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AIHW releases *Housing assistance in Australia 2017* report

As published on the AIHW website

The Australian Institute of Health & Welfare has published its report titled *Housing assistance in Australia 2017* which provides up-to-date information relating to government funded provision of social housing, rent assistance, home purchase assistance and support services to help households maintain their tenancies.

Secure and affordable housing is fundamental to the wellbeing of all Australians. It provides a platform for many of life's benefits, including stable employment, connection to the community and a sense of home. Unfortunately, many Australians are not able to access affordable, suitable housing with their own economic and social resources. Assistance provided by governments and community organisations is available to eligible Australians who may have difficulties securing stable and affordable housing – this support is collectively referred to as housing assistance.

Key findings in the report include:

- 845,400 tenants lived in social housing in 2016
- 194,600 households were on social housing waiting lists in 2016

For a copy of the AIHW Infographic click [here](#)

For further details on the AIHW report click [here](#)

CHCSA joins peak bodies to lodge Productivity Commission submission

As published on the CHCSA website

The community housing sector has delivered a comprehensive response to the Productivity Commission's draft report into human services, including housing, which was released in June.

The submission was a collaborative effort between CHCSA and other state and territory community housing peaks. Representatives from the NSW FHA and CHIA will present the report to the commission's public hearing in Canberra on Tuesday 25th July 2017.

To read the full submission click [here](#)

Australia is building too few homes in low income brackets

As published on the Sourceable website on 11th July 2017

When it comes to housing, a common argument put forward is that the key to addressing affordability revolves around beefing up new supply. According to that argument, Australia is simply not building sufficient levels of new housing in order to meet demand associated with a growing population. Increase levels by enough, it says, and housing and affordability pressures will ease.

Yet new research suggests the problem may be more nuanced than that. In a recent study, the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) found that almost eight in 10 new houses (78.3 per cent) which were approved for construction in Australia throughout 2013-2014 were aimed within the top four of 10 deciles from a price point perspective – up from 72.5 per cent as recently as 2005-2006. At the other end of the scale, just 5.8 per cent of new houses approved were aimed at the bottom four pricing brackets.

Michael Lennon, managing director of Housing Choices Australia, said there is a shortage of housing across the board but this is more pronounced at the lower end of the pricing scale. To read the full article click [here](#)

Low income earners in SA to benefit from increase to concessions

As published in a Media Release from the Hon Zoe Bettison MP

The State Government’s utility concessions will be increased annually in line with the Consumer Price Index to assist people on low and fixed incomes with cost of living expenses. This is the first time that concessions have been indexed in South Australia and it was effective from the start of the month.

Increased utility concessions will benefit South Australian pensioners, retirees and low-income earners. Concessions that have increased are Cost of Living Concession, Energy, Water, Sewerage and Medical Heating and Cooling. The increases will be applied automatically, and customers do not need to reapply. To read the full article click [here](#)

City Futures Research Centre response to Productivity Commission

UNSW City Futures Research Centre has submitted a response to the Productivity Commission’s draft report on competition choice and human services. The centre’s interests relate to social and affordable housing for lower income Australians, therefore the submission focusses primarily on chapters 5 and 6 of the draft report.

To read the full submission click [here](#)

Don Dunstan Foundation 2017 Homelessness Conference – Working together to end homelessness

As published on the Don Dunstan Foundation website

Now in its fourth year, the 2017 Homelessness Conference will provide an invaluable opportunity to learn more about emerging state, national and global trends on housing and homelessness. This conference will be on the 17th August 2017 at the Adelaide Convention Centre. For more information or to register click [here](#)

Top 7 reasons to attend the National Housing Conference 2017

As published on the AHURI website

The National Housing Conference 2017 will be held at the International Convention Centre, Sydney from 29th November to 1st December 2017. Early bird rates apply until 31st July 2017. Here are the top 7 reasons to attend:

- 1) Be a change-maker. With the reform of Australia’s housing and homelessness system firmly on the national agenda, now is the time to make real change
- 2) Join the largest gathering of social and affordable housing professionals in Australasia
- 3) Engage with a high quality program of policy relevant evidence, best practice and leading policy initiatives
- 4) Network and connect with up to 1,000 professionals across housing and related fields
- 5) Participate, collaborate and debate
- 6) Experience site tours to see Sydney’s innovative housing and homelessness options
- 7) Celebrate our successes – get social and make new friends while catching up with colleagues and peers

For more information or to register to attend click [here](#)

Reducing reoffending: 10% by 2020 – New foundation housing program

As published on the Corrections SA website

Upon becoming Minister for Correctional Services in early 2016, the Hon Peter Malinauskas MLC noted three statistics that stood out as key indicators of the substantial challenge facing our prison system.

The first was the fact that the prison population is growing at 6.01% per year. The second, is that over 75% of our current prison population have been in prison at least once before. And finally, that the rate of reoffending is 46%. Reoffending has substantial costs for our community. It means more crime, more victims and more expense to the taxpayer through costly court proceedings and incarceration.

However, a reduction in reoffending means a safer community and frees up Government resources to invest in more productive community services. Chapter 5 of the Department of Corrections blueprint outlines the plan for housing and commences on page 24 of the document which can be found [here](#)

Law for community workers: Helping clients with legal problems

The Law for Community Workers series is aimed at providing community workers with an understanding of key areas of law and legal procedures that are relevant for their clients.

This seminar will provide an overview of how to help clients with legal problems. It will cover issues such as providing legal assistance, related responsibilities such as confidentiality, how to access legal information, and options for referring clients who need further assistance with legal problems.

The seminar will be held on Thursday 3rd August 2017 from 12.30pm – 1.30pm at the Legal Services Commission, Level 3, 30 Flinders Street, Adelaide or you can attend as an online guest via webcast. For further information or to register for this seminar click [here](#)

CHCSA Calendar of Events

Friday 21st July 2017

SACAT and the RTA Workshop

(Housing Associations & Companies)

Wednesday 26th July 2017

CBS Training for Community Housing

(Tier 3 Housing Co-operatives)

Friday 4th August 2017

Community Housing Providers Forum

(Housing Associations & Companies)

Wednesday 9th August 2017

Central Forum

(Tier 3 Housing Co-operatives)

CHCSA Recommended Links

[Consumer & Business Services](#)

[South Australian Civil and Administrative
Tribunal](#)

[Tenants Information and Advisory Service](#)

[Community Centres SA](#)

[SA Legislation](#)

[ATO Benchmark Market Rent Rates](#)

[STARservice](#)

[Volunteering SA](#)

[Renewal SA](#)

[Data SA](#)

[Co-operative Resources Guide](#)

[Australasian Housing Institute](#)

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

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