



eNews 2014

Peak Body for Housing and Homelessness

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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 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.

Abstract Submissions Now Open for the 8th National Homelessness Conference 2014

Homelessness Australia (HA) invites proposals for presentations, workshops and/or posters at the 8th National Homelessness Conference.

The central theme of the conference, to be held from 10th – 12th September 2014 on the Gold Coast, is *Homelessness: Complexities and Countermeasures*. HA are seeking presentations, workshop topics and posters which identify and address the complexities (i.e. how the many different pathways connect) and how these complexities are dealt with (this can be either a proactive or reactive approach). Go to the [HA conference webpage](#) for more information or to submit your abstract.

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 by Thursday 6th 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@shelertas.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.

Media Releases

Shelter Tasmania Calls for an End to the Affordable Housing Crisis

Read our most recent media release on the [Shelter website](#).

Where is the Liberal Party's Public Housing Policy?

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

Liberal Party Community Sector Announcements

The Liberal party has announced a range of community sector policies and committed to a close working relationship with the community sector in order to jointly find solutions to a range of issues facing many vulnerable Tasmanians. Read the policy document [here](#).

Research and Articles

'Finding Work: Homelessness and Employment'

There is a lot of talk in Tasmania about unemployment rates at the moment. This research from 2011 shows the depth and breadth of the barriers to employment for people experiencing homelessness. [Click here](#) to read more.

'Why a Scandinavian Model is not Just a Pretty Concept'

This article in [The Conversation](#) puts forward a case for adopting Danish ways of living, working and socialising. In Denmark they have "a housing market that is flat and affordable due to laws that ensure housing is seen (like water and food) as a right and not a commodity - with laws prohibiting the buying of property for investment purposes."

'Hopelessness of the Homeless a Cause of Death'

[Click here](#) to read why homelessness experts are pushing for the condition to be listed as an official cause of death.

Conferences/Seminars/Forums

Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network (MYAN) Youth Settlement Framework Consultation Brief

MYAN is currently developing a Youth Settlement Framework to inform policy and service delivery in relation to youth settlement. The Framework will be applicable across the government and the non-government sectors, in all areas of young people's engagement with services to support their settlement in Australia. It provides a conceptual basis for understanding the needs of young people in settlement, as well guidance on good practice, and will be supported by practical resources. The MYAN is currently seeking input from young people and the settlement and multicultural youth sectors on the draft Framework. The Coordinator of MYAN - Nadine Liddy - is conducting consultations in Hobart on **Friday the 7th of March from 11.00am – 12.00 noon** at the **Phoenix Centre/Migrant Resource Centre, Board Room, Level 5, 116 Bathurst St (Construction House)**. If you are unable to attend in person, a teleconference can be arranged, or you are invited to submit a written response.

Please RSVP to Reception at MRC (Southern Tas) reception@mrchobart.org.au or by phoning 6221 0999. You can find out more at the [MYAN website](#).

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 15th April, 2014 8:45 AM – 12:30 PM

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

Cost: \$90 excluding GST.

RSVP: Monday 14th April, 2014.

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

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST)

This workshop provides practical help for caregivers seeking to prevent the immediate risk of suicide.

Date: Wed/Thurs May 14 & 15, 2014

Wed/Thurs October 29 & 30, 2014

Location: Devonport

Cost: \$250.00 per person

Contact: Choose Life Services (CLS) – 6423 3181

Annette Rockliff: 0417 320 861 or Annette@parakaleo.org.au

You can find a copy of the [registration form](#) on the Shelter Tas website.

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

Job Opportunity at TasCOSS

TasCOSS is seeking expressions of interest for a temporary, part-time policy & research position for 3-4 months from April 1st 2014 in Hobart.

The position sits within the TasCOSS Policy & Research team and involves policy, research and advocacy work in the energy policy arena (2 days/week) and /or up to 2 days per week for general social policy, research and advocacy work. TasCOSS invites expressions of interest for either or both parts of this position. For enquiries, position descriptions or further information, contact Meg Webb, Manager, TasCOSS Policy & Research, meg@tascooss.org.au or 6231 0755. Please provide expressions of interest in writing (one page plus CV) to Meg Webb by COB Wednesday 5th March 2014.

Governments Confirms ACNC to be Abolished

The Coalition Government has recently reaffirmed its commitment to undertake major reforms of the not-for-profit sector in Australia, confirming their intention to abolish the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). The Government has signalled that they will be replacing the charities regulator with a 'Centre for Excellence', aimed at supporting the not-for-profit sector rather than regulating it. Meanwhile, all regulatory powers held by the ACNC are to be returned to the ATO, ASIC and other regulating bodies.

Full details relating to the nature of these changes have not yet been provided by the Government, but look out for further updates and information on the implications of these changes and any impact they may have on the reporting and compliance obligations.

International Women's Day Celebration

Come along and find out more about women's rights and support, Amnesty's next stage of the Afghan Women's Rights campaign. Speakers include Mary Payenda (medical scientist, interpreter and former refugee from Afghanistan) and a representative from the International Women's Development Agency.

When: Thursday 6th March 2014, 5.30pm- 7.00pm

Where: Fullers Bookshop, 131 Collins Street Hobart

Cost: \$5.00 (concession – gold coin). Drinks, nibbles and raffle provided.

RSVP: tasaia@amnesty.org.au

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 13th and Friday 14th 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

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

Commonwealth Bank Community Grants

The CommBank Staff Community Fund is awarding \$2 million in grants of up to \$10,000 to organisations that support the health and wellbeing of Australian children. If your organisation has Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status you may be eligible to apply at commbank.com.au/grants before 14th March 2014.

Advocacy Tasmania – Changes to Services and New Intake Process

Recent changes to Advocacy Tasmania's services and intake processes will enable better reach to assist those most vulnerable in the Tasmanian community. To ensure a consistent approach to the processing of requests for advocacy assistance, the organisation has introduced a state-wide centralised intake process which replaces the old system of referrals being made through regional offices and individual advocates. Central intake can be contacted on the organisation's toll free number; 1800 005 131. Fact sheets can be found online by [clicking here](#).

Tobacco FREE

Tobacco FREE is a supportive program for people who have mental ill health (diagnosed or undiagnosed) to learn more about tobacco and get support with quitting or cutting back smoking. The Tobacco FREE groups consist of 10 sessions (weekly for 2 hours), attendance is free and smoking cessation products will be supplied to the participants at no cost. Participants will receive weekly follow up calls, as well as evaluation at 3, 6 and 12 months

Tobacco Free Groups are available on:

Thursday 1.00pm – 3.00pm at Gavitt House, 2 Terry St Glenorchy, Level 1 Room 3

Wednesday 10.00am – 12.00pm at Mental Health Carers Tasmania, 1 St John's Ave, New Town
Phone Tobacco Free on: 6228 7448, text your name and number to: 0455 168 683 and we will call you back, or email Lalita: NTMprojectofficer@mentalhealthcarerstas.org.au
Health professionals please feel free to use the online referral form at <http://mentalhealthcarerstas.org.au/>