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## Turnbull must come clean on reported \$1.5 billion cut to homeless services

*As published in a Media Release on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2017 by the Hon Zoe Bettison MP, Minister for Social Housing*

If reports that the Federal Government is poised to slash \$1.5 billion from affordable housing and homelessness services are true, Malcolm Turnbull's administration has sunk to an all time low.

The Australian newspaper claims the Government has 'hinted' at slashing the program which funds homelessness and social housing programs across the country, including \$40 million in South Australia.

These services include crisis accommodation, outreach programs and support for women and children experiencing domestic and family violence.

Social Housing Minister Zoe Bettison is calling on the Turnbull Government to come clean and say whether or not these reports are accurate.

Ms Bettison said the cuts could not come at a worse time given the increase in demand for services.

### Background

South Australia's specialist homelessness services sector receives about \$60 million through the National Affordable Housing Agreement and the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness.

The sector is comprised of 40 providers who coordinate 75 programs across the State, including three telephone gateway services.

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

To read the article published in The Australian click [here](#)

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## NDIS Housing: 4 key questions

*As published on the Disability Services Consulting website*

Literally tens of thousands of people with disability (and families) are thinking about how the NDIS will enable a move out of the family home and into a house of their own.

As the NDIS rolls out across Australia participants and their families will be coming to organisations asking what they should be doing to get ‘housing ready’ for the NDIS.

What do you say to people with disability and their families about how the NDIS can help overcome the housing problem? This question is perplexing many organisations given that the NDIS and housing is a complicated beast.

Ultimately, participants and their families will need to decide for themselves where they live, who they live with and how they are supported.

The NDIS is not going to be deciding this for people. There is no waiting list management by the NDIA and planners aren’t going to be creative geniuses helping people to think about new models of support. All this is going to sit with participants, families and their supporters.

Disability Services Consulting has put together four key questions you can ask people with disability and families to think about their first NDIS plan. This can be useful for Support Coordinators, service providers or advocates and families. The questions are as follows:

- 1) What support do I need to decide where/with who I will live with?
- 2) How likely is it that I will get a ‘Specialist Disability Accommodation’ payment from the NDIS?
- 3) What support will I need to find and keep a place to live?
- 4) How do I want my day-to-day support to be linked to my home?

To read the full article including answers to the questions above click [here](#)

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## Resources available for reducing energy costs

*As published on the sa.gov.au website*

The Energy Partners Program (EPP) has a range of resources available to help partner organisations support their clients and direct them to free energy information and advice.

These resources include a range of articles such as; cooling your home efficiently and managing your energy bills. The website also contains information relating to concessions, customer rights and responsibilities and financial assistance that may be available.

Free energy training and education sessions are available to staff and volunteers to help organisations support their clients.

For more information on the Energy Partners Program and the available resources click [here](#)

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## If Australia has a housing crisis, supply is the answer

*As published in the Australian Financial Review on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2017*

Australia is in the midst of a housing crisis. For those of us who live and work in our cities, the level of homelessness we see on our streets serves as a daily reminder of the lack of housing. As federal Treasurer Scott Morrison said earlier this month, “it is all about supply”. And he is right. It is that simple.

But, there are also two distinct segments of housing supply. Firstly, housing that is created to be purchased by the private sector (investors and owner occupiers) because they can afford to buy or rent a house or apartment, and the second type is housing that is not economically viable because people cannot afford to rent it. They just don't have enough money. Historically, governments used to invest in this second area of housing supply because it was uneconomic for the private sector.

There has been a minimal net increase in the amount of affordable/social/public housing, yet the private market has exploded. Both types of housing segments need supply if we are going to put a downward pressure on price. Yet only one is being supplied; the private market.

The homelessness we see in our streets today is the direct result of a lack of investment in public, social and affordable housing by successive governments over several decades. And the homelessness will get worse. Much worse. Many more Australians are just one pay cheque away from themselves being defined as homeless.

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

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## Fund My Community 2017 – Connect, Grow, Build, Belong

*As published on the yourSAy website*

The Government of South Australia recently launched Fund My Community 2017 – *Connect, Grow, Build, Belong*. In 2017, Fund My Community is again offering \$1 million in one-off grants of between \$10,000 and \$100,000 (plus GST) for South Australian-based, non-profit, non-government incorporated community organisations.

For more information about eligibility criteria, funding exclusions or information sessions for applicants click [here](#). Applications are currently being accepted and can be submitted through the above link until 5pm on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

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## 2017 AHI Professional Excellence in Housing Awards

*As published on the AHI website*

With less than two weeks to go now is the time to get your nomination in for the 2017 AHI Professional Excellence in Housing Awards. Nominations will close on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017!

For more information on the awards, to view the different categories, download an information pack or make a nomination online click [here](#)

## CHCSA Calendar of Events

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2017

Associations' Forum

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017

Central Forum

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017

G-Force Maintenance Training Workshop  
(Housing Co-operatives)

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2017

Tenant Engagement Forum  
(Housing Associations)

## 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](#)

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

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