



Helping churches provide affordable housing.

Newsletter

Summer 2017

A minute with Magnus...

Have you made or are you planning to make a submission on the Greater Sydney Commission's (GSC) draft district plans? This is the time to have a say and input into how Sydney will plan for growth through to 2056. The [draft District Plans](#) and [Towards our Greater Sydney 2056](#) are on public exhibition until the end of March 2017 and the GSC encourages you to lodge a submission during that time. Churches Housing is in the process of developing its own submission and will be asking our members for input and feedback along the way. We are happy to partner with other organisations that wish to contribute to this process and to the final submission so please let me know of your interest. As a member of the [Sydney Alliance](#), which is calling for inclusionary zoning mandates of 15% on all large developments and 30% on government owned land, we have actively been contributing to their submission and will be asking organisations in our network to sign off on this broad statement calling for the following:



1. Real Commitment to Affordable Housing
2. Transparent Accountability Scheme
3. Fairer Access to Affordable Housing
4. World Standard Public Transport System

The Sydney Alliance aims to have more than 300 organisations sign off on this statement, so please let me or the Sydney Alliance know if you wish to make a stand together. Together we can make a powerful difference.

On a very positive side, our incoming premier Gladys Berejiklian, has nominated affordable housing as one of her top three priorities. We are very excited about the possibilities here and hope that our Federal government also will bite the bullet and implement some programs of relief in this space. Federal Treasurer Scott Morrison is belatedly taking some action and has now signed off on the development of a new financing model at a meeting with his state and territory counterparts in Canberra. It will be designed to group together financing requests to generate more investment at cheaper interest rates. Small steps forward for a system that seems increasingly focused on building wealth rather than providing much needed housing.

Magnus Linder

Executive Officer

Meet our Members!

We're beginning a new series, introducing the members of Churches Housing Inc. We want to share with you what makes them tick - what motivates them and how their organisations respond to improving access to affordable housing. We thought it would be a good idea to start with our Chairman!



Rob Burnelek - Axis housing: ethical real estate

Rob has recently struck out on his own to create the sort of ethical real estate agency he was heading towards his whole working life. Rob seems to be uniquely positioned to create this business, which combines twenty years' business experience in the corporate sector, his years working in the not-for-profit housing sector and the recent completion of his theology training.

[ReadMore ...](#)

Stay tuned each quarter for a new profile of each of our members!

Opening of Hume Community Housing Association Development

Shadow Minister for Housing and Homelessness - Senator Doug Cameron, recently spoke at the opening of a Hume Community Housing Association Development. He called for the National Affordable Housing Agreement to be revisited and even changed, as it relates to specific performance measures and requirements as to how Commonwealth funding is expended.

You can access the full transcript of his speech [here](#).



FaCS High School Scholarships

FACS is offering High School Scholarships to help students enrolled in education or training to complete their studies. Successful applicants will receive \$1,000 to help with school expenses.

Applications open at 9am on Monday 16 January 2017 and close at 7pm on Friday 24 February 2017.

Through the scholarships program, students can use the funds to purchase items like course materials and equipment, or to pay for excursions and tutoring, so they don't miss out on educational opportunities.

Scholarships are open to those receiving housing assistance from Family and Community Services, community housing providers or Aboriginal housing. This also includes students: on the social housing waiting list in Out of Home Care - currently under the care of the Minister in public, community or Aboriginal housing in transitional or crisis accommodation or receiving supported accommodation through a specialist homelessness service



You can use scholarship funds to pay for expenses such as textbooks and course fees, or practical supports like medical needs and internet.

Who can apply?
You may be eligible if you are:
→ Studying in Year 10,11 or 12 at a NSW high school or TAFE college, **and**
→ A social housing tenant or applicant, or
→ Receiving private rental assistance, or
→ Living in crisis/supported accommodation or out-of-home care.

Find out more and visit www.facs.nsw.gov.au/education to apply online today.

Applications close **7pm, Friday 24 February 2017.**

 Family & Community Services NSW

receiving private rental assistance, such as a private rental subsidy, bond loan or tenancy guarantee.

For more information, visit the website [here](#), or for enquiries, please contact 02 8753 8673 or email [here](#).

Public testing of NGO Benchmarking Model

Public testing of the online platform was announced on 16 November 2016 at the Investing for Good Conference. Public testing will close on 28 February 2017.

The NGO Benchmarking Model is a capability development tool, designed by the Social Innovation Council, to help NGOs develop the robust, customer-centred operations needed to deliver efficient, high quality and innovative programs and services. By completing self-assessment against the model, NGOs can identify their operational strengths and any areas for improvement. Your organisation can use this information to guide strategic planning, business operations and staff capability development programs. The Social Innovation Council have developed an online platform that makes it easy for NGOs to gauge their performance against the model by answering a series of questions about their existing policies and business practices.

You can access the platform [here](#).

This is a “preview version” of the platform, where your organisation can explore the platform and gather the evidence and resources needed before the NGO Benchmarking Model is implemented next year. Please note that as this is a “preview version”, your organisation’s benchmarking results are not valid and will not be used by the NSW Government in any way.

The Social Innovation Council also encourages you to complete a short survey afterwards. Your feedback will help them to improve the platform.

Please note that any information provided by your organisation during the preview period is confidential and will only be used to inform the development of the benchmarking model and online platform.

Infographic

Churches Housing, along with Shelter NSW and McCrindle Research, have produced an infographic which may be useful as you lobby your networks on affordable housing. Please feel free to use the correctly attributed infographic below. Click [here](#) or on the pictures below to be taken to the pdf on our website.



New Premier, new cabinet!

Gladys Berejiklian MP - the incoming Premier of New South Wales - has appointed three ministers to cover housing policy in her new cabinet.

Pru Goward has been appointed Minister for Social Housing.

Anthony Roberts has been appointed Minister for Housing.

Matt Kean, has been appointed Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation.



We wish them every success in realising Premier Berejiklian's vision for more affordable housing for all in New South Wales.

See Chris Martin's City Futures Blog, [New housing ministers - new housing policies?](#)

Events

Sydney Alliance - Intro to Housing Bootcamp

Wednesday 22nd 5:45pm-8pm

Training Room 1, Trades Hall

Entry via 377 Sussex St

Please bring note donation for dinner

RSVP essential, email [David Barrow](mailto:David.Barrow@sydneyalliance.org.au)



Reports Released

13th Annual Demographia International Housing Affordability Survey

"High house prices are not a sign of city's success but a sign of failure to deliver the housing that its citizens need"

Oliver Hartwich, The New Zealand Initiative

Introducing Competition and Informed User Choice into Human Services: Identifying Sectors for Reform

Productivity Commission

Productivity Commission - Report on Government Services 2017

Volume G, Chapter 18 - Housing

Social Impact Investing Discussion Paper

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Recent housing transfer experience in Australia: implications for affordable housing industry development

AHURI - Hal Pawson; Chris Martin; Kathleen Flanagan; Rhonda Phillips

Innovative Financing Models to Improve the Supply of Affordable Housing

Council on Federal Financial Relations - Affordable Housing Working Group

A social housing future fund: sustainable funding for social housing or a mirage

Shepherd Shaw Occasional Paper

[What is a bond aggregator and how does it help build affordable housing?](#)

AHURI Research

[Household Financial Comfort Report](#)

Insights from national research into the financial psychology of Australian households. MEbank

Interesting Reading

[Affordable housing to run along light rail after Randwick included in plan](#) - 06feb2017

SMH - Jacob Saulwick

[Housing Affordability crisis: social divide affects a generation](#) - 2feb2017

The Australian - Bernard Salt

[Sensible reform to finance affordable housing deserves cross-party support](#) - 2feb2017

The Conversation - Julie Lawson

[Older Women Lost to Housing discussion panel](#) - 2feb2017

abc radio podcast - Afternoons with Laura Tchilinguirian

[Make housing affordable and cut road congestion all at once? Here's a way](#) - 2feb2017

The Conversation - Martin Payne

[Deluge of affordability data forces government's hand](#) - 2feb2017

thenewdaily - Jackson Stiles

[Sydney's last stand: the residents holding out against gentrification](#) - 1feb2017

The Guardian - Naaman Zhou

[New housing ministers - new housing policies?](#) - 30jan2017

City Futures Blog - Chris Martin

[Treasury says tax expenditures cost \\$150 billion - 30jan2017](#)

SMH - Peter Martin

[Housing affordability: What Scott Morrison might learn - and not learn - from Britain - 28jan2017](#)

SMH - Michael Koziol

[Homeless in Melbourne's CBD to be given immediate housing under \\$9.8m State Government plan - 27jan2017](#)

ABCnews -

[Affordability frontier vanishing as million-dollar sales surge in Sydney's west - 27jan2017](#)

Domain - Jennifer Duke

[A housing affordability crisis in regional Australia? Yes, and here's why - 27jan2014](#)

The Conversation - Andrew Beer

[Speaking with: Nicole Cook on union 'green bans', housing affordability and the Sirius building - 25jan2017](#)

The Conversation (podcast) - Dallas Rogers

[Real estate: Housing outlook moderate to grim, according to experts and property industry - 25jan2017](#)

ABCnews - Michael Janda

[Sydney has the second least affordable housing in the world: study - 24jan2017](#)

SMH - Latika Bourke

[Dear Premier Gladys Berejiklian: Here are 11 ways to improve housing affordability - 24jan2017](#)

SMH - Jessica Irvine

[If you're serious about affordable Sydney housing, Premier, here's a must-do list -](#)

24jan2017

City Futures Blog - Hal Pawson

[Gladys Berejiklian declares housing affordability 'the biggest issue' - 23jan2017](#)

SMH - Sean Nicholls, James Robertson

[Public housing transfers move to a new level 23jan2017](#)

City Futures Blog - Hal Pawson

[Land values surge in development hot spots across Sydney - 13jan2017](#)

SMH - Jacob Saulwick

[Sydney's housing affordability problem - in 3 tweets - 11jan2017](#)

SMH - David Scutt

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