



# eNews 2014

Peak Body for Housing and Homelessness

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**11<sup>th</sup> March 2014**

## **Housing and Homelessness News**

### **Tasmanian State Election – 15 March 2014**

Shelter Tas is working hard to alert candidates to affordable housing and homelessness issues throughout the election campaign. We have been reiterating some of the key points from our [Budget Submission](#) and asking candidates to commit to measures to:

- Revitalise Social Housing
- Combat Homelessness
- Maximise Affordable Housing.

In addition, we have contacted candidates, calling on the major parties to commit to **Shelter Tas' 7 election priorities** and demonstrate a commitment to lobby the Federal Government to continue the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH), which is due to expire in June 2014 and currently funds many of our vital support services and supported accommodation facilities. Go to the election page on our [website](#) to view our 'call to candidates' letter, factsheets providing detailed information on our election priorities and media releases relevant to the election campaign. You can also read a joint letter from Shelter Tas, the Youth Network of Tasmania and the Tasmanian Youth Housing and Homelessness Group to candidates, regarding improving services for youth at risk of homelessness in the north and north west of the State.

The three major parties have made their policy announcements, go to the Shelter Tas [election web page](#) to find the links to Labor, Liberal and Greens websites where you can read further.

### **Two ABC stories on the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH) Funding**

#### **ABC PM - 'It's Time for Commonwealth Decision on Homelessness Funding: Goward'**

An interview on 'PM' with NSW Housing Minister, Prue Goward about the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH). [Click here](#) to listen to the interview or read the transcript.

#### **ABC AM – 'Homelessness Providers Worried about Long-Term Funding'**

'AM' interviews Homelessness Australia CEO, Glenda Stevens in their story on the NPAH. [Click here](#) to listen to the interview or read the transcript.

Remember to go to the Shelter Tas [webpage](#) to find resources to help you **join the campaign to extend NPAH funding** beyond June 2014, including a template letter and factsheets (providing background information on the NPAH). If not extended, NPAH-funded programs all over Australia, including many vital services in Tasmania will be at risk, as will the staff and client associated with them. Please show your support for this very important campaign!

### **Call for Contributions in 'Parity'**

Council to Homeless Persons are calling for contributions in the April edition of their newsletter, Parity. This will be a 'Case Management and Homelessness' edition. [Click here](#) for more information.

### **Youth Homelessness Matters Day**

Are you part of an organisation working with young people, or an individual keen to get involved in [Youth Homelessness Matters Day](#) on 9<sup>th</sup> April? If you are working with young people, request your kit by [clicking here](#). If you are a supporter, find out how you can [get involved](#) online or within your community!

### **Expressions of Interest for Housing and Homelessness Training**

Shelter Tas is calling for expressions of interest in training units for housing and homelessness services. There are a number of very relevant units, including: tenancy, client services, case management, human resources and workplace effectiveness. It is expected the training will be for 1 or 2 days only.

If you are interested, please download the EOI form from the [Shelter Tas website](#) and return to [frances.schouten@bigpond.com](mailto:frances.schouten@bigpond.com) by Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

If you have any questions, please call Frances on 0448 644 011 or Pattie at Shelter Tas on 6224 5488.

### **Diploma and Certificate IV in Social Housing Subsidy**

Great news! Shelter Tas and Housing Tas have been successful in our Skills Tasmania application to subsidise members to undertake the Diploma and Certificate IV in Social Housing for 2014.

There is currently an extra place available in both the Diploma and Certificate IV courses. If you or any of your staff are interested, please fill in the [Expression of Interest form](#) ASAP. Please return the form to Pattie at Shelter Tas ([eo@shelbertas.org.au](mailto:eo@shelbertas.org.au)) or NSWFA Project Officer, Nada (see EOI form for contact details). To view the units within both programs, go to the NSWFA link: [www.communityhousing.org.au](http://www.communityhousing.org.au).

## **Media Releases**

### **Call for Political Policies to Address Tasmania's Severe Shortage of Affordable Housing**

A joint [media release](#) from TasCOSS and Shelter Tas.

### **Building a Fairer Tasmania**

From the [Minister for Human Services](#), Rebecca White.

### **Shelter WA Media Release**

[Click here](#) to read Shelter WA's call for a funding extension for the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH). You can read more on this issue on the [Shelter Tas website](#).

## **Research and Articles**

### **AHURI Evidence Review 050: Managed Land Release Increases Land Values, But...**

This latest AHURI evidence review finds that reducing land release planning controls would not reduce house prices. Read the full article on the [AHURI website](#).

### **Shelter WA Housing Research Review: Demographia Survey**

Shelter WA has reviewed the recently released 2014 Demographia International Housing Affordability Survey, [click here](#) to read the review.

### **Forum Report: Measuring and Reducing Red Tape in the Not-for-Profit Sector**

[This report](#) from the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission presents recommendations to help reduce the red tape burden on not-for-profit organisations.

## Conferences/Seminars/Forums

### TasCOSS Regional Consultative Forums - April

The next round of TasCOSS Regional Consultation forums will take place in the first week of April. These forums provide an opportunity for TasCOSS to receive feedback from the community sector, service providers and members of the community on issues affecting Tasmania. TasCOSS will seek input on specific issues, but also want to hear about the issues of concern. Full details of times and venues still to come, but save the date for Burnie on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April, Launceston on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April and Hobart on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April. The forums will be held in the morning on these dates.

### Digital Literacy Program

Infoxchange and Australia Post have announced a major 4 year National literacy programme that aims to improve the digital skills of over 300,000 people. The program includes the development of an online learning platform, a mentoring network, community pop-up learning opportunities, as well as a series of National and regional conversations, seminars and forums. All of this will culminate in 2016 National Year of Digital Inclusion. [Click here](#) read more, and sign up to keep in touch with the program [here](#).

### Free 26TEN Adult Literacy Awareness and Plain English Workshops

Free adult literacy awareness and plain English workshops are on offer from 26TEN in 2014. The adult literacy awareness workshop informs about the impacts of low literacy, what is being done to support adult literacy in Tasmania and how your organisation can help. To register for a one-hour introductory session or a 3.5-hour short course call 6165 5512 (freecall 1300 00 2610), [email@26ten.tas.gov.au](mailto:email@26ten.tas.gov.au), or go to [www.26ten.tas.gov.au](http://www.26ten.tas.gov.au).

### AHURI Event – Private sector finance: increasing the options for affordable rental housing.

Attracting large-scale institutional investment to grow Australia's supply of affordable rental housing has been a long-term goal for Australia's affordable housing industry.

However, the cost and availability of private finance remains a major obstacle. The key is to balance the most efficient form of risk allocation with the required public good outcomes, whilst attracting the lowest-cost funds and ensure these reach long-term landlords.

Join us for this AHURI event that will bring together leading researchers with senior policy-makers and industry representatives to discuss how this issue can be addressed in partnership with the superannuation and community housing sectors.

**When:** Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2014 8:45 AM – 12:30 PM

**Where:** Village Roadshow Theatrette, Entry 3, 179 La Trobe Street, State Library of Victoria, Melbourne

**Cost:** \$90 excluding GST.

**RSVP:** Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2014.

Please view the [fees](#) section of the [event website](#) for payment and cancellation information, and RSVP by clicking [here](#).

### Housing, Disability and the NDIS Forum – 27 March 2014

The Community Housing Federation of Australia (CHFA) is holding a forum on 27 March in Canberra, to examine the emerging role of the NDIS in supporting participants to gain appropriate housing with support. The forum will provide an excellent opportunity for participants to learn about current policy, best practice, and future opportunities for housing people with disabilities. Participants will contribute directly to shaping this significant area of policy development via interactive sessions and a conference communiqué that will be delivered to the Minister. The forum will run from 9.30am – 4.30pm, at the Manuka Oval Function Centre, Canberra.

## Other News

### Tas Greens Policy Initiative

The Tasmanian Greens have just released a policy initiative to implement the Tasmanian Women's Plan 2013-18 and currently unfunded elements of the Primary Prevention Strategy to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children. [Click here](#) to read more.

### New Mental Health Carers Support Group in Hobart

Mental Health Carers Tasmania is running a weekly informal support group for carers of people living with mental ill health. Meetings are held on Wednesdays from 2pm-3pm at 1 St John Ave, New Town. To RSVP or request more information, contact Rabia on 6228 7448 or email [admin@mentalhealthcarerstas.org.au](mailto:admin@mentalhealthcarerstas.org.au)

### Free Legal Advice at The Junction, Devonport

Melanie Wyatt, from Greg Smith & Co Solicitors, offers free legal advice at The Junction at 64 Stewart St Devonport, the third Tuesday of every month, 3.30pm-4:30pm. Drop in or make an appointment on 6423 6635.

### Hear our Voices Women's Gathering

For all women with a migrant or refugee background. Come and be entertained, share ideas, food, make new friends and talk about issues that are important to you.

**When:** Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> and Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March, 9.00am -4.00pm

**Where:** Glenorchy Civic Centre, Cooper Street Glenorchy (next to Village Cinema)

**RSVP:** Booking are essential. Call Jill on 6216 6371 or email [jsleiters@gcc.tas.gov.au](mailto:jsleiters@gcc.tas.gov.au)

Young children can be cared for on-site while parents attend the gathering.

### Grant Alert

#### Tasmania Medicare Local – Closes 31 March 2014

[Tasmania Medicare](#) Local (TML) is an innovative organisation established to better coordinate primary health care services for local communities.

#### The Mercy Foundation – Closes 31 March 2014

[The Mercy Foundation](#) offers a Small Grants Program once a year. Small grants are provided for a range of social justice and community initiatives and are not limited to a focus on homelessness. Funding under this program would average about \$2,500 per organisation and would never exceed \$5,000.