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## Productivity Commission releases Report on Government Services

*As published on the Productivity Commission website  
on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2017*

On 24<sup>th</sup> January 2017, the Productivity Commission released its Annual Report on Government Services (RoGS). The annual report on government services provides information on the equity, effectiveness and efficiency of government services in Australia.

Volume G of this report relates to Housing & Homelessness and includes the following data relating to the community housing industry.

In South Australia, the significant increase in new households assisted and tenancy units from 2015 to 2016 reflects transfer to the community sector of a large number of public housing dwellings.

Implementation of the National Regulatory System in SA resulted in most Community Housing Providers merging with other larger groups resulting in a decline in the total number of providers between June 2014 and June 2016.

The proportion of South Australian community housing tenants that rated amenity aspects as important and meeting their needs exceeded national averages in a number of areas as follows:

- Size of dwelling – 91.1% (national average 87.7%)
- Car parking – 91.3% (national average 83.5%)
- Yard space & fencing – 87.1% (national average 84.4%)
- Privacy of home – 90.4% (national average of 87.0%)
- Safety of neighbourhood – 84.7% (national average of 82.8%)

The overall satisfaction level for South Australian community housing tenants was 88.1% ahead of the national average of 85.8%.

To read the full report on the Productivity Commission website click [here](#). To read Chapter 18 – Housing, click [here](#)

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## Malcolm Turnbull appoints new assistant minister to tackle housing affordability

*As published in a Member Alert from the Urban Development Institute of Australia*

Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull, as part of a reshuffle of his ministry, appointed Michael Sukkar MP, as the new Assistant Minister to the Treasurer. Mr Sukkar’s key focus will be on housing affordability.

UDIA President, Michael Corcoran, said he was very pleased to see that the Government was prioritising the need to address the housing affordability crisis in our major cities as a key priorities and he congratulates the new Assistant Minister on his appointment.

The Assistant Minister has bucked the suggestion that removing negative gearing was a viable solution. “What we need to be doing, and the position Mr Sukkar thinks the government will take, is to increase supply.” UDIA has made housing affordability a key plank of its advocacy agenda in 2017 and will be focussed on formulating policy and research initiatives to provide solutions to the government.

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## Public housing transfers move to a new level

*As published in the City Futures Blog by Hal Pawson, Associate Director, City Futures Research Centre*

With the NSW Government’s recently announced tranche of public housing transfers to not-for-profit providers, Australia’s community housing sector is set for a new growth spurt. The addition of the 14,700 former Housing NSW properties – the largest program yet – will expand existing national community housing provider (CHP) holdings by almost a quarter to over 90,000.

While small-scale public housing transfers are nothing new, AHURI’s report (published in the 01/17 edition of the CHCSA E-Bulletin) on recent programs highlights a number of significant departures from previous practice. In particular, contrasting with earlier handovers which often involved 3-year leases, these generally incorporate long-term (typically 20-year) management contracts between the relevant state government and the chosen CHP. To read the full article click [here](#)

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## Changes to eligibility for Housing SA bond guarantees

*As published on the sa.gov.au website*

With the recent introduction of PR Connect which allows people to apply for a bond online, Housing SA has introduced new eligibility criteria for the receipt of bonds. This includes:

- Not having a debt of more than \$1,000 with Housing SA
- Have an arrangement in place to repay any Housing SA debt

To read more about this and the other eligibility requirements of bonds click [here](#)

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## 2017 Professional Excellence in Housing Awards

*As published on the Australasian Housing Institute’s website*

With only a few weeks left before nominations close on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017, now is the time to nominate for the 2017 Professional Excellence in Housing Awards.

The AHI Awards provide an opportunity to showcase social housing success stories. The Awards formally recognise and reward excellence in professional practice, from the grassroots to the most senior levels. They promote to our colleagues and the community at large the difference social housing professionals make to people’s lives. Award categories include:

**Inspirational Team Member** – The Winning candidate will be a person who is passionate about their role and understands how it fits into the strategic outcomes of their organisation and the values of social housing. They consistently demonstrate enthusiasm to add value to their role and motivate others within their team and/or organisation by the approach they take to their work.

To download a copy of the Information Pack click [here](#). To download a nomination form click [here](#)

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## AHURI One-Day Conference: Homelessness & Housing Solutions

*As published on the Australian Housing & Urban Research Institute*

On Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017, AHURI will host a one-day conference titled “Homelessness & Housing Solutions” at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, South Brisbane.

The conference will present latest AHURI evidence on the homelessness system in Australia, examples of housing solutions for formerly homeless people or those at risk of homelessness and a big picture examination of the support services required to create housing stability for low-income Australians.

The conference will run from 8am – 4.15pm and tickets are \$375 per person. To read more about the conference include the program and speakers click [here](#). To book your place at this conference click [here](#)

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## CBS Information Sessions

*As published on the sa.gov.au website*

The CHCSA would like to remind members that Consumer & Business Services run a **Residential Bonds Online (RBO)** Information Session that covers a number of topics including lodging a bond, adding or removing a tenant from a bond and refunding a bond.

For more information or to register your place for one of these Information Sessions click [here](#)

## CHCSA Calendar of Events

Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2017	Associations' Forum
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	Central Forum
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2017	Associations' Forum
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2017	Central Forum
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2017	G-Force Maintenance Training Workshop

## CHCSA Recommended Links

[Consumer and Business Services \(CBS\)](#)

[South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal \(SACAT\)](#)

[Tenants Information & Advisory Service \(TIAS\)](#)

[Community Centres SA](#)

[Mediation SA](#)

[Legislation](#)

[ATO Benchmark Market Rent Rates](#)

[STARService](#)

[Volunteering SA&NT](#)

[Renewal SA](#)

[Data SA](#)

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The CHCSA welcomes & encourages member contributions to this fortnightly publication at the discretion of management.

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