



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

Anti-Poverty Week 12 – 18th October, 2008

Anti-Poverty week is coming up next month and is a great opportunity to give voice to the important role community housing plays in alleviating poverty and hardship. The event encourages anyone who is interested in helping to reduce poverty in Australia or overseas to organise or become involved with activities during the Week. The activities can be large or small, and events at the local level are especially welcome.

It would be great to hear from any community housing organisations that are thinking of organising or becoming involved with Anti-Poverty Week events so we can keep everyone updated.

For more details the official Anti-Poverty Website provides a wealth of information on events during the week and how to get involved,

as well as background information, resources and contacts. Please see <http://www.antipovertyweek.org.au/index.html>.

National Rental Housing Advocacy Day

Australia Fair is coordinating a national advocacy day with the support of National Shelter, the Australian Council of Social Service, the CHFA, and Homelessness Australia.

The national rental housing advocacy day will be held on 24 September 2008 and will provide an opportunity to lobby Federal Members of Parliament and Senators on the need to substantially increase investment in public and non-profit housing. The day has been timed to coincide with the negotiation of a new National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA) to replace the current Commonwealth State Housing Agreement. The NAHA will include

funding arrangements for public and non-profit housing, and commence on 1 January 2009.

Full details for the National Rental Housing Advocacy Day are yet to be finalised, however CHFA will keep you updated in the lead up to the event.

2nd Annual Housing Affordability Congress

Plans for the 2nd Annual Affordability Congress are underway and have been scheduled for 10-11 December in Melbourne. The Congress has been endorsed by CHFA, and aims to examine the latest policies, initiatives and availability of affordable housing for all Australians. For more information, please keep an eye on CHFA's future eBulletins, which will provide updates over the coming months as information becomes available.

FaHCSIA enquiry into living costs for older Australians

This occasional paper, *Inquiry into the cost of living pressures on older Australians*, contains the FaHCSIA submissions to the Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs Inquiry into Cost of Living Pressures on Older Australians.

The paper includes a main submission outlining the support the Australian Government provides to improve the living standards of older Australians. Also included is a supplementary submission which provides written analysis of the Relative Price Indexes presented by

the St Vincent de Paul Society in its submission to the Committee.

The paper details Government initiatives and outlines direct and indirect funding for a number of areas affecting the cost of living for older Australians. This includes support for rental housing and home ownership, and references public and community housing programs.

The paper can be accessed via FaHCSIA's website at

<http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/facsintern.et.nsf/research/ops-ops21.htm>.

TAI discussion paper examining Compacts for the NGO sector

The Australia Institute has released a discussion paper addressing key issues relating to the use of Compacts between Government and Non-Government Organisations (NGOs). As reported in the last edition of NB, ACOSS has released a discussion paper on a Compact for the community sector.

The paper is titled *Agreeing to Disagree: Maintaining dissent in the NGO sector*, and argues that mechanisms put in place by the former Howard Government had the effect of silencing some NGOs. It analyses the value of Compacts in improving the ability of NGOs to advocate to Government.

The paper can be downloaded from TAI website at <https://www.tai.org.au/?q=node/8>.

Seminar – Resident & Citizen Voices in Housing Policy Decisions

This seminar will examine the issue of democracy and voice in housing decisions, and discuss ways to ensure that residents and citizens have a role in preserving and shaping affordable housing.

The seminar will be held in Sydney at the University of Western Sydney's Bankstown Campus and will be presented by Professor Phil Nyden, director of the Centre for Urban Research and Learning, at the Loyola University of Chicago. Dr Nyden helped to establish the Policy Research and Action Group (PRAG), which is a group of Chicago-based community leaders and university-based researchers which has been building a collaborative network to bring community knowledge and perspectives to the research process.

Dr Nyden has worked with many community and government organisations on projects aimed at promoting stable diverse neighbourhoods, improving access to quality affordable housing, gaining an understanding of the needs of youth and families in our local community, and understanding business development in economically diverse communities.

The seminar will be held on Wednesday 1 October from 2-4pm. For more information and to RSVP please call Eva Garcia on (02) 9772 6482.

Acknowledgements

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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.