



NATIONAL BULLETIN

An eBulletin from CHFA - your national community housing peak organisation

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Check CHFA's web site for a continuous news feed of housing articles:
www.chfa.com.au

CHFA's response to the National Rental Affordability Scheme technical paper

CHFA submitted a response to the NRAS technical paper based on our research on certain components of the proposed NRAS and feedback from our members and Board.

CHFA is strongly supportive of the Scheme, which will increase the supply of affordable rental accommodation in Australia. The aim of the response is to address a range of issues regarding how CHFA believes the Scheme could be implemented, and to offer suggestions about changes to the proposed arrangements, outlined in the technical paper, that will benefit the community housing sector, tenants, and potential investment partners.

A copy of the submission is on the CHFA web site: www.chfa.com.au

Life on a low income: research participants wanted

What's it like to live on a low income, trying to get by on low wages or a Centrelink payment? Several researchers are interested in the answers to those questions and are looking to interview people on low incomes who are willing to talk about their life and share their views of welfare and work.

Most of the interviews will be in Melbourne but some will take place in Sydney and Brisbane. Participation involves an initial confidential interview of approximately one and a half hours and a follow-up interview 12 months later.

The Melbourne project team is currently recruiting and wish to talk to young people aged 18 to 24 who are currently unemployed, carers and those who may have had some paid work in the last 6 months. For more information please contact

Sonia Martin on 03 8344 3738 or 0447 340 128.

Interviews will commence shortly in both Sydney and Brisbane. Please contact Jenny Chalmers on 02 9385 0189 for Sydney and Greg Marston for Brisbane on 07 3365 3024.

“Going for Growth: the pros and cons of using community housing associations to increase housing supply”

Last November, Housing Tasmania proposed to transfer a significant amount of its public housing stock to community housing ‘growth providers’ on condition that the assets be used to leverage private investment and expand the stock of low cost housing.

In response to this proposal and the national trend of using a community housing strategy to increase housing supply, Anglicare Tasmania developed a discussion paper, *Going for Growth: the pros and cons of using community housing associations to increase housing supply*. The paper looks at the situation nationally as well as in Tasmania and covers such issues as stock transfer, expansion of public housing versus community housing, and rent setting. The paper concludes with a number of recommendations to Housing Tasmania on a way forward. A copy of the paper can be accessed at: http://www.anglicare-tas.org.au/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_view&gid=271&Itemid=75

Which Way Home? The Government’s Green Paper on homelessness released

Last week Prime Minister Rudd released his Government’s Green Paper on homelessness at the National Homelessness Conference in Adelaide. The Paper seeks to promote public discussion of homelessness, highlight the challenges faced by people who are homeless, and suggest ways forward.

There a number of public consultations being conducted around the country and people are also invited to submit written submissions. Details of consultation dates and venue as well as information on how to submit comments are available on the FaHCSIA web site:

http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/housing/new_approach_stage1.htm#2

The consultations have already started and will conclude by the middle of June. Written submissions are due by 27 June 2008.

How other countries tackle homelessness

The Council to Homeless Persons has released a new discussion paper that looks at homelessness in Canada, the US and Europe. *Australia's strengths and challenges in responding to homelessness: An international comparison* argues that whilst homelessness in Australia is substantial and needs attention, we are well placed, compared to other

Western countries, to develop a comprehensive national plan to prevent and reduce homelessness.

The paper can be accessed at:
http://www.chp.org.au/public_library/items/2008/05/00202-upload-00001.pdf

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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