



# NATIONAL BULLETIN

An eBulletin from CHFA - your national community housing peak organisation

**Edition 59 – June 30, 2008**

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

## **CHFA's response to the Green Paper on homelessness**

CHFA has submitted a response to the Commonwealth's Green Paper on Homelessness, *Which Way Home: A New Approach to Homelessness*. CHFA's response articulates the linkages between homelessness policies and programs and the community housing sector. It situates the role the community housing sector can play in reducing homelessness into three broad areas:

- preventing homelessness by providing and managing secure and affordable housing;
- responding to homelessness by acting as an exit point for people leaving SAAP services or a housing crisis; and
- providing an immediate, secure housing option where support can be 'bolted on', or where access to secure housing will avoid a crisis.

The response concludes by arguing that a strong and sustainable community housing sector must be allowed to develop organically, where models of housing and support are 'owned' by organisations, rather than imposed through regulation. In this way, the community housing sector will be able to build on its excellent foundation, and improve and expand its capacity to form a major plank in Australia's response to homelessness.

The response is available on the CHFA website at [www.chfa.com.au/Docs/Downloads/CHFA\\_response\\_to\\_homelessness\\_green\\_paper\\_27June08.pdf](http://www.chfa.com.au/Docs/Downloads/CHFA_response_to_homelessness_green_paper_27June08.pdf).

## **CHFA presentation to the Australasian Housing Researchers' Conference**

In discussing CHFA's upcoming activities for this year, Edition 52 of NB noted that Eddy was working on a joint conference paper with Sydney

University PhD candidate Tony Gilmour. The paper in question was delivered to a rapturous crowd a fortnight ago in Melbourne at the Australasian Housing Researchers' Conference. The paper looked at organisational relationships in the community housing sector, and the role of relationships and networks in building capacity in the sector. A copy of the paper can be found on CHFA's website at [www.chfa.com.au/Docs/Downloads/Australasian\\_Housing\\_Researchers\\_\(Gilmour\\_&\\_Bo\\_urke\).pdf](http://www.chfa.com.au/Docs/Downloads/Australasian_Housing_Researchers_(Gilmour_&_Bo_urke).pdf).

### **AHURI paper on community housing and finance**

At the abovementioned conference, Carol Croce spoke with veteran housing researcher Sean McNellis, who reminded her of an AHURI report that he co-authored in 2002 with David Hayward and Hal Bisset. Despite being six years old, the report, *A private retail investment for the community housing sector* still has currency today, especially in light of the National Rental Affordability Scheme. It is no longer available on the AHURI website, but it can be downloaded from the CHFA website, at [www.chfa.com.au/Docs/Downloads/pr\\_privateretailinvestvehicle.pdf](http://www.chfa.com.au/Docs/Downloads/pr_privateretailinvestvehicle.pdf).

### **2008 NSW Awards for Excellence in Community Housing**

The NSW Federation of Housing Associations has now opened nominations for the 2008 NSW Awards for Excellence in Community Housing. There are a wide variety of award categories, and the judges are keen to hear from cooperatives,

church-based organisations, supported housing, and local government organisations alike. Nominations close on 22 July 2008, and the awards will be announced in Sydney on 10 September 2008.

The nomination form can be completed online at [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=SulLHO8mJO1loXp5XANJpw\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=SulLHO8mJO1loXp5XANJpw_3d_3d)

Please contact Ellen Adele on 02 9281 7144 or [ellen@communityhousing.org.au](mailto:ellen@communityhousing.org.au) for more information.

### **Senate report on housing affordability in Australia**

The Senate Select Committee on Housing Affordability in Australia has released its final report, titled *A good house is hard to find: Housing affordability in Australia*.

It is available to download at [www.aph.gov.au/SEnate/committee/hsaf\\_ctte/report/report.pdf](http://www.aph.gov.au/SEnate/committee/hsaf_ctte/report/report.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](mailto:chfa@chfa.com.au).