



# NATIONAL BULLETIN

An eBulletin from CHFA - your national community housing peak organisation

## Edition 62 – August 8, 2008

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

### NRAS Launch Outcomes

After the official launch of the National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS) last fortnight there have been some key developments.

CHFA have been chosen as one of the National Partnership Facilitators for the NRAS. Under this agreement CHFA will take on a variety of consultative and facilitative roles to coordinate potential partnership or consortium arrangements between organisations that are interested in participating in the Scheme. These include promoting opportunities for the community housing sector under NRAS, encouraging development proposals through the community housing sector and other stakeholders, and engaging with other FaHCSIA appointed organisations.

The other National Partnership Facilitator is Aged Care Services Australia (ACSA). CHFA and ACSA

are working together with the State and Territory Partnership Facilitators, who will have a more 'hands on' role. In South Australia and the Northern Territory this is being conducted by the South Australian Government's Department of Families and Communities. In all other jurisdictions, a company called MacroPlan will be the local partnership facilitator.

FaHCSIA are in the process of holding open information sessions on the Scheme at a series of locations across the country. Sessions have already been held in Sydney, Melbourne, Hobart and Canberra. The next session will be in Brisbane on the 11<sup>th</sup> of August, with the final session held in Perth on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August.

Full details of remaining information sessions and more information on other aspects of the NRAS can be obtained at  
[www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/](http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/)

[housing/nras.htm](#). Please feel free to contact CHFA for more information about applying for the NRAS.

## **National Homeless Person's Week: 4<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> August 2008**

This week marks National Homeless Person's Week, which is auspiced by Homelessness Australia. A wide variety of events have been held around the country by different community organisations. The Community Housing Coalition of WA has been involved through a partnership with ABC Perth to coordinate the 'Drop your Jocks' campaign.

ABC Perth, through their radio network and website, asked people to donate brand-new underwear, toiletries and basic items throughout the week. CHCWA are seeking interested parties in Perth and regional centres to distribute donated goods to those in need at the end of collections.

If you are interested in assisting CHCWA with the distribution in your area, please call Gary Kleyn on 08 9221 7933 or email [policy@communityhousing.com.au](mailto:policy@communityhousing.com.au). For full details of the 'Drop Your Jocks' campaign please visit [www.abc.net.au/local/stories/2008/07/31/2320713.htm?site=perth](http://www.abc.net.au/local/stories/2008/07/31/2320713.htm?site=perth).

National Homeless Person's Week continues over the weekend, so continued support of events is encouraged. For more information on National Homeless Person's Week, including a calendar of events

in each state and territory, please visit the Homelessness Australia website, at

[www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au](http://www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au).

## **CHCWA publication officially launched**

Western Australian Housing and Works Minister Michelle Roberts has officially launched the Community Housing Coalition of Western Australia's publication *The Affordable Housing Crisis: Where to from here?* The document explores different perspectives on how to meet demands for affordable housing, and the role community housing can play in addressing affordable housing shortages.

A media release from Michelle Roberts, the Minister for Housing and Works can be found at [www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/Releases.aspx?ItemID=130675](http://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/Releases.aspx?ItemID=130675).

## **VCOSS discussion paper – 'Universal Housing, Universal Benefits'**

The Victorian Council of Social Service has released a discussion paper on universal housing regulation in Victoria. Authored by Rivkah Nissim, the paper considers the provision of appropriate, accessible, 'whole-of-life' housing that can meet the present and future needs of the diverse and changing demographic of people in need.

A copy of the paper can be downloaded from [www.vcooss.org.au/documents/VCOSS%20d](http://www.vcooss.org.au/documents/VCOSS%20d)

[ocs/Housing/Universal%20Housing%20Univ  
ersal%20Benefits-email.pdf.](#)

## **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).