



20th September 2013

Dear Shelter Members and Supporters,

BREAKING NEWS! Residential Tenancy Act Amendments passed by the Legislative Council

Tasmania is one step closer to being the first Australian jurisdiction to impose legislated minimum standards for rental properties after the Legislative Council passed the *Residential Tenancy Amendment Bill 2013*. The Bill now needs to return to the House of Assembly to ratify amendments made in the Legislative Council. If, as expected, the amended Bill is passed by the House of Assembly, this welcome change will ensure that premises will now have to be weatherproof, structurally sound, have adequate bathroom, laundry and kitchen facilities, window coverings, and sufficient affordable heating and ventilation. There are also amendments affecting the terms and conditions of social housing tenancies, including unfair rent increases, length of absence and ongoing eligibility thresholds. Shelter will summarise these and other details and the impacts they will have on the community housing sector and low-income tenants very soon. Watch this space.

Shelter Community Housing Forum: Tasmanian Community Housing - Trends, Transfers and Tenants

Shelter will be holding a one-day forum on the 29th of November, 2013 at the Salamanca Inn in Hobart. The program will have a particular focus on stock transfer and community housing, but will cover a range of issues that are relevant to all who work in the affordable housing sector. We have some fantastic interstate and local speakers, including Professor Kath Hulse from AHURI; Peter White, Director of Housing Tasmania; Tony Gilmour, President of the Australian Housing Institute; Carol Croce, CEO of the Community Housing Federation of Australia and Maria McKenzie from Homes North in NSW. The day will be facilitated by the enigmatic Michael Lennon. Keep an eye on our [website](#) and [Facebook](#) pages for details and how to register in the coming weeks.

Housing and Homelessness News

Housing and the New Department of Social Services

An update from CHFA: As you would all be aware, Senator Kevin Andrews is the new Minister for Social Services and his portfolio includes homelessness, social housing and housing affordability. The National Housing Supply Council will remain in Treasury. The housing portfolio will remain in the re-structured FaHCSIA now called the Department of Social Services (DSS). There have been no further announcements of any delegation of housing responsibilities within the Social Services portfolio to either the Outer Ministry (Mitch Fifield) or a Parliamentary Secretary (Concetta Fierravanti-Wells).

Common Ground Tenant Art Exhibition

Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd September, at 58 Goulburn St. Works will be for sale, all proceeds to the artist. For more information phone 6231 1118.

More People Renting for Longer as Hopes of Ownership Fade

More than 1.8 million Australian households rent and a third have done so for more than 10 years, says new research; showing the dream of home ownership is slipping away for many. Renting is no longer temporary but permanent for increasing numbers of people, who have been priced out of the housing market, finds the study commissioned by the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI).

<http://smh.domain.com.au/more-people-renting-for-longer-as-hopes-of-ownership-fade-20130917-2txbj.html>

Research

The Latest AHURI Evidence Review Explores the Question: can lower-income buyers build housing wealth as generations before have done?

The research suggests that if lower-moderate income buyers purchase in outer urban and growth zones they will build housing wealth over time, but at a much slower rate than buyers in expensive suburbs. http://www.ahuri.edu.au/housing_information/review/evrev035

Instability in the Housing Circumstances of Newly Arrived Humanitarian Entrants and the Implications for the Homelessness Service System: a Scoping Study

This 2013 Australian study by Tually et al. from the University of Adelaide, investigates the instability in the housing circumstances of newly arrived humanitarian entrants and the implications for the homelessness service system.

<http://homelessnessclearinghouse.govspace.gov.au/about-homelessness/agreements-and-initiatives/commonwealth-initiatives/national-homelessness-research/instability-in-the-housing-circumstances-of-newly-arrived-humanitarian-entrants-and-the-implications-for-the-homelessness-service-system-a-scoping-study-2013-australia/>

Training/Workshops

Bridges Out of Poverty Training, Launceston 3rd and 9th October

Tasmania Medicare Local is co-ordinating a series of workshops (Bridges Out of Poverty) as part of its Social Determinants of Health initiative, to provide practitioners with practical tools to assist Tasmanians affected by poverty and disadvantage. The all-day workshops will be held on 3rd and 9th October 2013 at the Tramsheds, Launceston. Contact Maree Gleeson on 6425 0800 or mgleeson@tasmedicarelocal.com.au for further details and registration (by Friday 20th September).

Financial Literacy Education Training

Colony 47 and Matrix on Board Training, with the support of the Tasmanian Government are providing Financial Literacy Education Training to workers in Tasmania under the FLEX grants program, as 1-day and 4-day workshops across Tasmania.

For dates and locations of these courses, go to www.surveymonkey.com/s/Colony47 and click 'Next' at the bottom of the screen until the list of dates appears.

Places are still available for:

- Huonville (Monday 23 September 2013)
- Scottsdale (Monday 14 October 2013)

For further information phone 03 6222 1530 or email admin@colony47.com.au.

Conferences/Seminars/Forums

Tasmanian Association of Community Houses - State Conference 2013

TACH's State Conference for 2013, 'Building and Rebuilding Creative, Connected Communities' will be held from Wednesday 25th September to Friday 27th September at the Brighton Civic Centre. Go to the TACH website for more details at <http://tach.asn.au/>, or click here for the [program](#) and [registration form](#).

Tasmanian Community Housing: Trends, Transfers, Tenants

Shelter will be holding a one-day forum on community housing on the 29th of November, 2013. We have some fantastic speakers lined up, and the program will cover a range of issues that are relevant to all who work in the affordable housing sector. Stay tuned for more details as they unfold.

National Housing Conference—A New Way Home, 30 Oct – 1 Nov, Adelaide

The 8th [National Housing Conference](#), convened by AHURI in partnership with Housing SA, will be held from October 30th – November 1st in Adelaide. This is an opportunity to debate critical housing issues such as housing affordability, the under-supply of housing, homelessness and Aboriginal housing. Program and registration details are available [here](#).

If you are interested in a pre-conference workshop on older persons and housing that Housing for the Aged Action Group are conducting, then contact Jeff Fiedler at jeff.fiedler@oldertenants.org.au or 0417 117 232. Or call Pauline at Shelter Tas on 6224 5488.

2013 Tasmanian Disability Support Workers Conference

National Disability Services, in conjunction with DisabilityCare Australia and DHHS, will be hosting the Tasmanian Disability Support Workers Conference on the 11th and 12th November at the Hotel Grand Chancellor in Hobart.

Other News

TasCOSS 2013 Dorothy Pearce Address

Internationally renowned community development strategist and organiser, and gifted storyteller David Hunt will deliver the 2013 Dorothy Pearce Address at the Stanley Burbury Theatre (University of Tasmania, Sandy Bay) from 5pm-7pm on Monday 30th September. Cost is \$10 for TasCOSS members/concessions and \$20 for Non-members, includes light food and refreshments. Please [register online](#), RSVP is essential for catering purposes. For more information, download a [flyer](#), call 6231 0755 or email admin@tasco.org.au

The [National Youth Week 2014 Grants Program is Now Open](#)

[Grants](#) are available to support the development and delivery of National Youth Week (NYW) projects, events and activities during NYW 2014, which runs from Friday 4th to Sunday 13th April 2014.

The Tasmanian Community Fund

Eligible applicants are not-for-profit organisations proposing to undertake a project in Tasmania. A wide range of projects which support children and young people, community wellbeing and life skills, community participation and recreation, connecting communities, and culture, arts and heritage are eligible.

Applicants should provide the information requested in the guidelines by the closing date. Guidelines and access to the link for the on-line application forms are available from www.tascomfund.org, or phone the Fund Office on 6233 2920.

Applications for small grants close on **Wednesday 2nd October 2013** and applications for medium grants close on **Wednesday 16th October 2013**.

Partnership Agreement Scorecard Survey Open Until 30th September

A Partnership Agreement between the Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Tasmanian community sector is a pledge to work together in relationships built on mutual understanding, respect and co-operation. A short online survey is now being undertaken to gauge where your organisation feels your current State partnerships are working well, and where you would like some support to work with your partner(s) more within the Partnership Agreement principles. Please complete the [Partnership Agreement Scorecard survey](#) by **30th September 2013**. Responses are welcome from community sector organisations (as many people per organisation can complete it as you want) or from government agencies providing funding services.

Thanks to all contributors for their submissions and feedback. As information for our eNews comes from many different sources, views expressed are not necessarily those of Shelter Tas. If you would like to make a submission to the Shelter Tas eNews please [forward it](#) to us for consideration.

Shelter Tas is supported by the Department of Health and Human Services.