

Tenant Network welcomes North Coast Tenants



Service and had an opportunity to make a submission on the proposed changes to the Residential Tenancy Act.

And finally, the Network can now announce that tenants from all 15 metropolitan associations have either attended an event or signed up to the Network.

Tenant Network welcomes North Coast representatives

For the first time the Community Housing Tenant Network has involved tenants from outside the metropolitan area. The Network is planning to consult different associations around the state to see how it can help promote tenant involvement across NSW. As a first step, the Network has been talking to North Coast Community Housing (NCCHC) and encouraging their tenants to join.

At the Network's Christmas workshop North Coast tenant Delores Close and staff member Kate De Marco gave a presentation on their association's Tenant Council. The NCCHC Tenant Council

has been operating very successfully since 2006.

It aims to bring tenants together across the wide geographical area covered by NCCHC by selecting representatives for the Tweed Heads, Grafton and Lismore areas. Kate and Delores gave an inspiring presentation and members were delighted to meet representatives from a regional housing association.

The workshop was well attended, with 49 tenants making their way to Ashfield. They also heard a presentation on tenant employment projects in Victoria from David White from the Regional Tenants' Resource

Greetings to all Tenant Network Members

Please forward by email your housing news etc. to the newsletter group:

allanrankmore @
optusnet.com
lesliefuller@live.com.au
gsa_angel@hotmail.com

Join The Network

Download the registration form from the **Network website**:

www.communityhousing.org.au/tenantnetwork.html

or
call **Adam Weston 9281 7144**
ext 211 for more information.

Tenants from non-metro associations are welcome to join and will be sent the Network's newsletter and other information directly to their home.

New Directions for Community Housing NSW 2007/08 - 2012/13

The **Office of Community Housing** has recently released a five year strategy for community housing, “**Planning for the Future**” -

It is strongly committed to the growth of the community housing sector in NSW to support the Government's efforts to provide housing assistance to people in need, as outlined in the State Plan.

What are the main themes of planning for the future?

- Growth/diverse
- Flexible responses
- Stronger communities
- Capacity and confidence
- Viability and sustainability etc

To gain access to the full report go to :



www.housing.nsw.gov.au

or

request a paper copy from

Housing NSW



Included in **Planning the Future** is a plan to:

Support specific geographical or regional responses including:

- Continue development of Housing NSW planning frameworks that involve robust cross-provider service planning at regional and local levels.

- Develop strategies to enable community housing to respond appropriately to low-demand areas, including new delivery models and facilitate service delivery innovation.

- Develop community housing provider delivery models that meet local need more efficiently.



BUSH BROWNIES:

Ingredients:

- One and half cups self-raising flour
- three quarters cup butter
- half cup brown sugar
- one teaspoon each Ginger/Allspice/ Nutmeg
- two cups mixed fruit
- one egg
- one cup milk.

Instructions:

Sift dry ingredients into a bowl, mix in the well beaten egg, butter and milk, pour into a greased tin & bake for 30 minutes in a moderate oven.

A wish for you in 2008

May peace break into your house and many thieves come to steal your debts
May the pockets of your jeans become a magnet for \$100 bills
May love stick to your face like Vaseline and
May laughter assault your lips
May your clothes smell of success like smoking tyres and
May happiness slap you across the face and
May your tears be that of joy
May the problems you had, forget your home address

In simple words
May 2008 be the best year of your life

Minister for Housing Responds

Thank you to Tanya Pilbersek MP-Minister for Housing and the Status for Women for her response to my input to the Request for Information (RFI) on increasing the supply of Social Housing, says Greta, a tenant network member.

Part of the attached Statement reads:

“In response to the request for information regarding Social Housing on 26th July 2007 the former government invited submissions to increase the supply of social housing....

Submissions were received from individuals and organisations....

eg. International development companies/ community sector/ housing providers/finance sector”

Key Themes

in the response:

- continued need for public housing safety net
- need for partnerships and Federal Government to tackle social housing
- potential for investment in community housing
- innovative ideas for accommodation for people with disabilities

The Rudd Government will use the findings from the RFI to inform the development of its housing election commitments.

For more information go to:

www.facsia.gov.au

NSW TENANT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Housing NSW intends to pilot the establishment of an overarching statewide tenant body, over one year, that will work in partnership with the Department to inform, review, discuss existing and new policies, operations and services that impact on the quality of life of social housing tenants. The pilot will be evaluated at the end of this term to determine its effectiveness and future directions.

The Council will act as a platform for members to raise broad issues in relation to housing policy, operations and service delivery. They will also provide feedback and comment to Housing NSW on matters that will ultimately help to improve policies, operations and service delivery for social housing tenants.

They will draw on their own experience and networks to comment on key issues affecting social

housing tenants periodically report on the business and achievements of the Council in the Housing NSW tenant newsletter “Your Home”

While the council is representative of the views and experience of social housing tenants it does not formally represent tenants.

The Council will comprise a total of six representatives drawn from each of the following areas:

(DOH) Central Sydney Division (2)
Great Western Sydney Division (2)
Northern Division (2), Southern & Western Division (2, Aboriginal Housing Office (1), Office of Community Housing (2).

A tenant representative will chair the Council meetings. The Council membership term will be for one year from the inaugural meeting date.

A change of email address for South Western Regional Tenant Association:



swrta@mysoul.com.au

Katoomba Regional Tenants Action Group nearly held their first get together, a Christmas picnic (bring your own everything) at Wentworth Falls Lake, but it was foggy and rainy so that was the end of that. They are going to try again in February.

This is the first of the regional tenant action groups that Susan Lucock and Robert Bembrick from Wentworth Area Community Housing hope to achieve. WACH tenants found out that the area is just too large to have just one Tenants' Action Group so they are working on a different angle.

Western Suburbs Housing CO-OP Christmas Picnic



Santa Claus at Nurraging Reserve, Doonside

We held our annual Christmas picnic on the 1st of December at the Nurraging Reserve at Doonside. All who attended had a great day, there was a sausage sizzle, drinks, fairy floss, ices, jumping castles, a merry-go-round and showbags for the children, and barbeque chicken and drinks for the adults.

Santa Claus was there to give all the children their Christmas presents, all the tenants received gifts from our lucky prizes. Prizes ranged from beanies to gift vouchers, bikes, a weeks rent and a coloured TV and many more gifts. Everyone had a great day even though it was overcast with a few showers.

Prizes donated by: Avon, Johnson and Johnson, Red Rooster, Blacktown Hot Water, AA Affordable Flooring, Five Starr Maintenance, E E Pizza, PowerKleen, Hire-A_Hubby, J and DM Fibreglass, Black Forrest Tree Services, Lucido at Wenty Leagues, Lovely Kitchens, Artick Painting, Barford and Holloway, Belfor-Ayline, Weatherby's Lawn Mowing, Multi-T-Lock Advanced Colour Services, Phoenix Electrical Services, Antenna Man, GC Singletons, Cafe At Work, Leagues and Legend Mount Druitt, Kleins Mount Druitt, Groove Mount Druitt, Diamond Hill Jewellers Mount Druitt, Priceline Mount Druitt, Soul Pattinson Mount Druitt, Tregear Takeaway Food, Salvation Army Minchinbury, Coles Mount Druitt, angus and Robertson Mount Druitt, Reject Shop Mount Druitt, Hairhouse Warehouse Mount Druitt, Blacktown Council, Penguin Group surry Hills, Crown and Andrews Rydalmere, Steggles Food North Ryde, and the Parramatta and Penrith Leagues Club, Mt. Druitt St Marys Standard Newspaper.

Many thanks must go out to the people who donated these gifts to make it a great day too many to name here, I have sent thank you letters and an appreciation certificate and all their business names will go in the local newspaper.

Thanks to the staff, CEO and all the board members who helped make the day a great success.

A big thank you to CO - OP for putting such a great day at their expense so I say THANK YOU ONE AND ALL ON BEHALF OF ALL THE TENANTS
Allan Rankmore God Bless

Hoping to hear from all tenant members.



What workshops do you think we need in 2008?

The tenant committee would appreciate your feedback on this.

Telstra

has a range of phone solutions that can help you keep in contact including

H O M E L I N K 1 8 0 0

which allows kids and family members to call home when they don't have any cash. They can charge the call to your home phone service.

FREE TRAINING FOR TENANTS

Minute taking and the role of the Secretary

The training will be provided by Central Sydney North Regional Tenants Resource Service

3rd March 9.45 - 1.30

Refreshments and lunch provided

Places will be very limited and will be given first to tenants who are Secretaries or who have to take minutes

To register download the registration form from www.communityhousing.org.au/tenantnetwork.html

or call Adam on 9281 7144