



eNews 2014

Peak Body for Housing and Homelessness

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2nd May 2014

Housing and Homelessness News

ALERT: The National Commission of Audit (NCOA) Released Yesterday

The NCOA has made recommendations to the Federal government that housing affordability and homelessness prevention should be primarily the responsibility of State and Territory governments. The Commission recommends the Commonwealth:

- a. limit its involvement in housing to providing Rent Assistance payments;
- b. extend Rent Assistance to public housing tenants, provided State governments commence charging market rates of rent; and
- c. fund the increase in aggregate Rent Assistance payments by re-directing Commonwealth funding from existing agreements with the States for affordable housing and homelessness and the National Rental Affordability Scheme.

[Click here](#) to read the recommendations.

It must be remembered that these are recommendations only, and we must wait until Budget night, 13th May, to see which (if any) recommendations will be implemented by the Federal government. Shelter Tas, in collaboration with our National Peaks, will analyse the NCOA recommendations and keep you informed. For the full report, go to the [NCOA website](#).

Campaign for NPAH

A big thank you to all our members for your support of the NPAH campaign. Shelter Tas has now received a response to our letter to the Minister for Social Services, Kevin Andrews regarding funding for the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH). We await more detailed information from the Minister on the future of this vital funding. [Click here](#) to read Minister Andrews' Letter of response.

2014 National Social Housing Survey

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) will commence the National Social Housing Survey in late April 2014. This will involve a sample of social housing tenants receiving a survey form by mail that asks a range of questions, such as - tenant satisfaction with current housing, need for/ability to access other community and health services and demographic data about the tenant and their household.

This is part of a national program of surveys, and data collected is used for national reporting purposes and to help shape the development of strategies to improve services provided to tenants in the future. Therefore, social housing organisations are requested to encourage tenants to complete and return the survey should they receive one in the mail. If you have any queries, please contact Rogier Dunnewijk at Housing Tasmania on 6166 3637.

Media Releases

National Commission of Audit releases review of the activities of the Commonwealth Government

[Summary of the NCOA](#), see the first item of this eNews for more information.

No rentals for Tasmanians out of work

Media alert for Anglicare's [rental affordability snapshot survey](#). Go to the [Research page of the Anglicare website](#) if you would like to see further details of the survey.

Signs low income and vulnerable to bear brunt of Budget repair

Media release from The [Australian Council of Social Service](#).

Research and Articles

Sydney Morning Herald: Snapshot of affordable housing around the country reveals a bleak picture

[This article](#) discusses recent research on national rental affordability from Anglicare.

The Mercury: Affordable rentals like 'needle in a haystack' for Tasmania's jobless, says state's Anglicare chief

[Read more](#) about Anglicare's research from a Tasmania perspective.

AHURI Evidence Review 053: Housing affordability - cities performing badly

Go to the AHURI [website](#) to read more.

ABC News: Margaret - the hidden face of homelessness

This multi-media article follows [Margaret](#), just one of a rising number of Australian women aged over 55 who have to seek housing support, live on the street or are on the verge of homelessness.

The Conversation: Building funds cut even as older women swell ranks of homeless

Another interesting [article](#) on older women and homelessness, and the possible impact of future changes to NPAH funding.

Australian Policy Online: Information paper - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples perspectives on homelessness, 2014

This information paper presents findings from engagement conducted over the past 12 months with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and homelessness service providers in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples perspectives on homelessness.

Conferences/Forums/Training

Friday Forum with Cassandra Goldie - ACOSS

TasCOSS invites you to join Australian Council of Social Service CEO, Dr Cassandra Goldie, who will be the speaker at St David's regular Friday Forum on the topic: *Winning Welfare for Tasmania: Social Security Advocacy in 2014*. All are welcome to this event from 1.00-2.00pm on Friday 2nd May – [click here](#) for more details.

Launch of the Carer Representative Service, Lunch and Forum

Partners in Recovery and Mental Health Carers Tasmania are launching the Carer Representative Service and invite you to attend.

Find out about the new service, Partners in Recovery and participate in the consultation; 'How do services support carers of people with mental illness in Southern Tasmania?'

When: Tuesday 6th May, 11.00am – 2.00pm

Where: Bellerive Yacht Club

RSVP/more information: sarahh1@colony47.com.au or phone 6214 1311

Transport and assistance to arrange respite care can be provided.

Introduction to DBT With a Focus on Youth

Professionals working with suicidal adolescents with multiple problems are often challenged by complex clinical presentations and the many dilemmas that arise during treatment. Evidence suggests that Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT) can help suicidal adolescents and their families. This 2 day workshop explores comprehensive DBT and its application to an adolescent population to engage and retain clients.

When: Friday 2nd May and Saturday 3rd May 2014

Where: Cornerstone Youth Services Inc. (Headspace Launceston)

Cost: \$380.00 (includes materials and catering)

How to register: Contact Lynnette Kerrison – 6335 3100 or lkerrison@csys.com.au

Closing date: Monday 28th April 2014

Note: Only 10 places available.

TasCOSS Not-for-Profit Leadership Series Outcomes Measurement Workshops

TasCOSS is running one-day Outcomes Measurement Workshops in Burnie, Launceston and Hobart on the 19th, 20th and 21st May, led by national sustainability consultancy [Net Balance](#).

When: 9.00am-4.30pm

Where:

Burnie -Wellers Inn, [Register online](#)

Launceston - The Tramsheds, [Register online](#)

Hobart - C3 Convention Centre, [Register online](#)

(If there is sufficient demand a fourth workshop will be held on Fri 23rd May)

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.

ACOSS National Conference – 11th – 12th 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

Personal Stories Sought: help bolster the case for wiping criminal records incurred under old anti-gay laws

The State government is committed to expunging the criminal records of gay men arrested under Tasmania's former anti-gay laws. The Tasmanian Gay and Lesbian Rights Group would like to hear from anyone who was arrested or prosecuted under these laws. The personal stories of those who were affected by these laws will help ensure the expungement legislation passes. Please contact Rodney Croome on 0409 010 668 or rodney.croome@tglrg.org.

Grant Alert: Tasmanian Community Fund

[Targeted Funding Round - Resilience and Life Skills for Young Tasmanians](#) – (opens 3 May and closes 25 June 2014)

The Tasmanian Community Fund will be seeking to fund a range of projects (\$50,000 to \$300,000) that target 16 to 25 year olds to build resilience and increase life skills in one or more of the following areas:

- Improving health and well-being
- Improving mental health outcomes
- Improving literacy and numeracy
- Re-engaging with the community and/or education
- Reducing teenage pregnancy
- Reducing violence including bullying
- Reducing youth homelessness
- Diverting from the justice system

The targeted funding grant round will open on 3rd May 2014 and stage one applications will close on 25th June 2014.

Project funding will be available for a maximum of three years. However, the Board will consider applications for a further two years of funding in a relevant general grant round, subject to the outcomes of an external evaluation of the project programs and infrastructure.

Funding is not available for research or trials, or projects that can be more suitably funded by another organisation. Funding available: Around \$2.5 million is available for allocation through this targeted round.

Round 29 (small and medium only) of the [Tasmanian Community Fund](#) will open on 2nd August 2014.