

# The Low Cost Accommodation Support News

Community Connections Program | Older Persons High Rise | Housing Support for the Aged | SAVVI Supporting Connections

## Spring 2009

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

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Loddon Mallee Housing – Hoarding Information session</li><li>• Crown St Launch</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DHS Rental Report</li><li>• Statewide Forum</li><li>• The New Department of Health (formally DHS)</li></ul> |
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### **Rural Information Session on Hoarding**

The Community Connection Program (CCP) in Bendigo recently organized a hoarding information session that was held at the DHS Loddon Mallee Regional office.

Julie Harris (ageing strategist with the Metropolitan Fire Brigade), and Allie Jalbert (Senior Inspector for RSPCA) presented information on hoarding alongside a presentation by Kelli Molloy (CCP) and Janelle Nancarrow (HSA).

Relevant Bendigo services were invited to come along including local council, HACC staff, Bendigo Community Health, Bendigo Health Care Group, local psychologists, local CFA, cleaning businesses, Office of Housing, RSPCA, La Trobe University lecturers, just to name a few.

The response was astonishing and the attendees showed a great deal of interest and willingness to collaborate regarding this complex issue with over

60 attending on the day. As a result, other agencies in the community will begin to attend the monthly 'hoarding working group' meetings with Loddon Mallee Housing Services staff in order to create a better collaborative approach between services.

Collaboration between regional and metropolitan stakeholders has identified that the Bendigo working group will enable a regional perspective to be represented into the developing state working group. Overall, the presentation and luncheon allowed hoarding as an issue to be formally recognised amongst various services and agencies, generating a wider understanding of the risks to and needs of clients and the necessity for education and collaboration for workers.



## Launch of the Hub – Ormond St Older Persons Estate

Earlier this year what started as a 'resident event' promoting client participation turned into a celebration and showcase of partnerships in action, with about 150 people being involved at a luncheon and information display in the Kensington Estate community rooms.

Guitar music played by a talented resident set the scene for a 'Welcome to Country' by DGCHS Older Persons High Rise staff.

Caz Healy – CEO Doutta Galla Community Health Service and George Housakis - CEO Urban Communities led the formalities of the day thanking the many residents on the estate who are actively getting involved and taking a lead role in the many initiatives that are being implemented across the estate.

One such initiative, 'The Hub Clothes Shop' was officially launched by Judith Prigg & Shane McDonald from DHS. To date, this has now sold over 1000 items raising \$500.00 the proceeds of which will be decided by the residents of the estate

The new look library was featured, with Melbourne City Library donating a range of special interest and language specific books.

During the afternoon, Doutta Galla Community Health Service promoted the range of available health services and City of Melbourne provided information on a range of HACC services.

A multicultural feast, including Mediterranean, Chinese, Aussie BBQ, quiche and cakes was prepared, cooked and served by the residents.

This event clearly demonstrated the true partnership with DHS, service providers and clients.



## Rental report Statistics – June quarter 2009

	Median weekly rent	Rent Index	Quarter % change	Annual % change
June quarter 2009				
Melbourne	\$320	177.9	0.6%	5.7%
Regional Victoria	\$215	166.3	0.3%	5.7%
Victoria	\$295	175.9	0.6%	5.7%
March quarter 2009				
Melbourne	\$320	176.8	1.6%	9.0%
Regional Victoria	\$210	165.8	1.9%	7.3%
Victoria	\$295	174.9	1.7%	8.7%
December quarter 2008				
Melbourne	\$315	174.0	1.1%	10.9%
Regional Victoria	\$210	162.6	1.6%	7.4%
Victoria	\$290	172.0	1.2%	10.0%
September quarter 2008				
Melbourne	\$305	172.1	2.2%	12.5%
Regional Victoria	\$200	160.0	1.8%	5.8%
Victoria	\$280	169.9	2.1%	11.0%
Based on all new rental lettings during each quarter Index based on median rents stratified by location and dwelling type to control for compositional shifts in new lettings. June quarter 1999 = 100. Both percentage change figures are calculated from relevant Rent Indices, not medians.				

Data from the June Rental Report confirms that the Melbourne metropolitan rental market is now moving back to a more 'normal' state as far as the pressure on rental costs is concerned. The rate of increase in the Metropolitan Rent Index continues to ease significantly since peaking in mid 2008.

The annual rate of increase of the Rent Index for the June quarter (5.7%) is the lowest recorded for the past three years.

### The New 'Department of Health' Premier Announces New Department of Health, 12 August 2009

The Premier of Victoria announced changes to the administration of health and human services today.

The functions of the former Department of Human Services will now be divided between two departments:

- The Department of Health (DoH) will be responsible for prevention, mental health and drugs, public health, health services (including hospitals), community and rural health and aged care.
- The Department of Human Services (DHS) will be responsible for housing; disability services; concessions; children, youth and families.

The purpose of the change is to provide an intensive focus on health, including the key priority areas of hospitals, mental health and prevention; and to further embed new approaches to human services delivery, including early intervention, personalisation and recovery.

The provision of services to Victorians will continue uninterrupted by this change.

All service arrangements, contracts, employment processes and policy settings remain in place.

Fran Thorn has been appointed the Secretary of the Department of Health; Gill Callister has been appointed the Secretary of the Department of Human Services.

## Statewide Forum 2009 –

The dates for this year's Statewide Forum are December 2 and 3 at St Vincent's Hospital. This year will be a very special Forum as it is the Tenth anniversary of the funding of Low Cost Accommodation Support Programs. The theme for this year's Forum is **'Reflections on the past - looking back looking forward'**

Abstracts for this year's forum should be submitted by the end of September and should be in keeping with the theme.



### **Useful Information**

Need help with implementing the MDS V2.01?

Contact the HACC Help desk on Ph: 9096 7255  
E-mail – [haccms@dhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:haccms@dhs.vic.gov.au)

**Victorian HACC Website** <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/hacc>

**Office of Housing Website**  
[www.housing.vic.gov.au](http://www.housing.vic.gov.au)

### **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 (word limit 500 words or less).

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**Low Cost Accommodation Support Programs Webpage**  
<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/agedcare/services/lowcost/index.htm>