

A new tax ruling, a new urban policy, and a new round of data collection... information on these issues and much more in Edition 130 of the NB.



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Training and Events

[ACT & NSW Security of Payment Acts One Day Intensive Training Course \(Canberra\)](#)

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors Dispute Resolution Service ("RICS DRS") is presenting a series of intensive training courses aimed at training industry practitioners in the operation of the Building and Construction Industry Security of Payment Act 1999 (NSW). The training course is designed to provide a detailed and practical understanding of the Act. It's next such course will be held in Canberra on the 17 June 2011.

[Reflections on Community Renewal in Social Housing Estates: A Practitioners Forum \(Sydney\)](#)

The Australasian Housing Institute (AHI) are hosting this forum on 31 May 2011 in Sydney. The forum will provide the opportunity for participants to discuss the range of strategies used in community renewal initiatives –

Edition 130, Monday 30 May 2011

Welcome to another edition of the CHFA NB. This fortnight highlights are release of the Australian Government's National Urban Policy paper, the announcement of a new draft tax ruling for charities from the ATO, and the commencement of community housing data collection for another year. We also have updates from WA and NSW where some significant changes to social and affordable housing have recently been announced.

As always, kind regards and happy reading,

Shelly Forceville
 CHFA Communications and Administration Officer

New ATO Draft Tax Ruling for Charities

On 11 May 2011, a day after the Federal Budget was handed down the ATO released (with very little fanfare) a draft taxation ruling outlining its view on what is a charity. The ruling replaces TR2005/21 which was the previous ATO ruling on charities. The Charities Tax Advisory Service (CTAS) have put together a concise summary which touches on the main issues and highlights the changes between the old and new ruling.

The newsletter from CTAS containing the summary can be found via [the CTAS website](#).

Comments can be made to the ATO on this draft ruling and the closing date for submissions is 24 June 2011.

For further information on the ruling, and on making comment please see [the ATO website](#).

asset, community building and tenancy management and some of the benefits and challenges of this work for social housing workers. Social practitioners will be able to reflect on current policy and practice issues related to community renewal initiatives in social housing estates in NSW and the UK.

[AHURI Research Seminar: Social housing, the latest evidence \(Sydney\)](#)

This free AHURI Research Seminar to be held in Sydney on 24 June 2011 will discuss the findings from three AHURI research projects which have examined specific social housing issues. Following the research presentations, two discussants will comment on the implications of these findings from a policy and practice perspective.

The seminar will close with a facilitated group discussion and wrap up by Dr Ian Winter, Executive Director, AHURI.

[Australasian Housing Researchers' Conference \(Adelaide\)](#)

Following on from the 5th highly stimulating and successful AHRC in November 2010 in Auckland, the Centre for Housing, Urban and Regional Planning (CHURP) at The University of Adelaide is pleased to announce it will be hosting the 6th AHRC from 8-10 February 2012. The conference will bring to Adelaide Australasia's brightest minds in housing research.

Further information on conference venues, key note speakers and the call for conference papers will be announced soon.

For a full listing of

National Urban Policy Paper Released

On 18 May 2011, the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport released 'Our Cities, Our Future - A National Urban Policy for a productive, sustainable and liveable future'. The report outlines the Australian Government's objectives and directions for future development of Australia's cities. It recognises the critical roles that State, Territory and Local Governments, the private sector and individuals play in planning, managing and investing in cities. It also highlights that the Australian Government makes decisions that **impact upon urban Australia. This is the first time that an Australian Government has sought to outline its overarching goals for the nation's cities and how we will play a role in making them more productive, sustainable and liveable.**

The report can be downloaded from [the Department of Infrastructure and Transport website](#).

WA Budget Released

The WA Government released its the 2011-12 State Budget on 19 May 2011. The budget has a significant focus on building social services and social infrastructure. Of particular interest are **announcements of:**

- \$1billion Social Services Package, including \$604million over five years to support sustainable service delivery by the not-for-profit sector
- \$151million over three years for housing for people with severe disability, mental illness, or drug-related difficulties
- \$6million increase in 2011-12 to the Hardship Utilities Grant Scheme
- Seniors Cost of Living Rebate increased to \$150 for singles and \$225 for couples, and expanded eligibility criteria for Seniors Card

The budget and related documents can be downloaded from [the WA Department of Treasury and Finance Website](#).

NSW - Amendments to Affordable Housing SEPP Announced

The NSW Federation of Housing Associations (NSWFHA) has recently provided information on an announcement made by the NSW Government that it would be making amendments to the Affordable Housing SEPP (State Environmental Planning Policy). **The NSW Government that it will establish an Affordable Housing Taskforce to look at issues raised by the Affordable Rental Housing SEPP (AHSEPP) Review process that began in December 2010.**

[upcoming events](#) [please see the events page of the CHFA website.](#)

New Resources

[Australia's private rental market: the supply of, and demand for, affordable dwellings](#)

In 2006 only 37 per cent of private renters with household incomes in the lowest 40 per cent of the national income distribution accessed affordable housing. This Final Report from AHURI aims to provide relevant information to assist policy-makers in addressing this situation.

For more of the latest resources relevant to community housing in Australia [please visit the resource section of the CHFA website.](#)

According to the NSW FHA the Taskforce will provide input into the development of a new planning instrument to replace the AHSEPP. The new planning instrument will be called the Affordable Housing Choice SEPP. The Taskforce composition has not yet been finalised but there is a commitment to include Community Housing Providers.

More information is available from [the NSW FHA website.](#)

A media release from the NSW Minister for Planning Brad Hazzard regarding the changes is available from [the NSW Liberal Party website.](#)

A fact sheet detailing the changes is also available from [the NSW Department of Planning website.](#)

For all of the latest news [please visit the News Page of the CHFA website.](#)

Position Vacant: Policy and Research Officer - Shelter Tasmania

Shelter Tasmania are currently advertising the position of Policy and Research Officer. Shelter Tasmania is the State Peak Body for Housing & Homelessness, and a member of CHFA representing community housing organisations in Tasmania. This is an exciting opportunity for someone with a commitment to social justice, housing and homelessness issues.

For more details see the position advertisement [here](#). The position description can be accessed through [the Shelter Tasmania website.](#)

Applications close COB Monday, 6th of June, 2011. For more information please call Shelter TAS on (03) 6224 5488.

2010–11 Community housing data collection starting soon!

The 2010–11 annual community housing data collection will be commencing in June. The collection is managed by each state or territory under the guidance of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). A survey and supporting documentation will be sent to community housing organisations by State and territory housing departments.

Further results from the 2009–10 data collection can be found via the [AIHW website.](#)

If you have any questions please contact your housing office's community housing representative or [email AIHW.](#)

More information is

available from [the CHFA website](#).

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