

Community Housing Tenant News

Vol.3

October 2006

Metro Tenant Network Turns One

The network has now been working to support tenant participation in the community housing sector for a year. This newsletter is to let tenants and associations in the metro area know what is happening with the tenant network and what we've got planned for the year ahead.

Funding

The Federation is proposing that this project should be funded by the Office of Community Housing through the Federation's business plan. This would allow the Federation to provide 20 days work on the project this year. It also would provide funds for four meetings, including catering. The Federation's business plan has not yet been given final approval by the OCH. However, the Federation is willing to continue its support work with the Network while this process continues.

Success so far

The first two metro workshops were attended by 69 participants from 11 of the 16 metro associations. Participants have had a chance to:

- develop aims for the

network

- Hear about inspiring examples of tenant participation in NSW, including Hume's Tenants' Voice and the work of Argyle tenants at Claymore.
- Hold workshops on the priorities for the year ahead, including improving communications, training needs and developing the steering group
- A steering group with tenant reps from several associations has been established.
- There are now over 70 members of the network. A database of their contact details has been developed and this can be used to distribute information on tenant participation

There are also great examples of tenants from different associations learning from each other and having success developing tenant participation as a result. For example

Western Suburbs tenants visited Hume's Tenant Voice group and Cumberland and St.



Hume Tenants at Community Housing Conference

George tenants. They learnt a great deal from the successes at those three organisations. As a result Western Suburbs has been very successful at developing tenant participation. They now have a new tenants' committee and a social club with 40 members. They recently held a multi-cultural day with more than 40 people attending. They are currently busy planning for a tenants' Christmas party.

In this edition:

- Metro Tenant Network turns one
- Plans for the year ahead
- Next Tenant network workshop

PLANS FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

The steering group recently discussed the plans for the year developed at the last workshop. The following plans and dates were developed:

October 06

Newsletter and contact with housing Associations
Promote and encourage TN membership.

Sound out Associations on whether they would be prepared to contribute some funding to support the TN in future years, if necessary

Tuesday 14th November 2006

Workshop 1

Steering group members to promote steering group membership, from un-represented organisations.

Workshop topic

“Involving more people”

Tuesday 21st November 2006 9.30am

Steering Group meeting

February 2007

Workshop 2

Discussion topics to be chosen later

March 2007

Training event

E.g.; Chairing, Meeting skills, Minute taking

Encourage tenants to begin taking on meeting roles, including Chairing and note taking

April 2007

Possible study visit –

If there is sufficient demand.

May need additional funding

May 2007

Newsletter 2

To recap on progress this year and advertise the final workshop

June 2007

Workshop 3

Discussion topics to be chosen later

Join us!

The tenant network has made a good start – but we need to get more tenants involved and support the network to become more independent and tenant led. So please encourage the tenants who have been involved to keep coming and new tenants to give it a try for the first time. And for those five associations who haven't had any involvement to date – we would love to see you and your tenants! Please contact Adam West at the Federation on 9281 7144 ext 211 or adamwest@communityhousing.org.au for more information.

Next Tenant Network workshop

Tuesday 14th November 2006

10.30– 1.30

Club Ashfield

Free – all metro tenants welcome – lunch and refreshments provided

Please complete a registration form

Speakers include tenants from Western Suburbs, Hume and St. George

Special workshop topic:

Involving more people



Northcott tenants perform 'Stickybricks' at the Community Housing Conference