



# NATIONAL BULLETIN

An eBulletin from CHFA - your national community housing peak organisation

**Edition 65 – September 19, 2008**

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

## **Community Housing Limited Reach Management Milestone**

The Victorian community housing organisation Community Housing Limited (CHL) recently celebrated the entry of the 1000th property into their management portfolio. The milestone came at a significant time, not least for new tenant Leanne who moved to Victoria in April to escape domestic violence.

Until securing this property Leanne and her eight year old son had been sharing a single mattress at a friend's house while Leanne tried to secure rental accommodation. She paints a familiar story of the difficulties of the rental market, "During that time, I was looking at rental properties that were in poor condition and asking \$260 plus per week. In one case there were around 300 people looking at this one unit, and it was almost like an auction."

CHL were able to secure a place for Leanne and her son in a new property in Craigeburn, a result she says has been better than she could have imagined. "The place is lovely. I couldn't have asked for anything more comfortable. It's a double storey with two bedrooms and a fair-sized backyard. It's also across the road from a school. I feel extremely lucky to have got this place."



From Left to Right: CHL Managing Director Steve Bevington, new tenant Leanne, and CHL Chairperson Chris Shields celebrate the new property.

CHL Managing Director Steve Bevington pointed to the importance of this milestone in terms of its

significance to the growth of the affordable housing sector in the current context of increased State and Federal Government funding. “The growth of properties in our portfolio has taken 14 years to build up. Two years ago however we were managing around 750 properties so we’ve seen accelerating growth in the last couple of years,” says Mr. Bevington. “The key for CHL has always been to have the foundations for growth set firmly in place, and this is what this gradual growth in the first ten years of operation allowed.”

Mr. Bevington added, “With the recent commitment of the new government to significantly growing the number of affordable homes in Australia, the first 1000 homes represents growth in an era where funding was inadequate. The affordable housing sector stands on the threshold of a well-funded era where the challenge will be managing growth for the long term.”

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Housing Affordability Congress Update**

The official website and full event program have now been released for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Housing Affordability Congress. The event presents a range of perspectives on affordable housing issues in Australia from key stakeholders at a variety of levels. These include representatives from the housing and finance industries, Federal, State and Local Governments, and community housing providers. For more information on topics or speakers for the event, or to register, please visit the website:

[http://www.informa.com.au/ibcoz/marlin/system/render.jsp?MarlinViewType=MARKT\\_EFFORT&siteid=30000000421&marketingid=20001719500](http://www.informa.com.au/ibcoz/marlin/system/render.jsp?MarlinViewType=MARKT_EFFORT&siteid=30000000421&marketingid=20001719500).

## **AHURI Publications Update**

There are three recent publication releases from the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute which may prove of interest. The first is a final report from a project looking at older people within public housing. The report, *Older persons in public housing: the policy and management issues*, draws on interviews with older persons living in public housing, representatives from support services, and staff and management from State Housing Authorities.

The report outlines a range of key policy and management issues relating to housing older tenants within the current context of public housing management and provides examples of innovative responses. The report offers a useful insight into the challenges facing providers of housing for older tenants.

The second recent publication from AHURI is a research paper which provides a technical perspective on improving affordable housing supply, examining modeling of supply initiatives using the AHURI-3M model. The report presents valuable conclusions drawn from the modeling and subsequent policy implications. The report is titled *Modelling of initiatives to improve the supply of affordable housing using the AHURI-3M*.

The third release from AHURI is a positioning paper titled *Indigenous*

*homelessness: place, house and home.* This paper draws on research of Indigenous homelessness at a range of locations throughout Australia, and examines different constructions of homelessness, in order to assist policy makers in differentiating between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous homelessness, and in deciding if further differentiation based on contrasting geographical settings is required. In this way the report aims to better equip policy makers to improve their responses to Indigenous homelessness.

plug your news into NB. Email your news to: [chfa@chfa.com.au](mailto:chfa@chfa.com.au).

Each of the publications can be downloaded from the AHURI website:

<http://www.ahuri.edu.au/publications/recent.asp>

## **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