



eNews 2014

Peak Body for Housing and Homelessness

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5th June 2014

Housing and Homelessness News

Reminder! Affordable Housing Plan for Tasmania - Introductory Consultation Survey Closes Tomorrow

Housing Tasmania is developing a Statewide affordable housing plan that will provide a clear framework for how we address housing supply and deliver better access to housing support and affordable, secure homes over the next ten years. The plan aims to address the entire spectrum of housing; from home ownership, to affordable rental, public, community housing and crisis accommodation.

Housing Tasmania will conduct focus groups as the key consultation tool at each of the five steps of plan development:

1. Assessing community need
2. Assessing demand and capacity
3. Assessing service efficiency and effectiveness
4. Setting priorities
5. Identifying solutions.

Independently facilitated focus group sessions will commence in July 2014. Housing Tasmania aims for the plan to be completed by December 2014.

To guide these focus group discussions, Housing Tasmania is seeking preliminary feedback through an introductory consultation survey.

If you wish to be involved in the plan's development, please complete this short [survey](#) by **Friday 6th June 2014**.

If you have any questions about the survey, the consultation process or development of the plan generally, please contact Anna Balmforth on (03) 6166 3671 or by email at anna.balmforth@dhhs.tas.gov.au. Shelter Tas welcomes any questions or comments you would like us to consider for our feedback. Please contact Policy Officer, Cynthia Townley at policy@shelertas.org.au or call 6224 5488.

Letter from the Prime Minister

Shelter Tas has received a letter from Prime Minister Tony Abbott, in response to Shelter Tas' correspondence regarding the abolition of the National Rental Affordability Scheme. Go to the Shelter Tas [website](#) to read the letter.

Vinnies CEO Sleepout

Shelter Tas is pleased to promote the Vinnies CEO Sleepout in 2014! The CEO sleepout will be held on **Thursday 19th June** at The Hobart Showgrounds, Glenorchy. The event aims to raise funds and awareness of homelessness in Australia, and will take place on the same night in every capital city in Australia. Business and community leaders are encouraged to claim their space for 2014 and register now.

[Register](#) now for the Vinnies CEO Sleepout, or contact the Tasmanian Vinnies CEO Sleepout team at launceston@ceosleepout.org.au

ATO will No Longer Provide Market Rent Figures

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) will no longer be releasing benchmark figures for market rent. The tables have been previously used by community housing providers to determine the 75% market rent as a basis for capping the rent their tenants are charged. **As the ATO benchmark figures are no longer available, individual providers will now have to calculate their own.**

The ATO provides some guidelines on calculating market rent. You may wish to read these when you review your own policies. Read the ATO's 'basis of valuation rules' [here](#) (10.2).

Shelter SA on Radio Adelaide

Alice Clark, Executive Director of Shelter SA, spoke recently with Adrian Pisarski (Executive Officer of National Shelter), Zoe Bettison MP (Minister for Social Housing) and Duncan McFetridge MP (Liberal Shadow Minister for Social Housing) about the Federal budget and what it will mean to the housing and homelessness sector in South Australia should the proposed changes pass through government. [Click here](#) to listen to the interview.

Media Releases

Homelessness Programs Need Assurances

Shadow Minister for Human Services, Rebecca White, Thursday 5th June 2014. [Click here](#).

Nominations Open for Honour Roll of Women

Minister for Human Women, Tuesday 3rd June 2014. [Click here](#).

North West Tenants Benefit from Public Housing Transfer

Minister for Human Services, Monday 2nd June 2014. [Click here](#).

Liberal Government Action on Housing Affordability

Minister for Human Services, Thursday 29th May 2014. [Click here](#).

Long-term Supported Housing Report Released by Advocacy Tasmania, Shelter Tasmania and the Mental Health Council of Tasmania

28th May 2014, joint [media release](#) to highlight the report's launch. Read the full document [here](#).

Research and Articles

ProBono News – NFP's suffer from reform fatigue

Australian Not-for-Profits are tired of the reform roller coaster and despite uncertainty around the charity regulator, the best NFP leaders are taking care of business themselves, according to a [new report](#).

SMH – Mentally ill slipping back to the streets

[Click here](#) to read more.

ProBono News – National homelessness agreement close

The Federal Government has told a Senate committee that the States and Territories are poised to sign a new National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness for 2014-15, but has given no funding assurances beyond the next 12 months. Read more [here](#).

The Mercury – Tasmania’s shock welfare figures proof of employment policy failures, says Social Services Minister Kevin Andrews

[Read more](#) of the article featured in the *Mercury* yesterday.

Australian Policy Online – Tasmanian state election 2014: an overview

[This paper](#) provides an overview of Tasmania’s parliamentary and electoral system, the state’s political landscape in the lead up to the election, issues that dominated the 2014 election, the parties, the candidates and the results.

Conferences/Forums/Training

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/>)

Housing Panel at the Australian Conference of Economists/Econometric Society of Australia 2014

Panel 1

Three things that will fix the housing affordability crisis

Prof Peter Phibbs, Chair of Urban Planning and Policy, USYD

Prof Richard Eccleston, Director, Institute for the Study of Social Change, UTAS

Mr Rob Brooker, Head of Australian Economics and Commodities, NAB

Discussant: Dr Michael Fotheringham, Deputy Executive Director, Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute

Panel 2

Implications of the NDIS for housing and social service reform

Prof David Adams, Prof of Management and Innovation, UTAS

Dr Ilan Vizel, City Futures Research Centre, UNSW

Dr Ceridwen Owen, Deputy Head, School of Architecture and Design, UTAS

Discussant: Dr Michael Fotheringham, Deputy Executive Director, Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute

Possible third event 4.15 – 5.30 pm.

When: 3rd July 2014

Where: Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart

Cost: \$40 (panel and afternoon tea)

[Click here](#) for more conference details and registration.

AHURI Event – Ageing well: housing solutions for older Australians

The Australian population is ageing and as they get older their housing needs are changing. At the same time, there is a shortage of housing and a broad expectation that older residents downsizing will help to partially resolve this issue. However, obstacles such as the impact selling-up will have on

the Aged Pension is impacting the number of homes being sold. This AHURI event will shine the spotlight on the crucial issue of housing older Australians.

This event will give you the opportunity to join the discussion about how to deliver enough appropriate housing for older people that is liveable, accessible, energy efficient and in the right location close to family, friends and infrastructure. It will also look at how older people could be incentivised rather than penalised for downsizing.

When: Thursday 24th July 2014

Where: Hobart Function and Conference Centre

Time: 8.45am – 12.30pm

Cost: \$90.00 ex GST

RSVP: [Click here](#) to register for this event.

Other News

Feeling Sick: Medicare Co-Payments and our Health

TasCOSS and The Medicare Action Group are holding a free lunchtime policy forum, for a public discussion about the impacts of co-payments for Medicare services.

Prime Minister Tony Abbott recently told local radio listeners in Hobart that there is nothing wrong with contributing a modest co-payment when we visit health services. But just how will a “modest” co-payment affect Tasmanians, our already strained health system, and our community in general?

Where: Baha’i Centre

When: Tuesday 10 June 2014, 12 noon – 2 pm

Cost: Free

RSVP: [Register here](#) by Thursday 5th June

Contact: Please contact Pauline@tascoss.org.au or phone on 6231 0755.

Bring along your lunch; tea and coffee will be provided.

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

The Council to Homeless Persons (CHP) are calling for contributions for the June ‘Housing, Homelessness and Disability’ edition of their magazine, 'Parity'.

Deadline: All contributions need to be submitted by Friday June 13th 2014.

Submissions: All contributions should be submitted as Word attachments to an email addressed to 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 or ring 03 8415 6200.

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

Grant Alert

[Equity Support Grants Program](#)

This program supports opportunities for people who may be experiencing barriers to participation in VET and employment due to many factors of disadvantage, such as low income, low language and literacy levels, long-term unemployment and regional disadvantage. The Equity Support Program 2014 is now open. It features two separate grant streams: Small Grants, which closes Monday, 30 June (5.00pm); and Large Grants, which closes Monday, 7th July (5.00pm).

How the Budget will Affect Charitable Tax Arrangements

The Charities Tax Advisory Service (CTAS) have released a budget briefing detailing the impact of the 2014 Federal Budget on the tax arrangements of charities and not-for-profits. The briefing can be viewed via the CTAS website [here](#).

Position Vacant: Health Promotions Project Worker

Youth, Family & Community Connections Inc. is a North-West based Not-For-Profit Community Organisation, which runs Alcohol Tobacco and other Drugs (ATOD) Services which provide assessment, counselling, information, education, referral and health promotion to people who use ATODs, and/or their significant others.

Interested individuals are invited to apply for the ATOD Health Promotions Project Worker position, for 4 days per week (.8) until 30th June 2015. This position will be based in Burnie, and work across the NW and West Coast. Remuneration will be in accordance with the Social, Community, Home Care and Disability Services Industry Award 2010 commencing at SACS Level 3. Salary sacrifice options are available.

Contact Team Leader, Frank Lyons on 0418 170 517 or frank@yfcc.com.au for more information, or Anne Heath at anne@yfcc.com.au or 0418 238 532 for an information package. Applicants must be willing to undergo a National police check and pre-employment medical.

Please forward your complete application by COB Monday 30th June 2014 to:

Anne Heath, QHRI Manager

Youth, Family & Community Connections Inc.

81 Oldaker Street

Devonport 7310

Or email to anne@yaff.com.au

Applications received after that date will not be considered.