



nsw Federation of
Housing Associations inc

Federation Bulletin



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Federation resource bank launched

The Federation has today launched a significant new tool to support our members.

It is called the resource bank and it is going to be the central collection and access point for all our resources, for links to important external resources and for materials to be shared amongst the sector.

The resource bank has been built on a new platform that has been integrated into our existing website so that material can be presented flexibly, searched easily and made more accessible to members. Most resources are available for anyone although there is some additional material available for full Federation members only. You will need to log in to download these resources.

Log in details

You will receive an email today with your log in details. Please contact [Wendy](#) if you have any questions relating to logging in to the resource bank. Please circulate the sign in details internally so that your staff can access all of the materials.

Request for information

The Federation is also requesting information from the sector for the resource bank – relevant tools, policies or other material that you are willing to share with the sector. The Federation believes that the sector will be stronger if associations share their experience rather than developing resources in isolation.

A consent form is attached to this bulletin. Associations can decide what resources if any they are prepared to share. Associations can decide whether to make their resources publically available or just available to full Federation members.

Where is the resource bank and what's in it?

The resource bank is part of our current [website](#). Click on the green tab for services and the resource bank to access it.

There are five overall categories to choose from. Each of these categories contains several sub headings to help you navigate the material. The overall categories in the resource bank are:

- [Directory of Contractors](#)

- [Information and Resources](#)
- [Reports & Submissions](#)
- [Sector data and benchmarks](#)
- [Shared Services](#)

The quickest way to search the resource bank is the search engine. You may wish to tick the 'exact phrase only' option in the search engine if searches produce too many results.

Some of the new content

Development

The guideline series – four new resources have been written for the Federation by Stewart Lawler in association with UWS as part of the development capacity building project supported by the Community Housing Division.

Guide to existing external resources. A summary of the most important guidance on various aspects of development, including NSW Government resources on procurement, contracts, tendering, site safety total asset management etc.

Human Resources

Organisational Structures –this is an interactive planning document to assist housing associations in reviewing or charting their business structure.

Workforce Development in Community Housing – this is a skills assessment kit to assist providers to meet identified skills development needs or critical skill gaps.

New and emerging positions in community housing – position descriptions for emerging roles in the sector

Directory of contractors

This section contains information about a range of expert consultants and service providers. There's information in this section from a number of sources – firstly **people who have come in brief the Federation about their organisations** and who look to be a useful reference point for the sector. Contractors have been encouraged to provide references and some have provided other material like key staff or project reports. However, the Federation has not carried out due diligence assessments and use of the contractors is at member's sole risk. Secondly we have adapted CHFA's own list of contractors and presented it in this section.

This section will be developed over time and the Federation would like to receive recommendations of any contractors members have used. Please email [Adam West](#) with contact details and recommendations.

Good Practice Guides now available free to full members

The Federation board has decided that electronic copies of all our Good Practice Guides can be downloaded free by full members. These have been stored by subject in the [information and resources section](#).

Sector data and benchmarks

This area of the resource bank will be developed in future but two resources you might be interested in are [CHD community housing benchmark data 2009](#) and [Comparisons of pay rates](#)

Services section

A new [advocacy section](#) has also been developed. This section is to let full members know details about our advocacy, to give feedback and become directly involved in campaigns. It is also a place for members to

identify issues, for us and for other members, that need attention now and actions they have taken.

Feedback

The resource bank is a major new tool. Please contact us with your comments, requests for information or to identify any teething problems.

We recommend that you try out your log in as soon as possible as we will be unable to provide support over the holiday period.

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