



# eNews 2014

Peak Body for Housing and Homelessness

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7<sup>th</sup> July 2014

## Housing and Homelessness News

### National Homeless Person's Week (NHPW) 4<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> August 2014

NHPW is fast approaching, and there are a number of activities you can get involved with to help raise awareness of homelessness and the devastating impact it has on individuals and communities. Homelessness Australia's [website](#) has a number of useful resources to help you get involved with NHPW 2014. If there is an event you would like to promote, you can add it to the event register or have a browse to see what others are doing. You can also advise Shelter Tas of events you would like us to promote in our eNews, and we'll keep you informed of further details closer to the date. NHPW is 4<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> August – save the date!

### Review of Australia's Welfare System - Calling for Members' Input into Submissions.

The Minister for Social Services, Kevin Andrews, has released the Reference Group's [Interim Report](#) for the Government's review of the welfare system for consultation. It calls for a whole-of-system overhaul of Australia's welfare system and acknowledges that *"affordable housing with easy access to jobs and services is essential to allow people to participate socially and economically in society. Importantly it provides a stable base for raising children and supports community engagement"*. The report also proposes changes to Commonwealth Rent Assistance which will impact on tenants and housing providers.

Shelter Tas is currently working on a response in conjunction with our national peak bodies, Community Housing Federation of Australia and National Shelter. If you would like to provide feedback to Shelter Tas please email to Pattie at [eo@shelertas.org.au](mailto:eo@shelertas.org.au) by **18<sup>th</sup> July 2014**. You can find the full report on the [DSS website](#) (please note the Rent Assistance section on pages 68-71). Submission are due **8<sup>th</sup> August 2014**.

### National Shelter's Submission to the Senate Inquiry into Affordable Housing

In December 2013, the Senate referred an [inquiry into affordable housing](#) to the Senate Economics References Committee for inquiry and report by 26<sup>th</sup> June 2014. National Shelter has made [a comprehensive submission](#) to the inquiry based on their policy platform, *Meeting Australia's Housing Challenges*, which has been developed in consultation with their members across the country and consultations conducted around the National Affordable Housing Agreement. It has two parts: *Australia's Housing Challenges* is National Shelter's analysis of the current Australian housing system; and the second part responds specifically to the terms of reference.

### Tasmanian Audit Office to Audit Public Housing

An audit of public housing is included in the Tasmanian Audit Office Plan of work 2014-2015. The Audit Office work plan states that:

*"This audit would look at the effectiveness of various approaches to helping people under 'housing stress' including use and maintenance of housing stock, rental assistance and partnerships/cooperation with the private sector. It will also examine the extent of cost savings, if*

any, in Housing Tasmania as a result of greater use of Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) in providing public housing. An audit of public housing was completed in 2005 and followed up in 2007. This audit was added to our program following requests from parliamentarians and because of changes in public housing services in recent years including greater involvement by the NGO sector and by local government” (p21). You can access the Tasmanian Audit Office Annual Plan of Work 2014-15 by [clicking here](#).

### **Community Housing Federation of Australia (CHFA)**

CHFA is the national peak body for community housing, of which Shelter Tas is a member. CHFA produces a very informative e-Bulletin which you can access and subscribe to via their [website](#).

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### **Factoid of the Week | Increasing cost of renting**

**In Australia, between 1994-5 and 2011-12, private renters experienced a 57% increase in average weekly housing costs, after adjustment for inflation.**

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics. 2013 Housing occupancy and costs 2011-12. ABS cat no. 4130.0 Canberra: ABS

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## **Media Releases**

### **Liberal Government Secures Funding to Reduce Homelessness**

Minister for Human Services, Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2014. [Click here](#).

### **Positive First Year for NDIS Trial in Tasmania**

Minister for Human Services, Tuesday 1st July 2014. [Click here](#).

## **Research and Articles**

### **Crikey - McClure report fails on key issue of low-income housing**

[Click here](#) to read this article on the Welfare Review.

### **The Conversation – Welfare review fails to understand Australia’s labour market**

Another response to the interim report of the review Australia’s welfare system. [Read more](#).

### **The Mercury – Investigation blasts Common Ground for being too fussy about tenants**

[Click here](#) to read this article in today’s Mercury.

### **Centre for Housing, Urban & Regional Planning - Public Housing Stock Transfer: Impacts and Implications for Local Governments**

This is the final report of a project that examines the impact on local governments of the South Australian Government’s announced program of public housing stock transfers to the community sector. The community housing sector in Australia is defined as not-for-profit housing and is made up of both larger and smaller organisations. Some operate on a business-first model, while others remain small scale. [Click here](#) to read the report.

### **AHURI Evidence Review #58 – Marrying later, renting longer**

At the same time that the median ages for first marriage and the birth of the first child have risen, the percentage of young adults buying a home has fallen. [Read more](#).

## Conferences/Forums/Training

### Housing Connect Information Forum

Housing Connect is the doorway for accessing Tasmania's housing and homelessness services. Housing Connect regional forums and lunch will be held to inform and involve local service providers and seek expressions of interest for a Regional Reference Group that will address local housing and homelessness issues.

#### South

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> August  
11.00am – 1.30pm  
Glenorchy Civic Centre  
RSVP 25<sup>th</sup> July

#### North

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> July  
11.00am – 1.30pm  
TBA  
RSVP 22<sup>nd</sup> July

#### North West

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July  
11.00am – 1.30pm  
69 Mount St, Burnie  
RSVP 16<sup>th</sup> July

Lunch will be provided, please RSVP to [k.fitzallen@anglicare-tas.org.au](mailto:k.fitzallen@anglicare-tas.org.au) for catering purposes.

### Youth Mental Health First Aid Course

This course teaches first aid skills for adults to give initial help to adolescents experiencing mental health problems, in a mental health crisis situation, or in the early stages of a mental illness.

**Where:** Wyndarra Community and Resource Centre – 43 Smith Street, Smithton

**When:** 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> July 2014

**Cost:** Free for family members and friends supporting someone with a mental health concern

**RSVP:** 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014

**Contact:** Maria Belfrage – 6333 3082 or [m.belfrage@anglicare-tas.org.au](mailto:m.belfrage@anglicare-tas.org.au) or got to [www.mhfa.com.au](http://www.mhfa.com.au)

### Not-for-Profit Leadership Series – Adapting to Changing Times

The NFP Leadership Series is designed to assist community service organisations adapt to the challenges of a changing service provision environment. The events in the leadership series will provide a context to understand these changes and some strategies to work through them and benefit from the opportunities they present. The next event is:

#### Consumer Engagement, Partnering with Consumers and Carers

##### When:

##### Burnie

9:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2014  
Wellers Inn  
36 Queen Street, Burnie

##### Registration

[Click here for Burnie](#)

##### Cost

TasCOSS, NDS, MHCT & ATDC Members - \$95.00

Non-members - \$135.00

Government/Private sector - \$235.00

For **more information**, contact Dale Rahmanovic on (03) 6231 0755 or [dale@tascoss.org.au](mailto:dale@tascoss.org.au)

##### When:

##### Launceston

9:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2014  
The Tramsheds  
Inveresk Rail Yards

##### Registration

[Click here for Launceston](#)

##### When:

##### Hobart

9:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2014  
Glenorchy Civic Centre  
Cooper Street, Glenorchy

##### Registration

[Click here for Hobart](#)

### 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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

### Department of Social Services Grant Programs

The Department of Social Services (DSS) new grant arrangements bring together 18 programs from five former departments, which have been designed to streamline existing services to capitalise on common client needs, reduce duplication and ensure the most effective and efficient approaches are used to address community needs in line with Government priorities. To assist organisations to see where services fit within the new programs, the DSS has developed the [DSS Grants Services Map](#) which illustrates the types of services available for funding in the current application process. In addition to the four existing Ageing and Aged Care Programs, three new programs have been created – Families and Communities; Housing and Homelessness; and Disability, Mental Health and Carers. The Housing and Homelessness Program will provide support for housing and homelessness research, peak bodies, innovative projects, and emerging Government priorities. Further details on this program can be found in the [Housing and Homelessness Service Improvement and Sector Support Program Guidelines Overview](#) and [Fact Sheet](#).

### Grant Alert: Google's \$2M Aussie NFP Challenge

Google is offering Australian not-for-profits a share in \$2 million in grants to turn their technology-driven ideas into reality. Application close on 29<sup>th</sup> July. Read more on the [Pro Bono News website](#).

### VolxKitch – People's Kitchen and Arts Factory

VolxKitch is offering a weekly community vegetarian meal, cooked by a team of volunteers and available to the general public for an optional donation. The meal will be cooked from donations from distributor Hobart Foodbank and local market gardens. Volxkitch will be held at The Arts Factory, a newly established not-for-profit arts collective located at 456 Macquarie Street, South Hobart (behind the service station next to the St Vincent de Paul op-shop).

Food will be served at 6:30pm every Wednesday starting June 25<sup>th</sup>. You can find VolxKitch on [Facebook](#) for more information and contact.