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2018 Budget “Lets the momentum slide” on affordable housing

Notes taken from an email sent to CHCSA 8/05/18 by Peta Winzar, Executive Director of Community Housing Industry Association

In discussions with the CHCSA, Peta Winzar comments that “while the 2017 Federal Budget laid the foundations for real improvements in affordable housing, this 2018 Budget fails to follow through.”

She notes that this Budget focusses on tax reform, infrastructure investments, improving security, and the digital economy. One positive is that Rent Assistance rises from \$4.4b to \$4.53, mainly as a result of growth in age pensioner and carer pensioner populations, but the obvious gap for our sector is that “there is no National Housing Strategy in sight”.

Peta laments “there are no measures which will increase housing supply. There is still no prospect of capital funding or additional subsidy to fill the gap between rental receipts and operating costs, to support the Bond Aggregator and Housing Infrastructure Funding from last budget”. “There is no reform of Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA) to alleviate housing stress among low income households. The package of measures in this Budget for older Australians, while welcome, is completely silent on housing stress among the 190,000 people over 70 who get CRA. There is no recognition that affordable, appropriate housing is essential to Closing the Gap for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, 79% of whom live in non-remote areas.”

There’s no doubt about it; Australia’s housing system is broken. That’s why the CHCSA has joined forces with organisations from across the housing sector, to put together a campaign that will work towards fixing it – **Everybody’s Home**.

Join us in support of this great campaign – [click here](#) for more information.

Community Housing Ltd and Horizon Housing Join Forces to address Australia’s Housing Crisis



From the Community Housing Ltd [website](#)

“Australian not for profit housing provider Community Housing Limited (CHL) recently announced the integration of Horizon Housing, Queensland’s largest housing provider into the CHL Group of Companies.

The integration will boost CHL’s current portfolio to over 11,000 properties by November, making it the largest community housing provider in the country. The combined group will manage community and affordable housing properties across the six states with nearly 300 staff delivering services to support those most disadvantaged.

The integration of the two entities creates a powerful alliance to fight the problem recently highlighted by the latest Anglicare Rental Affordability Snapshot, which categorised three out of 67,365 rental properties listed in Australia as “affordable” for a single person on Newstart Allowance.”

[Click here](#) to read the media release in full.

SACAT’s Fee Waiver and Concession Policy Changes

From the SACAT [website](#)

SACAT will be implementing a new Fee Waiver and Concession Policy effective Tuesday 1 May 2018.

This policy will mean introducing reduced fees for concession card holders. Those who currently have their fees waived entirely will now be entitled under the policy to have a reduction in their fee. Full fee waivers will still be available, but only to those who qualify on a more rigorous means-tested application, or qualify for an automatic waiver for a full fee waiver supported by evidence.

Applications that were previously fee-free, based on subject matter, remain so.

Please refer to the SACAT [fees and charges page](#) for more information.

Changes for the Real Estate Sector – from 30th April 2018

Full report from the Consumer and Business Services [website](#)

The CBS have emailed the CHCSA to communicate changes to the Real Estate sector that include increased compliance and enforcement provisions under the Land Agents Act and will allow them more power to take action against unprofessional behaviour. This applies to only a few of our Members.

New laws require all property managers to be registered by 28 September 2019. CBS will start receiving applications from 1 February 2019. Read more about property management reforms [here](#).

Reducing Recidivism

From the Churchill Trust [website](#)

Louise Kelly from OARS presented on her Churchill Fellowship at a recent SACOSS meeting. She referred to her report entitled [Reducing Recidivism Through Supported Reintegration and Rehabilitation](#) which highlights that “The duty of society does not end with a prisoner’s release. There should, therefore be governmental or private agencies capable of lending the released prisoner efficient aftercare directed towards the lessening of prejudice against him or her and towards his or her social rehabilitation”. Louise notes that “the engagement of community, and the collaboration of services are vital in ensuring the support and services can be provided to those who need them the most”. She comments that “South Australia has come a long way in the past 18 months since the introduction of the 10% (reduction in recidivism) by 2020 target, and the strategy and recommendations following from this. Programs and initiatives are being funded and further investigated within government, and also in partnership with non-government and private organisations”. Louise stipulates that her key learning from her experience researching and writing this interesting report was more about the significance of engagement with, and education of, the community and Government, rather than solely the correctional/rehabilitation programs themselves. [Click here](#) to review her research report in full.

Tenant Vacancies

Uniting Country SA currently has one bedroom properties available to eligible clients in rural South Australia. This includes Port Vincent, Owen, Wirrabarra, Laura, Clare, Booleroo Centre and Orroroo.

Contact Liz on 1300 067 777 or visit the Uniting Country SA [website](#) for more information.

Job Vacancies

As advertised on the [CHCSA Job Board](#)

Junction Australia is currently advertising for:

- Income Management Officer
- Income Management Administration Officer
- People & Places Coordinator

Accessible Housing is currently advertising for:

- Tenancy Officer

Access 2 Place is currently advertising for:

- Tenant Engagement Coordinator

For information on how to obtain a job and person specification for these positions, or to apply, please visit the job advertisement on the [CHCSA Jobs Board](#).

CHCSA Calendar of Events

Thursday 10th May

Thursday 10th May

Wednesday 16th May

Thursday 17th May

Wednesday 23rd May

Thursday 24th May

Wednesday 30th May

Thursday 31st May

G-Force Maintenance Professional Development

BST Connect pre-workshop Meeting

CoP – Compliance & Systems Meeting

CoP – Tenant Engagement Meeting

CoP – Finance Meeting

CHCSA Board of Management Meeting

BST Connect Workshop

Mental Health Professional Development

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](#)

[People & Places](#) (Housing SA newsletter)

[NDIS](#) (NDIS in SA)

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

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