtml>

### **Data collection is coming!**

This is from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW):

The annual survey of community housing data providers is about to commence. The survey is managed by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) in conjunction with your state or territory housing department.

You will shortly receive a survey kit which asks you to provide information about you as a community housing provider, the dwellings you manage and the tenants you assist.

This year, some jurisdictions have moved towards the use of electronic surveys. The benefits include:

- Easy data entry
- Automated data checks
- Tips and hints

The survey should be completed in June/July and your participation is much appreciated. You will be providing valuable information that will assist program managers and policy-makers across Australia to support and plan for the community housing sector.

For further information, please contact your state or territory housing department or email [housing@aihw.gov.au](mailto:housing@aihw.gov.au).

### **Don't worry, be happy**

The Australian Unity Wellbeing Index monitors the subjective wellbeing of the Australian population. Recently they undertook a survey to detect whether a series of interest rate rises

had decreased the subjective wellbeing of the population. They concluded that worry about rate rises is not linked to decreased population wellbeing.

They also noted that while personal wellbeing rises with income, "Happiness is bought at discount by people who are poor. For people with a household income <\$15,000, and additional \$7,500 buys an extra point of wellbeing. At a household income of \$151,000-\$250,000, an extra point requires an additional \$250,000". Read the full report at: [http://acqol.deakin.edu.au/index\\_wellbeing/Survey-18.1-Part-A.pdf](http://acqol.deakin.edu.au/index_wellbeing/Survey-18.1-Part-A.pdf)

### **Reconfiguring US foreclosed homes as affordable housing**

In an attempt to stabilise neighbourhoods with high foreclosure rates, the US Federal Reserve Bank has formed a partnership with a national affordable housing umbrella group, NeighborWorks America, to teach the organisation's members how to 'acquire, rehabilitate and manage' foreclosed homes.

"The ultimate goal is to return [these houses] to productive use, for example, to provide affordable rental housing or to supply new, sustainable homeownership opportunities in low-and moderate-income communities," said Federal Reserve Governor Randall Kroszner. To read the full article in the New York Times, go to:

[http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/business/business-usa-fed-kroszner.html?\\_r=2&scp=15&sq=housing&st=nyt&oref=slogin&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/business/business-usa-fed-kroszner.html?_r=2&scp=15&sq=housing&st=nyt&oref=slogin&oref=slogin)

## **Acknowledgements**

Information for our eBulletin comes from many sources. We would particularly like to thank State and Territory community housing peaks for their contributions, and also Garry Mallard of the Tenant Support Network for his National Notify bulletins.

The Community Housing Federation of Australia is funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

## **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)