



# NATIONAL BULLETIN

An eBulletin from CHFA - your national community housing peak organisation

## Edition 58 – June 13, 2008

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

### **Housing Affordability Fund technical paper released**

This week, Minister Plibersek released the technical paper on the \$512 million Housing Affordability Fund, which is designed to make housing more affordable by focusing on supply side barriers to housing development. Specifically, the HAF will address:

- Holding costs incurred by developers as a result of long planning and approval waiting times; and
- Infrastructure costs, such as water, sewerage, transport, and open space.

The HAF will be distributed via grants through a competitive process, and primary recipients will be local and State/Territory governments.

The Commonwealth Government is seeking submissions on the technical paper from interested

parties by **17 July 2008**. A copy of the HAF technical paper is available on the FaHCSIA website:  
[www.fahcsia.gov.au](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au)

### **Housing affordability for key workers**

BankWest undertook a survey of key workers, such as nurses, teachers and fire-fighters—to get a better picture of housing affordability issues confronting this population.

Their findings, published in *BankWest Key Workers Housing Affordability Report*, found that housing affordability for these key workers has deteriorated significantly over the last five years. For Australia's 480,000 teachers, nurses, police officers and fire-fighters, more than 80% of capital city council areas are too expensive for them to buy a house in 2007, compared with about 50% in 2002.

The report looks at housing prices in all local government areas (LGA)

and compares them against earnings for the nominated key worker occupations. It also breaks down the findings by State and Territory.

To download a copy, go to:

[http://www.bankwest.com.au/MediaCentre/BankWest\\_Research/BankWest\\_Key\\_Worker\\_Housing\\_Affordability/index.aspx](http://www.bankwest.com.au/MediaCentre/BankWest_Research/BankWest_Key_Worker_Housing_Affordability/index.aspx)

### **Australia's housing crisis is pervasive by international measures**

The housing market in Australia continued to be among the least affordable in the world according to this year's Demographia's International Housing Affordability Survey.

Seventeen Australian housing markets fell into the top 50 least affordable housing markets in the world. They are (with their rankings):

- 6 – Mandurah, WA
- 11 – Gold Coast, QLD (tied)
- 11 – Sydney, NSW
- 19 – Perth, WA
- 22 – Melbourne, VIC
- 24 – Rockingham, WA
- 28 – Bundaberg, QLD (tied)
- 28 – Wollongong, NSW
- 33 – Bunbury, WA
- 35 – Adelaide, SA
- 36 – Brisbane, QLD (tied)
- 36 – Cairns, QLD
- 40 – Geelong, VIC (tied)
- 40 – Hobart, TAS
- 40 – Newcastle, NSW
- 45 – Townsville, QLD
- 46 – Mackay, QLD

The full report can be accessed at:

<http://www.demographia.com/dhi.pdf>

### **Australian Community Sector Survey**

Every year the Australian Council of Social Services (ACOSS) undertakes a survey of non-government agencies in the community sector. This year's survey found a 6.3 per cent increase in the number of people assisted by community service agencies between 2005-06 and 2006-07, accompanied by a 24 per cent increase in the number of eligible people who were turned away from the services they needed.

Over 80 per cent of agencies reported that the cost of delivering services was not matched by funding levels and more than 60 per cent of agencies reported difficulties in attracting and retaining qualified staff.

The report can be accessed at:

[http://www.acoss.org.au/upload/publications/papers/4420\\_Paper%20154%20ACSS%202008.pdf](http://www.acoss.org.au/upload/publications/papers/4420_Paper%20154%20ACSS%202008.pdf)

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Department of Families, Housing,  
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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)