



Helping churches provide affordable housing.

Newsletter

Spring 2018

A Minute with Magnus

It's busy days! Here are some things that I've been doing and thinking about, mostly housing related ...



All's not well in the gardens of Eden

Regional areas, particularly up and down the east coast, are reeling under the shockwaves



from the Sydney and Melbourne property booms. Coffs Harbour, Port Macquarie and the Tweed have all seen affordability and supply issues soar. Churches Housing's CEO, Magnus Linder, has just returned from Eden where the Salvos, Uniting and Anglican churches are all crying out for more crisis, transition, social and affordable housing. They are prepared to throw some land (pictured) at the problem but, of course, there are many hurdles before anything can be built to alleviate what are escalating housing problems for many communities. Treating housing purely as an asset class has led to market failure for many people who simply need housing as shelter.

See you at Lachlan's for our AGM

Lachlan's in Old Government House, Parramatta Park, is the venue for Churches Housing's annual general meeting.

We'd love you to join us for a light breakfast and reports on the year past and our plans for next year, so reserve your place now.

Transport: public transport, via Parramatta bus and train interchange is a 10-15 minute and car parking is available inside the park. See <http://lachlans.com.au/map-weekday/>



Event: Churches Housing annual general meeting

Venue: Lachlan's at Old Government House, Parramatta Park, enter via Pitt St, Parramatta

Date: Fri 19th October

Time: 9.30am-11am

Cost: no charge

Bookings: essential - contact Philippa Yelland

The future matters for children and families

Co-ordinated services for vulnerable children and families are the goal for Their Futures Matter, a NSW reform body aiming for a whole-of-government approach to better outcomes.

Churches Housing is working with TFM to emphasise the crucial importance of safe, secure housing for families at risk.

Executive director Gary Groves is driving the reform in various departments: Education, Family and Community Services, Ministry of Health, Justice, Premier and Cabinet and Treasury.

Groves and his team are also working with peak bodies, such as Churches Housing, and service providers to provide a better co-ordinated solution for families.



Photo: Gary Groves, executive director, and Than O'Brien, director, Their Futures Matter

Takin' it to the streets

Churches Housing joined the Action for Public Housing's rally at NSW Parliament House in mid-August.

More than 100 protesters marched from Hyde Park to the gates in Macquarie Street to hear from MPs including Alex Greenwich Ind Sydney, Jenny Leong Greens Newtown, Jamie Parker Greens Balmain and Tania Mihaluk ALP Bankstown.



Housing actions coming to your area soon

With the stroke of a pen, hundreds of affordable, secure dwellings could be built across Sydney.

We're inviting you to participate in **local assemblies** across Sydney to win on affordable housing.

These assemblies and forums are being hosted by Sydney Alliance and Vinnies NSW.

Before the next State election, two things are needed:

1. NSW MPs commit to enabling policy on affordable and secure housing
2. Councils commit to actually building affordable housing.

The first assembly is planned: *Come to the first one to see how it is done!*

Right to Home Community Forum

Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club, 7pm-8.30pm, Monday 24 September 2018

Decision makers: NSW MP Victor Dominello and Ryde Mayor, Jerome **Laxale**.



Penrith spoke – now it's Parramatta's turn!

In mid-September, Churches Housing – as part of the Sydney Alliance – will be partnering with Macquarie University's Department of Sociology to survey the Parramatta LGA on housing affordability. Up to 25 students will be trained as interviewers for both the pilot and main survey projects.



Students will use the survey's results in their studies and these results will also provide further evidence of the need for affordable housing in Sydney.



MACQUARIE
University
SYDNEY · AUSTRALIA

Professor Justine Lloyd, who is heading the university team, is excited about the project and expects it to be a terrific experience for her students.

The questions from the Penrith survey will be re-used and then the results will be analysed by Churches Housing. As with the Penrith survey, the survey will be done using mobile phones and iPads which connect to Churches Housing's purpose-built online survey system.

The pilot is scheduled for Friday, 14 September.

Suffer the little children

Community sector peak bodies have written to NSW premier Gladys Berejiklian saying that an urgent overhaul is needed of the way in which the State provides services to vulnerable and at-risk young children.



Read the entire letter [here](#)

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