



# NATIONAL BULLETIN

An eBulletin from CHFA - your national community housing peak organisation

## Edition 66 – October 3rd, 2008

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

### **CHFA National Affordable Housing Agreement Discussion Paper**

Last week CHFA released its first Discussion Paper on the Australian Government's National Affordable Housing Agreement which is scheduled to come into operation on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January, 2009. The paper aims to provide information to the community housing sector about the National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA), which will replace the current Commonwealth State Housing Agreement (CSHA); and to articulate CHFA's policy position on the Agreement.

The paper includes background information on the development of a National Affordable Housing Agreement and provides details of CHFA involvement with the National Affordable Housing Summit group and the National Rental Housing Day of Action in relation to development of the NAHA. The body of the

discussion covers CHFA's position on a range of key issues and proposals for the NAHA.

The discussion paper is available for download from our website:

<http://www.chfa.com.au/clearinghouse/index.asp>

### **Senate Inquiry into National Rental Affordability Scheme**

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of October, 2008 a new development in the progress of the NRAS was witnessed as the Senate, on the recommendation of the Selection of Bills Committee, referred the provisions of the National Rental Affordability Scheme Bill 2008 and National Rental Affordability Scheme (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008 to the Committee for inquiry and report by 20 November 2008.

Reasons provided for referral of the Bills and principal issues for consideration are:

- whether the Bills are targeted to deliver affordable housing to those in greatest need;
- whether the Bills are an efficient and effective way to deliver increased affordable housing; and
- whether the Bills facilitate investment in social housing by not for profit community housing organisations, as well as private investors.

The Bill, explanatory memorandum and second reading speeches may be accessed at these links:

[National Rental Affordability Scheme Bill 2008](#)

[National Rental Affordability Scheme \(Consequential Amendments\) Bill 2008](#)

Invitations for written submission are currently being received and should be lodged by 24 October 2008. The Committee prefers to receive submissions electronically as an attached document – email:

[community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au)

Otherwise by fax (02 6277 5829)

Information relating to Senate Committee inquiries, including notes to assist in the preparation of submissions for a Committee, can be located on the Internet at:

[http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/wit\\_sub/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/wit_sub/index.htm)

Public hearings on the Bills are due to be set in early November. For further information please contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 3515.

## **Community Housing 2009 State Budget Submission from CHFV**

The Community Housing Federation of Victoria (CHFV) has recently released their Budget Submission to the Victorian Government.

The submission outlines the operational context currently impacting community housing associations and providers in Victoria and identifies the need for increased community housing supply in order to address the current shortage of affordable housing. In support of this the submission makes two budget recommendations, the first addressing the need to build an increased number of new properties for management by registered community housing agencies in Victoria, and the second recommends a significant increase in the State housing budget for 2008-2009.

For full details of CHFV's funding submission are available from the CHFA website:

<http://www.chfa.com.au/clearinghouse/index.asp>

## **Tablelands Community Housing Association Achieve Accreditation**

There were celebrations last month for Tablelands Community Housing Association, of Queensland, who successfully received ongoing accreditation for 2008-2011 as a Community Housing provider under the Queensland Community Housing Standards and Accreditation System.



Tableland Community Housing Association Management Committee and Staff

Tableland Community Housing was established over nineteen years ago by a group of caring individuals. Since then the Management Committee and staff, past and present have been committed to providing safe, secure, affordable and appropriate housing to those most in need.

Tableland Community Housing Association has grown over the years and now has a housing stock of 57 units of accommodation and three programs funded by the Queensland Department of Housing - Community Rent Scheme, Long Term Community Housing and Tableland Tenancy Advice Service.

“Finding adequate shelter is a basic human need”, said Dianne Wellington-Miller, Housing Manager at Tableland Community Housing. “When there is not enough housing, where the housing is too expensive or unsafe or the housing is only available to certain groups of people, families and individuals become homeless and live with distress and insecurity.”

Congratulations to Tableland Community Housing Association on demonstrating continued high standards in the provision of Community Housing.

### **Affordable Housing Forum for Ipswich and West Moreton, Queensland**

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of October Care Housing are holding a 2008 Affordable Housing Forum addressing affordable housing needs and solutions for the Ipswich and West Moreton Region of Queensland. The Forum provides a comprehensive overview of issues for the region. This includes perspectives from Community, and State and Local Governments on housing need for the region. There will also be discussion of policy and planning issues by Federal, State and Local Governments, and examples of local housing solutions.

The Forum will be held at the Ipswich Civic Centre. This will be a free event, with lunch provided. An RSVP is required by the 6<sup>th</sup> of October. To RSVP or obtain further details please contact:

[Susan.Payne@cofcqld.com.au](mailto:Susan.Payne@cofcqld.com.au)

Ph: (07) 3327 1674

Fax: (07) 3878 1268

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Network for his National Notify bulletins.

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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).