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The End of the Road: Rooming Housing in South Australia

As published on the Shelter SA website

Shelter SA has been working on a project over the past year focused on the operation of for-profit rooming houses. This is the first methodical study of the rooming house sector in South Australia since 2003.

This project was instigated in response to clear findings in the earlier research that provision of housing in this sector lacks sufficient or consistent regulation and is ill-suited to the diverse and often severely compromised health and personal circumstances of vulnerable residents.

Since the release of this report two residents of a rooming house have contacted Shelter SA to complain about their health, well-being and safety. The residents report a number of illegal activities occurring in the rooming house where they live, and constant visits by police. To read the full report click [here](#)

National Housing Conference 2017: Program Update

The National Housing Conference 2017 will deliver a diverse range of plenary and concurrent sessions, so all attendees have the ability to tailor their NHC experience to their own requirements.

In 2017 the policy debate on many housing and homelessness issues is fast moving and major progress is expected before the November conference. The NHC program will purposely evolve in-line with these major conversations and will cover highly relevant topics.

The 2017 National Housing Conference will be held from Wednesday 29th November to Friday 1st December 2017 at the International Convention Centre in Sydney.

For more information or to register for the conference click [here](#)

NILS provides interest free loans for low income earners

Are your tenants using an inefficient fridge that is about to expire? If they are on a low income and don't have the funds to replace it – do they know about NILS Loans?

The Good Shepherd Microfinance No Interest Loan Scheme (NILS) makes available loans for fridges, washing machines, furniture, computers and other essential household items. As indicated by the name, there are absolutely no fees, charges or interest – your client simply pays back the amount they borrow in easy instalments.

Applicants are usually in receipt of a Centrelink benefit; to be eligible they must earn less than \$45,000 or hold a health care card and have lived at their current address for more than 3 months. They don't have to be a permanent resident but their budget must be able to demonstrate they can afford the loan and they must be in secure accommodation for the period of the loan. The standard maximum loan is for \$1,200 and is usually repaid over a period of 12 to 18 months. Low income workers or aged pension/self-funded retirees may also qualify, if they hold a health care card.

Good Shepherd Microfinance (GSM) works through a range of community providers (such as Anglicare, Salvation Army, Uniting Communities) who make up the NILS SA Network. Much of the capital funding for the scheme is provided by National Bank Australia.

The scheme DOESN'T LEND CASH – the client nominates the item and supplier and the payment is made direct to the supplier. The client then repays the loan to the NILS provider, using Centrepay or Direct Debit. The aim of the scheme is to improve financial inclusion for people on low income, by providing safe alternative finance to payday lenders and consumer lease companies.

For low income earners, and with no interest or fees, NILS is simply the smart credit option. For more information or to find your nearest NILS provider, click [here](#)

Energy in Buildings: 50 Best Practice Initiatives

As published on Clean Energy Finance Corporation Website

The Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC) has released a new report produced by Norman Disney & Young. The Energy in Buildings: 50 Best Practice Initiatives is a user friendly resource on clean energy and energy efficiency measures that can be implemented in new or existing properties.

Community housing providers should consider these initiatives to help lower ongoing energy bills for tenants, minimise their long term operation and maintenance expenses as well as reduce their overall carbon footprint. To download the report click [here](#)

Land Agents Amendment Bill passed in House of Assembly

The Land Agents (Registration of Property Managers and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2017 was passed in the House of Assembly without amendment on Tuesday 20th June 2017. The Bill has now progressed to the Legislative Council and will be considered in due course. Contributions by Members of Parliament on the Bill will be available in Hansard in the coming days at www.parliament.sa.gov.au. For further updates please click [here](#)

New branch reflects growth

A new local affordable housing brand has been launched demonstrating the growth of one of the most trusted community housing providers in South Australia.



Housing Choices South Australia reflects the broader range of affordable housing services emerging from the partnership between the Housing Choices Australia Group and Common Ground Adelaide.

HCSA State Manager Julie Duncan said the change clearly defined the organisation’s growing affordable housing initiatives from responses to homelessness and supportive housing programs.



“By joining forces with Housing Choices in 2015, Common Ground not only ensured its sustainability – it has enabled new opportunities for expansion as a nationally registered tier one housing provider,” Ms Duncan said. “This partnership has been a great success and by the end of the year, it will see the organisation manage more tenancies across South Australia”.

Pictured: State Manager, Julie Duncan (second from left) with staff Ashleigh, Ben and Tally.

“To reflect who we are, and what we do, we have launched a new brand – Housing Choices South Australia”. Ms Duncan said the organisation would continue to deliver its flagship programs Common Ground Adelaide and Port Augusta. “This is an exciting time for our organisation, the sector and South Australia as we continue to provide the dedicated help and resources as we have over the past 10 years, while delivering more affordable housing and helping even more people into the future,” she said.

Home heating warning as winter house fire danger season sets in

As published in a Media Release by the Hon Peter Malinauskas, MP

With the winter house fire season underway, the Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) is urging people to take extra care when using any form of home heating.

Each year, an average of one person dies unnecessarily due to a home heater fire. The MFS and Country Fire Service (CFS) respond to around 60 fires each year caused by poorly maintained or incorrectly used heating equipment. These fires cause immeasurable levels of physical and emotional injury along with structural damage and economic loss.

The MFS are reminding people that maintaining heaters and being aware of fire risk factors can help to prevent or reduce unnecessary death, injury and loss this winter. To read the full media release click [here](#)

CHCSA Calendar of Events

Wednesday 28th June 2017

Recognising & Responding to DV Workshop

Tier 1, 2 & 3 Housing Associations & Companies

Friday 30th June 2017

Five Scenarios – the law and SACAT

Tier 1, 2 & 3 Housing Associations & Companies

Wednesday 5th July 2017

Running Effective Meetings Workshops

Tier 3 Housing Co-operatives

Friday 7th July 2017

CHP Forum

Tier 1, 2 & 3 Housing Associations & Companies

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](#)

[Co-operative Resources Guide](#) ***NEW***

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

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