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Research shows vulnerable Australians caught in vicious debt cycle

As published on the Pro Bono website

Data released by The Salvation Army to coincide with Anti-Poverty Week shows people seeking financial assistance through its financial counselling service are in extreme debt.

Head of The Salvation Army's Moneycare service, Tony Devlin said it was a "vicious cycle".

Housing affordability and cost of living pressures are also having an adverse effect with clients typically spending 37 per cent of their income on rent – a 7 per cent increase over the last 10 years.

Additionally, the percentage of income people spend on electricity has increased by 24.9 per cent in the same period.

"Over the last 10 years, we have seen major changes to the employment landscape in conjunction with increases to the cost of living. This makes it harder for people to keep their head above water."

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

Some states do better than others on affordable housing

As published on The Conversation website

Doing something about improving housing affordability, particularly for people on low and moderate incomes, is difficult for Australian politicians.

It's clear some states and territories, by adopting a multi-pronged approach, have been more active and innovative than others.

An effective affordable housing strategy is essential to deliver a range of supply options. At present, blockages along the housing continuum prevent households exiting social housing, which would free up supply for households in greater need.

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

Cost of living concession – application deadline approaching

As published on the sa.gov.au website

The Cost of Living Concession helps those on low or fixed incomes with their cost of living expenses, whether that be electricity, water, gas or medical bills.

Eligibility for the Cost of Living Concession is based on your living arrangements on 1 July. **New applications for the 2017-2018 year must be submitted by 31 October 2017.** For more information click [here](#)

Better outcomes for NSW tenants as management transfers to community housing sector

As published in a Media Release on NSW Family & Community Services website

Social housing tenants in NSW will be the beneficiaries of up to \$1 billion in Commonwealth Rental Assistance over the next 20 years, following the transfer of 14,000 social housing properties to the community housing sector. To read the full article click [here](#)

Productivity Commission releases report into NDIS costs

As published on the Productivity Commission website

The Productivity Commission has released the final study report into the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) costs. The report was provided to the Australian Government on 11th October 2017 and released publicly on 19th October 2017. To read this report in its entirety click [here](#)

HIB rebranded as Housing Safety Authority

From Monday 16th October 2017, the former Housing Improvement Branch (HIB) has been rebranded as the **Housing Safety Authority** (the Authority). This follows the commencement of the new Housing Improvement Act 2016 (the Act) earlier this year.

The Authority will continue to administer the Act on behalf of the Minister for Social Housing and independently regulate housing that is unsafe or unsuitable for human habitation. For more information click [here](#)

New plan for indigenous people with disability

As published in a Media Release from The Hon Christian Porter MP, Minister for Social Services

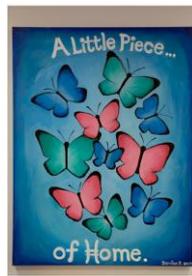
A \$3 million plan has been unveiled to address the cultural barriers and disadvantage faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability.

Minister for Social Services, Christian Porter, Assistant Minister for Disability Services, Jane Prentice and Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Nigel Scullion, said the *Australian Government Plan to Improve Outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People with Disability* (the Plan) will drive better outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability, their families and carers. To read the full Media Release click [here](#)

A new place to call home

The theme of ‘home’ was front and centre when The Honourable Jay Weatherill, Premier of South Australia, opened Housing Choices South Australia’s new offices on Thursday, October 12.

Premier Weatherill was joined by Housing Choices Australia (HCA) Chair Arthur Papakotsias; HCA Managing Director Michael Lennon and Housing Choices South Australia (HCSA) State Manager Julie Duncan in celebrating the milestone with a range of corporate, government and community supporters, partners and friends. The event followed a free lunchtime barbecue for residents.



Guests were invited to provide an item that symbolised ‘home’ to them as part of a display highlighting the importance of housing to our lives and wellbeing.

The new HCSA offices, located on Waymouth Street just around the corner from the Common Ground, Light Square building, support the organisation’s significant growth including the recent successful transfer of 840 public housing tenancies to HCSA under the SA government’s *Renewing our Streets and Suburbs* program.

Photos (L-R): HCA Chair Arthur Papakotsias & Premier Jay Weatherill, A Little Piece of Home painting by Damien Phillips & HCA Chair & Premier unveiling the plaque at the Housing Choices SA opening.

Unity Housing’s affordable housing project at Blair Athol

Another Unity Housing Affordable Housing project was completed in Blair Athol in September and has now been tenanted.

Delivering on Unity’s strategic objective to provide affordable homes in sustainable communities, the project redeveloped existing stock, which was no longer appropriate for the needs of tenants. Specifically, it has involved the sale of four obsolete dwellings and reinvestment on a *Renewing Our Streets and Suburbs* (ROSAS) site.

Delivered by Oryx Property in partnership with Unity, the Blair Athol project provides eight new housing outcomes – a mix of two social housing properties for people living with a disability, partnered with EBL Disability Services, two social housing properties for large families and four properties for the general market housing.

This project was financed by Unity and completed at no cost to SAHT or subsidy from any other source.



CHCSA Calendar of Events

Wednesday 1st November 2017

Child Safe Environments Workshop

(Housing Associations & Companies)

Friday 3rd November 2017

CHP Forum

(Housing Associations & Companies)

Wednesday 8th November 2017

Fire Safety Workshop

(Housing Associations & Companies)

Wednesday 8th November 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](#)

[Housing Co-operative Resources Guide](#)

[Australasian Housing Institute](#)

[Affordable Homes for Purchase](#)

[Homestart Finance](#)

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

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