



18th October 2013

Dear Shelter Members and Supporters,

Housing and Homelessness News

Keep the 29th November Free for Shelter Tas' AGM and Forum: 'Tasmanian Community Housing - Trends, Transfers and Tenants'

National Shelter is Looking for an Executive Officer

[The Executive Officer](#) will take carriage of the activities covered by our three year funding agreement, and provide secretarial support for the National Shelter, its policy research and advocacy. The activities are outlined in the [position description](#). For further information about National Shelter, applicants are also advised to read the policy platform [Meeting Housing Challenges \(summary\)](#).

Applications should be emailed to adam@shelternsw.org.au (this email address is being protected from spambots and you will need JavaScript enabled to view it) and be received by COB on Friday 11th October, applications should address all the [selection criteria](#). For further information, contact National Shelter interim Chairperson, [Adam Farrar](#) at the email provided above.

National Regulatory System Updates

An update on the progress of Phase 1 of the National Regulatory System for Community Housing is now available. The update provides information on Applications for Registration (AFR) for Phase 1, as well as information on upcoming activities and how to provide feedback to the evaluation of Phase 1 for both providers who have been involved and anyone else interested. For more information please see the [NRSCH website](#) or the official updates flyer [here](#).

'Working with Vulnerable People Bill' Consultations, Closing 11th October

Community Services Minister Cassy O'Connor is seeking public comment on the Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Bill 2013. This draft Bill proposes supporting legislation and administrative arrangements to establish a centralised screening process for individuals working with children and other vulnerable Tasmanians, including those in Specialist Homelessness Services and in receipt of tenancy support services. Shelter will be lodging a submission and we welcome your input – **Please contact Pauline** at the Shelter office (6224 5488 or policy@shelertas.org.au).

A copy of the draft Bill, along with fact sheets and a list of consultation questions, is available on the [Office for Children website](#).

Public forums will be held as follows:

South: Monday 30th September, 2.30 pm. Workplace Standards Tasmanian Conference Centre, 30 Gordons Hill Rd, Rosny Park.

North West: Thursday 3rd October 2.30pm. Gawler Room - Ulverstone Civic Centre, 19 King Edward St, Ulverstone.

North: Friday 4th October, 9.30 am. Tamar Room - Tailrace Centre, 1 Waterfront Drive, Riverside. For specific questions regarding the draft Bill, please contact Kerry Shepherd on 6233 7949 or kerry.shepherd@justice.tas.gov.au

News from the Tenants' Union

Read the [Residential Tenancy Amendment Bill](#), including the proposed minimum standards for all tenanted properties and other improvements to the legislation, on the Tenants' Union [website](#).

Smoke alarms compulsory from May 1st; Tasmanian residential tenancies are now required to have working smoke alarms, see the [Factsheet](#) for more information.



International Tenants' Day falls on Monday 7th October, and the Tenants' Union will be using the day to celebrate the introduction of minimum standards in Tasmania. Internationally, this year's theme is [tenure neutrality](#), meaning that there should be no financial difference between renting and owning a home.

If you would like more information on any of these issues, or to subscribe to the Tenants' Union's quarterly newsletter 'Rent Rant', go to their website – www.tutas.org.au.

Research

AHURI Evidence Review 036 - "Officially Homeless, Actually Housed"

The latest edition of *Evidence Review* looks at the role boarding houses have in supplying affordable housing to people on low incomes. http://www.ahuri.edu.au/housing_information/review/evrev036

Household Energy Consumption Survey, Australia: Summary of Results 2012

Households in the coldest climate zone - the ACT, Tasmania and parts of Victoria and NSW - had the highest overall costs, spending \$47 per week on energy within their homes. Owner households have different options to help manage their household energy costs. High income households are those in the highest income quintile.

<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/mediareleasesbyReleaseDate/04B89B4415C2073ECA257BEF0013DDCF?OpenDocument>

Training/Workshops

Bridges Out of Poverty Training, Launceston 3rd and 9th October

Tasmania Medicare Local is co-ordinating a series of workshops (Bridges Out of Poverty) as part of its Social Determinants of Health initiative, to provide practitioners with practical tools to assist Tasmanians affected by poverty and disadvantage. The all-day workshops will be held on 3rd and 9th October 2013 at the Tramsheds, Launceston. Contact Maree Gleeson on 6425 0800 or mgleeson@tasmedicarelocal.com.au for further details and registration (by Friday 20th September).

Financial Literacy Education Training: Final Session

Colony 47 and Matrix on Board Training, with the support of the Tasmanian Government are providing Financial Literacy Education Training to workers in Tasmania under the FLEX grants program, as 1-day and 4-day workshops across Tasmania.

For dates and locations of these courses, go to www.surveymonkey.com/s/Colony47 and click 'Next' at the bottom of the screen until the list of dates appears.

Places are still available for:

- Scottsdale (Monday 14 October 2013)

For further information phone 03 6222 1530 or email admin@colony47.com.au.

Conferences/Seminars/Forums

Shelter Community Housing Forum: Tasmanian Community Housing - Trends, Transfers and Tenants

Shelter will be holding a one-day forum on the 29th of November, 2013 at the Salamanca Inn in Hobart. The program will have a particular focus on stock transfer and community housing, but will cover a range of issues that are relevant to all who work in the affordable housing sector.

We have some fantastic interstate and local speakers, including Professor Kath Hulse from AHURI; Peter White, Director of Housing Tasmania; Tony Gilmour, President of the Australian Housing Institute; Carol Croce, CEO of the Community Housing Federation of Australia and Maria McKenzie from Homes North in NSW. The day will be facilitated by the enigmatic Michael Lennon. Keep an eye on our [website](#) and [Facebook](#) pages for details and how to register in the coming weeks.

National Housing Conference—A New Way Home, 30 Oct – 1 Nov, Adelaide

Standard registration for the National Housing Conference 2013 closes next Monday 30th September!

This is your last chance to register and save **nearly 20%**—late fees apply from 1st October.

The 8th [National Housing Conference](#), convened by AHURI in partnership with Housing SA, will be held from October 30th – November 1st in Adelaide. This is an opportunity to debate critical housing issues such as housing affordability, the under-supply of housing, homelessness and Aboriginal housing. Program and registration details are available [here](#).

If you are interested in a pre-conference workshop on older persons and housing that Housing for the Aged Action Group are conducting, then contact Jeff Fiedler at jeff.fiedler@oldertenants.org.au or 0417 117 232, or call Pauline at Shelter Tas on 6224 5488.

2013 Tasmanian Disability Support Workers Conference

National Disability Services, in conjunction with DisabilityCare Australia and DHHS, will be hosting the Tasmanian Disability Support Workers Conference on the 11th and 12th November at the Hotel Grand Chancellor in Hobart.

Other News

Grants to End Homelessness

The Mercy Foundation 'Grants to End Homelessness' are available for initiatives, services, projects and research that will contribute to the goal of ending homelessness. Projects that focus on chronic homelessness and women who experience chronic homelessness are currently priority areas for funding. These will generally be larger grants (up to \$50,000 for any one year) with grants likely to be averaging \$20,000 - \$30,000.

For more information visit the [Mercy Foundation website](#).

The [National Youth Week 2014 Grants Program is Now Open](#)

[Grants](#) are available to support the development and delivery of National Youth Week (NYW) projects, events and activities during NYW 2014, which runs from Friday 4th to Sunday 13th April 2014.

The Tasmanian Community Fund

Eligible applicants are not-for-profit organisations proposing to undertake a project in Tasmania. A wide range of projects which support children and young people, community wellbeing and life skills, community participation and recreation, connecting communities and culture, arts and heritage are eligible.

Applicants should provide the information requested in the guidelines by the closing date. Guidelines and access to the link for the on-line application forms are available from www.tascomfund.org, or phone the Fund Office on 6233 2920.

Applications for small grants close on **Wednesday 2nd October 2013** and applications for medium grants close on **Wednesday 16th October 2013**.

Partnership Agreement Scorecard Survey Open Until 30th September: Last Chance

A partnership agreement between the Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Tasmanian community sector is a pledge to work together in relationships built on mutual understanding, respect and co-operation. A short online survey is now being undertaken to gauge where your organisation feels your current State partnerships are working well, and where you would like some support to work with your partner(s) more within the Partnership Agreement principles. Please complete the [Partnership Agreement Scorecard survey](#) by **30th September 2013**. Responses are welcome from community sector organisations (as many people per organisation can complete it as you want) or from government agencies providing funding services.

The Tasmanian Human Rights Awards

Closing date has been extended until the 7th October. For more information on Human Rights Week, eligibility and criteria for the awards, and to download a nomination form go to www.afairerworld.org/HRWeek/award.html or contact the Committee at HRWTasmania@gmail.com. You can also write to: Human Rights Week Organising Committee, c/- GPO Box 197, Hobart 7001.

Thanks to all contributors for their submissions and feedback. As information for our eNews comes from many different sources, views expressed are not necessarily those of Shelter Tas. If you would like to make a submission to the Shelter Tas eNews please [forward it](#) to us for consideration.

Shelter Tas is supported by the Department of Health and Human Services.