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SACOSS Budget Submission includes Community Housing Loan Scheme

As published in the SACOSS 2017-18 State Budget Submission

As a second economic stimulus package for physical and social infrastructure, SACOSS proposes a \$250 million Community Housing Loan Scheme to enable registered community housing providers to build and deliver more and enhanced affordable housing. The scheme would be financed through a rolling fund of the South Australian Government Financing Authority, similar to the facility offered to non-government schools in the 2016-17 State Budget for construction of new or updated learning facilities.

SACOSS recommends that only community housing providers registered under the National Regulatory System for Community Housing would be eligible for these loans. Regulated community housing providers have demonstrated that they are professional organisations that have a demonstrated track record in developing new housing and providing excellent tenant services, with strong credentials in sound financial and asset management. To read the full budget submission click [here](#)

Scott Morrison says budget will remember the renters

As published on The Conversation website on 5th March 2017

The proposed housing affordability package in the May budget will target people relying on social housing as well as those trying to break into the market, Treasurer Scott Morrison has said.

Morrison said housing would be a very strong focus of the budget and he stressed the rental side.

Noting that the number of people on low incomes in rental stress had gone up, Morrison said: "I am as much concerned about someone who is on a low income struggling with their rent as I am with someone who I know wants to get on the home-ownership market themselves. They are both important challenges for Australians." To read the full article click [here](#)

Changes to SACAT announced

As published in the March 2017 edition of SACAT News

On 3rd April 2017, SACAT will be conferred jurisdiction under the *Housing Improvement Act 2016*.

Under these changes, SACAT will have the power to review decisions made by the Housing Improvement Branch (which is a part of the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion) to make a range of orders, including housing assessment orders, housing improvement orders and housing demolition orders as well as being able to issue rent control notices and notices to vacate. Further information will be published [here](#)

CHIA National Updates

As published in the CHIA National Updates distributed on Wednesday 8th & Friday 10th March 2017

CHIA publishes federal budget submission

CHIA has published a comprehensive submission in advance of the May Federal Budget. The submission contains 16 recommendations aimed at growing and developing the social housing system as well as addressing inequities and inefficiencies in the mainstream housing system.

This is the first time that CHIA has published a Federal budget submission marking a significant milestone in our peak bodies' development. To read the full submission click [here](#)

CHIA accepts invitation to join Federal Government affordable housing taskforce

CHIA is delighted to announce that it has accepted an invitation to join the newly convened Federal Government affordable housing taskforce. Federal Treasury issued a media release announcing the establishment of the taskforce which can be found [here](#)

ACOSS budget priorities: Improving access to affordable housing

As published on the ACOSS website

A national affordable housing strategy should be developed in partnership with community, industry and housing policy experts, in negotiation with state and territory governments and the Opposition, and be underpinned by specific targets.

The scope of the strategy should extend to include direct investment in the growth of affordable housing stock and incentives for private sector and institutional investment in affordable housing. To read the full article click [here](#)

CBS announces improved security for the RBO system

As published in the March 2017 edition of CBS Connect

Improved security to the RBO system now requires users to change their passwords every three months. On the 9th May (and every three months thereafter), users will be prompted to change their password. These details and other instructions can be found in the RBO instruction manual for agents located [here](#) To book a place in a training session for RBO click [here](#) or visit the CBS website [here](#) to subscribe to CBS Connect.

New beginnings for Common Equity Housing SA

By Angela Carey, Chief Executive Officer - Transformation

South Australia’s leading support and advocacy body for community housing co-operatives, Common Equity Housing SA, has unveiled a new direction as it seeks to consolidate its position in the sector.

The not-for-profit organisation, which provides administrative, finance and property management services for member bodies, has appointed a new Chief Executive Officer – Transformation, Angela Carey, who brings a renewed focus and vision to the business.

Angela, who has worked in the housing sector for more than two decades – mainly in finance – said she aims to grow and develop the organisation by establishing stronger relationships across the sector and build a more sustainable financial platform.

“Common Equity Housing SA plays a vital role in the community housing sector, enabling co-operatives to maintain their identity and independence ensuring members are able to provide living standards that are consistent with their principles,” she said.

“With so many changes taking place in the community housing landscape, it’s becoming increasingly difficult for small community housing providers to survive and thrive. Many face the real possibility of having to merge into larger Tier 1 and 2 providers, but there’s clearly a loss of core values and identity when merging with larger bodies.

It’s vital that Common Equity Housing SA continues to grow and attract new members, as size and strength will enable us to build a stronger foothold in the sector and with this comes greater certainty for our members and their communities.”

“Our members are our utmost priority and I’m firmly focussed on delivering to them an outstanding level of support and service. Through our united strength, we will deliver a model of community living that remains true to the co-operative housing ideology.”

Common Equity Housing SA was created in 2010 with the support of the Community Housing Council of SA and Housing SA to assist housing co-operatives and associations in an environment of increase compliance demands. As well as providing compliance and regulatory support, Common Equity Housing SA provides services such as rent collection and reviews, maintenance services, bill paying, insurance management and BAS returns.

2017 AHI Professional Excellence in Housing Awards

As published on the AHI website

The Australasian Housing Institute has extended the deadline for nominations in the 2017 AHI Professional Excellence in Housing Awards. **Nominations close on Monday 20th March 2017.** To nominate online click [here](#)

NDIS Housing: Latest Developments webinar

As published on the Disability Services Consulting website

DSC’s resident SDA expert, Luke Bo’sher will be hosting a webinar to outline the latest developments in NDIS housing and explore the nuance in the recently released policy detail. This webinar will be held on **Wednesday 5th April 2017 from 10.30am – 11.45am (AEDT)** at a cost of \$55 per person. To book your place click [here](#)

CHCSA Calendar of Events

Thursday 16th March 2017

Tenant Engagement in Community Housing
(Housing Associations)

Wednesday 29th March 2017

Understanding Financial Statements
(Housing Co-operatives)

Friday 7th April 2017

Associations' Forum

Wednesday 12th April 2017

Central Forum

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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