

The Low Cost Accommodation Support News

Community Connections Program | Older Persons High Rise | Housing Support for the Aged | SRS Service Coordination & Support

Summer 2007

Welcome to the second edition of the *Low Cost Accommodation Support News*, a newsletter for program managers, workers, and regional staff involved in the four Low Cost Accommodation Support programs funded through the Aged Care Branch of DHS.

In this newsletter:

- **Spotlight on the recent Low Cost Accommodation Support Programs inaugural statewide forum that was held at St Vincent's hospital last November.**
- **Meeting dates for each of the Low Cost Accommodation programs for 2007**
- **Agency changes within the Community Connection Program**
- **A special tribute to Narada Lawson**

In order to make this newsletter relevant and informative it is important for us to receive your feedback. We welcome contributions from service providers (managers and workers) and DHS regions. Contributions from service users are also welcome.

Inaugural Statewide Forum November 2006

In November 2 & 3 last year the four Low Cost Accommodation (LCA) Support Programs came together for the first time in a forum titled "Sharing Practice Wisdom & Knowledge". Approximately 90 workers and managers of the four LCA programs attended the two-day forum.

One of the highlights of day one of the forum was the presentation on *how we understand Community* by Jacques Boulet. Jacques provided a thought-provoking and at times confronting historical overview of western settlement describing the violent destruction of communities over the past 500 yrs and the subsequent growth and development of modern capitalism.

Jacques keynote address set the scene for the forum and provided participants with a theme and reference point for discussion over the two days.

Dr Chris Mogan from the University of Melbourne gave an insightful and fascinating presentation on the nature of *Hoarding behaviour*. This is an issue that is very familiar to workers in all of the Low Cost Accommodation Support programs and one that can require a great deal of time and resourcing when working with individual clients who experience these behaviours.

In the concurrent sessions, nine papers were presented from workers covering a range of topics including narrative story telling, tenancy assistance, group work for older clients, case management as a specific approach, health

screening for SRS residents and a presentation on the homeless memorial in St Kilda.

Day two of the forum was a shorter day but had an equally full agenda and was highlighted by two panel discussions. Welfare to Work was the first panel with speakers from the Commonwealth Department of Workplace Relations, Centrelink and the Victorian Council of Social Service.

The second panel included a discussion on future directions in Public housing. The three speakers were from DHS, Council to the Homeless Persons and the Community Housing Federation of Victoria.

Both these panel presentations made for lively discussion and provided useful information on the topics presented. Special thanks go to the organisations that participated in the panel presentations and discussions.

I would also like to extend a big thankyou to the organising committee for the forum as much hard work and planning were involved over 6 months to bring about this inaugural event.



A Special Tribute to Narada Lawson – 1966 - 2006

Staff from the OP Hi Rise Support Program would be aware that Narada Lawson passed away suddenly last November.

Narada worked in the OP Hi Rise Program at the Inner South Community Health Service for over 5 years and established the Union Street High Rise program developing a strong and supportive community at Union Street in her time there.

Narada was a passionate advocate for the rights of those in public housing, which emerged from her days living in public housing as a child with her own family.

The most recent project Narada was involved in at the time of her death was the *Tales from the Hi Rise digital story telling project*. For her work on this project she was nominated for, and won with Jade Palmer, the Inner South Community Health Service Reward and Recognition for Service Development Award for 2006.

Narada is sadly missed by staff and tenants at Union Street in Prahran together with all those that she supported and assisted throughout her working life.



Meeting dates for Managers 2007 –

The dates listed below will be confirmed via e-mail. All meetings will be held at 50 Lonsdale Street Melbourne.

Community Connection Program/ Housing Support for the Aged Program

Tues March 27 11am – 1.30
Thursday July 19 11am – 1.30

OP Hi Rise Support Program

Thursday 19 April 10am-12.30
Tuesday 7 August 10am –12.30

SRS Service Co-ordination & Support Program

Thursday 1 March 10am – 12noon
Tuesday 10 July 10am – 12noon

Agency Changes - Low Cost Accommodation Support Programs

Midway last year negotiations with the Salvation Army Pathways program in the Hume region (Nth East Victoria) began following the decision by the City of Wangaratta to relinquish their auspice and management of the Community Connection and Housing Support for the Aged Programs.

The programs transferred to the Salvation Army Pathways program in July 2006. David Brennan has been appointed as the Program Manager for Outreach Connections.

More recently, there have been some changes to the management of the Community Connection program within the City of Kingston. Whilst this program will remain auspiced by the City of Kingston, the management of the program has been transferred to AccessCare Southern (formerly Bayside Community Options). Robyn Jenkins is the manager of AccessCare Southern.

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to program managers of both these organisations and look forward to getting to know you and working with you over the next 12 months.

Useful Information:

Need help with implementing the MDS V2.01?
Contact the HACCC Help desk on Ph: 9096 7255
E-mail – haccmds@dhs.vic.gov.au

Victorian HACCC Website:

<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/hacc>

Low Cost Accommodation Support Programs Webpage

<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/agedcare/services/lowcost/index.htm>

Office of Housing Website:

www.housing.vic.gov.au

Shasp funded agencies 2006

SHASP commenced on Jan 1 06. This program assists tenants by providing longer term and on-going support to tenants with complex issues.

Contacts:

If you have a story, event or a program you would like to share with colleagues from other Low Cost Accommodation Support Programs please let us know and it can be included in the next edition of this newsletter.

All correspondence to Shane McDonald at Department of Human Services, SRS & Accommodation Support Unit, Level 12, 50 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne 3000.

Ph: 9096 7227

Or email shane.mcdonald@dhs.vic.gov.au

Region	Catchment	Provider	Street Address	Suburb	Telephone
Hume	Region	Rural Housing Network Ltd	13 Stanley Street	Wodonga 3690	(02) 6024 7146
Barwon	Barwon Catchment	Bethany Community Support Inc.	1 Gibb Street	North Geelong 3215	5278 8122
Barwon	South West Catchment	Community Connections Victoria	135-137 Kepler Street	Warrnambool 3280	1300 361 680
North & West	Northern Catchment	HomeGround Services	1a/68 Oxford Street	Collingwood 3066	9419 8855
North & West	Western Catchment	Wombat Housing and Support Services Inc.	191-195 Melrose Street	North Melbourne 3051	8327 2222
Eastern	Wesley Mission Melbourne	148 Lonsdale Street		Melbourne 3000	9662 2355
Southern	Inner/Middle Catchment	HomeGround Services	1a/68 Oxford Street	Collingwood 3066	9419 8855
Southern	Outer Catchment	WAYSS Limited	294 - 300 Thomas Street	Dandenong 3175	9761 6111
Grampians	Region	PACT Community Support	Level 4, 17 Lydiard Street Nth	Ballarat 3353	5333 1351
Gippsland	Region	Quantum Support Services Inc	225-227 Princess Drive	Morwell 3840	5120 2000
Loddon Mallee	Region	Advocacy & Rights Centre	108 Mollison Street	Bendigo 3552	5444 4364
Statewide	Tenants Union Of Victoria	55 Johnston Street	Fitzroy 3065	9411 1444	