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Public feedback being sought on Housing Improvement Regulations

*As published in a Media Release from the Hon Zoe Bettison MP,
Minister for Social Housing*

The State Government is seeking industry and public feedback on changes to the regulations that govern the minimum standards for all housing in South Australia.

The review of the *Housing Improvement Regulations 2017* follows the introduction of the *Housing Improvement Act 2016* in April this year. Since then, the new Housing Safety Authority has used the new powers under the Act to issue 64 housing improvement orders, 35 notices to vacate unsafe premises and 23 rent control notices and a number of other formal orders and notices.

The Housing Safety Authority has released an issues paper which can be found [here](#).

To provide feedback, please complete the online survey on the YourSAy website found [here](#) or send a written submission to housingimprovement@sa.gov.au with the subject line 'Regulation Review Submission' or mail to the Housing Safety Authority, GPO Box 292, Adelaide 5001.

AHI Christmas / End of Year Breakfast

As published on the Australasian Housing Institute website

The Australasian Housing Institute's South Australian branch would like to invite industry colleagues to attend their Christmas / End of Year Breakfast on **Thursday 7th December 2017 from 7.30am – 9.00am at East of Norman, 44-48 Sturt Street, Adelaide.**

This event is a great opportunity to greet industry peers, discuss plans for the year ahead and have an informal chat about the future of your professional association.

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

Changes to SACAT regulations take effect from December

In March 2017 the State Government sought feedback on proposed increases to fees payable for matters heard in the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (SACAT).

These increases were prompted by an independent organisational review of SACAT’s operations, which recommended an increase in fees to better reflect the cost of matters dealt with by SACAT.

The CHCSA were invited to respond to the draft regulations on behalf of the community housing sector. Of particular concern for community housing providers were the proposed increase to application fees and the \$235 bailiff fee for the enforcement of orders for possession of premises.

Increases to application fees and the \$235 bailiff fee are not included in the regulations.

To view the *South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (Fees) Regulations 2017* click [here](#)

Could ‘Build to rent’ create affordable rental housing?

As published on the AHURI website

‘Build to rent’ is an established practice in the UK and USA but has yet to be fully taken up in Australia. With unaffordable housing being a growing issue of concern for Australians, a potential solution to increasing the supply of rental housing is the ‘Build to rent’ development route.

‘Build to rent’ is the process whereby developers and their financiers build multi-unit buildings and, instead of selling the units, retain them to rent to tenant households. Rents may be set at market rent or, for affordable and social housing, at an appropriate discount to market rents. To read the full article click [here](#)

The 10 step guide to reducing your energy bills

As published on the Energy Smart Saver website

Australians are spending billions of dollars more than we need to on electricity and gas. But with a little bit of effort and knowledge, we can all reduce our energy use.

Energy Smart South Australia is a simple guide to cutting your energy bills. You don’t have to be an expert in energy efficiency to understand the guide. A lot of the energy saving ideas can be implemented with little or no cost. For a copy of the 10 step guide to reducing your energy bills click [here](#)

ACNC releases 2016-2017 Annual Report

The Australian Charities and Not-for-profit commission has released its 2016-2017 Annual Report. Notable achievements include a 13% increase in the number of AIS submissions completed by the due date and significant progress towards reducing red tape for charities. Red tape legislation has now passed in the ACT, South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria. To read the Annual Report click [here](#)

Maintenance requirements for smoke alarms

In South Australia, legislation is in place to make domestic smoke alarms compulsory for all residential buildings. Maintaining smoke alarms ensure they are in working order when needed most.

Australian Standards recommend a minimum standard for maintenance procedures. Whilst the Standard sets the minimum requirements for smoke alarm maintenance, the Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) recommends that you test and clean smoke alarms more frequently.

The MFS recommends testing smoke alarms every month, cleaning them at least every six months, and changing the batteries each year.

All smoke alarms have a recommended service life of 10 years after which time the MFS strongly recommends they should be replaced with a hard wired (240 volt) with battery back, photo-electric smoke alarm.

The MFS has used AS 1851-2012 to develop a Smoke Alarm Servicing Schedule to record smoke alarm maintenance which can be found [here](#).

For more information on smoke alarms click [here](#)

Save the Date: NSWFA Affordable Housing Conference 2018

As published on NSWFA website

The New South Wales Federation of Housing Associations is delighted to announce the return of the Affordable Housing Conference to be held on 27th & 28th June 2018. The conference will feature a new half day caucus on the 26th June. The 2016 conference was an outstanding success with record attendance, a wide-ranging program of high quality speakers and presentations along with excellent delegate feedback.

The 2018 conference will be held at the Sydney Masonic Centre and is expected to be even better, with the theme: **Everybody's Home**. Mark the date now to ensure you don't miss out.

What do single older women want?

Their own little space to call home!

As published on The Conversation website

The great Australian dream of owning your own home is rapidly proving to be an illusion for many. In an environment of exceedingly high house prices, groups who don't have secure, long-term employment are at risk of homelessness, particularly as they age. Single, older women are one such group!

In a recent study of 47 older women who do not own homes nearly all were living on low incomes. Their houses ranged from dingy hotel rooms and makeshift sheds or shacks to rundown flats or housing. Only a few lived in reasonable circumstances, including community housing. For all of them, stability and security of tenure were priorities.

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

CHCSA Calendar of Events

Thursday 16th November 2017

Tenant Engagement Forum
(Housing Associations & Companies)

Friday 17th November 2017

CHCSA Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 5th December 2017

CHP Forum Christmas Lunch
(Housing Associations & Companies)

Friday 15th December 2017

CHCSA Office closes for 2017

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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