

Community Housing in NSW undergoes a far reaching expansion

Historically, community housing has played a valuable but niche role in delivering housing in NSW. But the role is changing as both the State and Federal Governments look to the community housing sector to deliver on a raft of new housing initiatives. These initiatives are aimed at tackling everything from homelessness, special needs clients to affordable housing.

In November 2007, the NSW Minister for Housing, the Hon. Matt Brown launched Planning for the Future. This is a five year strategy for the state's community housing sector. Amongst other things, the strategy includes a firm commitment to double the size of the community housing sector for ten years – from 15,500 to over 30,000 properties over ten years.

That figure is likely to be exceeded following the recent election of a Labor Federal Government under Kevin Rudd. The new Government has identified housing as a key policy area. In its first days in power, the Rudd Government announced a raft of new housing initiatives aimed at tackling everything from homelessness; housing affordability and housing for Indigenous communities. Community housing has been identified as one of the main vehicles for delivering the new Government's program and so the proposals are likely to see further substantial growth in community housing in NSW.

In anticipation of this emphasis on community housing, the State Government recently introduced a series of amendments to the Housing Act 2001. The aim of the amendments is to strengthen the regulatory framework to secure the additional Government investment that is now planned. The main features of the amended legislation are the establishment of a statutory position of the Registrar of Community Housing and the introduction of a new Regulatory Code.

The Office of Community Housing, which has responsibility for community housing within Housing NSW, is currently recruiting to the position of the Registrar of Community Housing, developing the Regulatory Code, and establishing a new Office of the Registrar of Community Housing. With the establishment and a fully functioning Office of the Registrar of Community Housing, a major component in the expansion of community housing will finally be in place.

To obtain further information about the position of the Registrar of Community Housing and instructions on how to apply visit www.kathleentownsend.com.au and select 'Career Opportunities'. To discuss the role in confidence call the consultants assisting with the appointment Kathy Townsend or Sally Clark on 03 8621 4000.