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## Over 100,000 South Australian households in housing stress

*As published on the SACOSS website*

The South Australian Council of Social Service's latest Cost of Living Update utilises recent Census data to highlight the problem of housing affordability and includes a breakdown of consumer housing stress by state electorate.

Key findings of the SACOSS report include:

- 107,000 South Australian households are living with housing stress – 60% of those are renters
- More than 1 in 3 renters are experiencing housing stress
- Rates of housing stress have increased among renters in the last 5 years, but decreased for mortgage holders

SACOSS CEO Ross Womersley said, "Shelter is a basic necessity for people, and housing costs are one of the largest household expenditures for most South Australian household budgets – but when housing costs get to more than 30% of those budgets, it causes real hardship."

"The data in the SACOSS report shows that housing affordability should be a key election issue, and SACOSS wants to see all parties developing policies to support people experiencing housing stress, particularly for renters where housing affordability bites hardest."

"SACOSS has been calling for the introduction of a vacant property tax and for support for community housing associations to encourage more housing to come into the rental market, but this report also highlights an alarming long term decline in the provision of public housing in South Australia."

"This represents an alarming and unacceptable decline in a major part of the housing safety net which needs to be addressed to assist the most vulnerable in the housing market."

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

To view the SACOSS Cost of Living Update click [here](#)

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## Most tenants report benefits to living in social housing

***As published in a Media Release on the AIHW website on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2017***

The latest data from the National Social Housing Survey released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, show that when asked about the benefits of social housing over 90% of social housing tenants reported that it made them more settled and allowed them to continue to live in their current area.

The majority (74%) of social housing tenants were satisfied with the services from their housing provider. Satisfaction was highest amongst community housing tenants (80%). To read the full article click [here](#)

The CHCSA will publish key findings of the National Social Housing Survey in future editions of the fortnightly E-Bulletin, to view the AIHW survey click [here](#)

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## Help for South Australian Households to cut power bills

***As published in a Media Release by the Hon Jay Weatherill, MP on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2017***

Planet Ark and DoSomething founder Jon Dee will spearhead *EnergySmart South Australia*, a program to help South Australian households improve their energy efficiency and reduce the cost of their power bills.

*EnergySmart South Australia* will feature a series of 15 workshops held across the State before the end of the year on improving energy efficiency for households and businesses. These workshops will cover topics such as negotiating a better deal, cutting the cost of lighting, heating, cooling and hot water and saving money with insulation and solar.

To read the full Media Release click [here](#)

For more information about *EnergySmart South Australia* click [here](#)

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## Social housing desperately needed to halt rising rate of homelessness

***As published in a Media Release from St Vincent de Paul Society***

The St Vincent de Paul Society marked Homelessness Week by calling for greater investment in social housing as part of a comprehensive national strategy to halt the rising rates of homelessness, especially among young people and older women.

“It is shameful that in 2017 a lack of affordable housing continues to exclude people from the basic human right to shelter and safety. It is essential the Government invests in social housing, and not leave it to the market to resolve the lack of housing options for people on low incomes,” the Society’s National Council CEO Dr John Falzon said.

To read the full Media Release click [here](#)

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## What can HILDA tell you about Australia?

*As published on the Parliament of Australia website*

The latest results of the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) survey were released recently. HILDA is a national study of Australian households funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services and managed by the Melbourne Institute at the University of Melbourne.

Fifteen years of data are now available for researchers to use. Around 17,000 Australians are asked a series of questions each year. Topics include health, education and labour market participation, income, wealth, how individuals and households spend their income, what type of relationship they are in (or household composition), whether they have children and pay child care, whether they are retired and drawing on an age pension or superannuation (or a combination of both) and housing tenure (whether they are a private renter, home owner or paying a mortgage or living in public housing accommodation).

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

To view the latest HILDA report click [here](#)

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## Adelaide student accommodation chases top marks

*As published on the Clean Energy Finance Corporation website*

The Clean Energy Finance Corporation has announced its first major property investment in Adelaide, to drive the development of innovative new student accommodation. The project will set a new benchmark for energy efficiency design and demonstrate the benefits of market-leading building standards.

The student accommodation project in Adelaide’s CBD is within walking distance of campuses for both the University of South Australia and the University of Adelaide. Initiatives incorporated into this project include energy efficient heating, ventilation and air conditioning, LED lighting, water efficient taps and a 25kW rooftop solar system. To read the full article click [here](#)

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## ATO market rent rates for community housing

Community housing providers are reminded that the Australian Taxation Office will publish changes to the Benchmark Market Rent Rates on the ATO website. The most recent update was published in May of this year and states you can rely on the accommodation rates currently published in Table 5 for tax periods within the 2015, 2016 and 2017 years. Further information can be found [here](#) or via the link on the back page of the CHCSA E-Bulletin.

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## ACNC Webinar: Staying out of trouble – avoiding charity pitfalls

*As published on the Australian Charities & Not-for-profit Commission website*

The ACNC’s next free webinar will be held at 12pm (AEST) on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2017. This webinar will explore ways that charities can avoid pitfalls and stay out of trouble, and will include specific examples of common compliance issues, such as conflict of interest and poor record-keeping. To register for this webinar click [here](#)

## CHCSA Calendar of Events

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2017**

**C.U.B.E Workshop**  
**(Cultural Understanding, Better Engagement)**  
(Housing Associations & Companies)

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017**

**Community Housing Providers Forum**  
(Housing Associations & Companies)

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

**Effective Conciliation at SACAT Workshop**  
(Housing Associations & Companies)

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

**Central Forum**  
(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](#)

[Affordable Homes for Purchase](#)

[Homestart Finance](#)

## CHCSA Information

ABN 38 885 520 654

**283-285 Payneham Road**  
**ROYSTON PARK SA 5070**

**Phone: 08 8362 1022**

[www.chcsa.org.au](http://www.chcsa.org.au)  
[info@chcsa.org.au](mailto:info@chcsa.org.au)

**CHCSA Staff:**

**Carmel Rosier**  
Executive Officer

**Tania Driver**  
Administration Assistant

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

Please forward contributions to

[info@chcsa.org.au](mailto:info@chcsa.org.au)