



# eNews 2014

Peak Body for Housing and Homelessness

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16<sup>th</sup> May 2014

## Housing and Homelessness News

### Federal Budget Announced – Implications for affordable housing and homelessness in Tasmania

As you will be aware, the Federal government released its 2014-15 budget on Tuesday, which has generated responses from a number of organisations concerned about the future of affordable housing and homelessness. Below is a selection of relevant documents:

- [National Shelter](#) media release
- [Homelessness Australia's](#) sector briefing on the budget
- [Community Housing Federation of Australia's](#) budget briefing
- Budget Briefing by [Catholic Social Services Australia](#).

[Click here](#) to view the relevant section of the full Budget 2014-15 document, the key points are:

- The National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS) will not continue in its current form
- The National Partnership Agreement on Homeless (NPAH) – the States will be expected to match Commonwealth funding dollar for dollar next year, but the NPAH will expire at the end of the 2014-15 financial year with no plans for funding beyond that time
- NPAH funding will be reduced in Tasmania – in 2013-2014 Tasmania received \$4.6 million, in 2014-2015 Tasmania will receive \$2.8 million from the Commonwealth
- National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA) – National Affordable Housing Specific Purpose Payment will continue much the same as last year.

Other points of interest:

- States will be offered financial incentives for the sale of State public assets at a rate of 15% from the Commonwealth to reinvest in infrastructure
- White papers will be released to support discussion on taxation and GST reform between the States and the Commonwealth government
- Changes to the way welfare is delivered will negatively affect the capacity of recipients to pay their housing costs and potentially increase poverty and homelessness.

Please note – the budget must first be passed through the Senate, and this is an opportunity to work with our national peak body, Commonwealth and State politicians to ensure the future of affordable housing and homelessness services in Tasmania.

### Shelter Tas Welcomes New Policy Officer

Cynthia Townley has joined Shelter Tas as our Policy Officer, following 2 years working for the Commonwealth Department of Human Services in Hobart, and 8 years working at Macquarie University, Sydney as a philosopher. Born and educated in Tasmania, Cynthia is new to the community sector, but has a long standing interest in the importance of secure and affordable housing for social justice and participation. Her experience includes volunteering on the Management Committee for a specialist housing service provider in Sydney. You can contact Cynthia at [policy@shelertas.org.au](mailto:policy@shelertas.org.au) or on 6224 5488. Welcome Cynthia!

*Cynthia (R) is pictured with Shelter Management Committee member and Magnolia Place CEO, Jenny Bertram (L).*



## National Housing Conference 2015 Announced

The biennial National Housing Conference is convened by the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) and is the single largest cross-sectoral event in Australasia for the social and affordable housing sectors. It aims to provide a platform for sharing, debating, celebrating and promoting ideas in affordable housing research, policy and practice; and is a must attend event for anyone interested in innovative solutions and partnerships to guide Australia's future approach to affordable housing delivery. The 2015 Conference will be convened in Perth by AHURI in partnership with the WA Department of Housing from the 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> October 2015. A dedicated website for the conference will be launched in mid-2014. Until then, for more information go to the [National Housing Conference website](#).

## Research and Articles

### ABC Radio National Breakfast – Budget Panel

Jennifer Westacott (CEO of the Business Council of Australia), Cassandra Goldie (CEO of the Australian Council of Social Services) and Chris Richardson (of Deloitte Access Economics) discuss what the 2014-15 Federal Budget will mean for the economy, the poor and the wealthy. [Click here](#) to listen to the interview.

### ING Direct - Household Financial Wellbeing Index

Almost two thirds of Australian households (63%) say they have been strapped for cash between pay days at some stage, and one in three have used a credit card to tide them over. Almost half (46%) say it would take at least an extra \$300 per week to be comfortable with take-home pay. These are the latest findings of the [ING DIRECT Household Financial Wellbeing Index](#), which confirms many Australians are struggling to make ends meet and build personal savings.

### The Age –Life on the streets prompts mission for homeless union

[Click here](#) to read more.

## Conferences/Forums/Training

### TasCOSS Outcomes Measurement Workshops

TasCOSS is running one-day Outcomes Measurement Workshops across the State during May, led by national sustainability consultancy [Net Balance](#).

**When:** 9.00am-4.30pm

**Where:**

**Burnie** -Wellers Inn on 19<sup>th</sup> May. [Register online](#)

**Launceston** - The Tramsheds on 20<sup>th</sup> May. [Register online](#)

**Hobart** - C3 Convention Centre on 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> May. [Register online](#)

**Cost (GST inclusive):** TasCOSS members \$242, Non-member NFPs \$352, Private/Government \$825 (Lunch, morning and afternoon tea included).

The Net Balance Foundation's outcomes measurement experts will also provide **one hour of phone support** to each workshop participant after the event.

For more information, download an [Outcomes Measurement Workshop flyer](#) or contact TasCOSS Sector Development Officer, Tim Tabart on 03 6231 0755 or [tim@tascoss.org.au](mailto:tim@tascoss.org.au).

### TasCOSS Collective Impact Practitioners Forum

This forum on how to collaborate successfully to address complex social and environmental problems will be held on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June, 10am-5pm, at the C3 Convention Centre, South Hobart. The forum will be led by presenters from the [Promise Neighborhoods Institute](#) in the US. The Institute

supports more than 50 impoverished communities to build integrated supports for their children and young people. Cost: \$93.50 - [Register online](#). For more information, contact Tim Tabart at [tim@tascoss.org.au](mailto:tim@tascoss.org.au) or on 6231 0755.

### **ACOSS National Conference – 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> June 2014, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre**

The theme of this year's Australian Council of Social Services (ACOSS) conference is '*Global Problems, Local Solutions: Tackling inequality in Australia and beyond*'. With Australia hosting the G20 in 2014 and leading civil society's engagement through the C20 process, the ACOSS conference will feature international guest speakers and Australian leaders presenting a way forward for tackling poverty and inequality. The ACOSS conference will feed into the global C20 Summit in June and the world leaders' meeting. For more information and registration go to: <http://conference.acoss.org.au/>

(The C20 is a platform for dialogue between the Political Leaders of G20 countries and representatives of Civil Society Organisations: <http://www.c20.org.au/>)

## **Other News**

### **Call For Contributions for the June Edition of Parity: Housing, Homelessness and Disability**

The Council to Homeless Persons (CHP) have put out a call for contributions for the June 'Housing, Homelessness and Disability' edition of their magazine, 'Parity'.

**Deadline:** All contributions need to be submitted by Friday June 13<sup>th</sup> 2014.

**Submissions:** All contributions should be submitted as Word attachments to an email addressed to [parity@chp.org.au](mailto:parity@chp.org.au)

**Word length:** Contributions can be up to 1,600 words. This equates to a double page spread in Parity. Single page articles can be up to 800 words in length. Contributions of a greater length should be discussed with the Parity Editor.

**Questions:** If you have any questions at all about contributing to this edition please contact the Parity Editor by email [parity@chp.org.au](mailto:parity@chp.org.au) or ring 03 8415 6200.

Detailed information on referencing and writing guidelines for Parity can be found [here](#).

### **Grant Alert: Project Planning and Grant Writing Workshop**

This workshop is designed to assist community groups plan successful projects, identify a range of potential grant funding sources and prepare grant submissions. This introductory session is intended for community groups and individuals with little or no experience in grant writing, and for people who wish to refresh their skills in this area.

The workshop will involve three sessions. The first session will be devoted to project planning and grant writing. The second and third optional sessions, from 12.30 - 1.30 pm, are conducted concurrently by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (overview of how you can access ABS data free of charge that will support your grant application) and Regional Development Australia (the importance of partnerships and collaboration to create stand-out projects). You have a choice of attending one of these two sessions.

**When:** Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2014, 10.00am – 12.00pm

**Where:** Australian Bureau of Statistics, 200 Collins Street, Hobart

**Cost:** Free

**Enquiries:** contact Ms Vlasta Collins, on 6232 7050 or email [vlasta.collins@dpac.tas.gov.au](mailto:vlasta.collins@dpac.tas.gov.au).

There will be other Project Planning and Grant Writing Workshops delivered across the Southern region (Huon Valley, Tasman Peninsula, Triabunna and Oatlands) between August and October 2014. Information about dates and venues will be released shortly.