



Issue 6: July 2009

Welcome to the sixth edition of the Community Housing information bulletin for 2009.

Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan – Social Housing Initiative update

The Tenancy Management Expression of Interest closes at **2pm on Monday 6 July 2009**. Email your applications to TenancyManagementEOI@housing.qld.gov.au or post to:

General Manager
Social Housing Program
Department of Communities (Housing and Homelessness Services)
GPO Box 690
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Thank you to the community housing providers who submitted capital grant applications under stage 2 of the plan. Not-for-profit projects for over 4,500 rental units have been assessed, with many projects submitted to the Australian Government for consideration. The Australian Government has undertaken to provide an outcome by 30 August. We will let you know the outcome of your application in September.

For more information, contact the department's call centre on 1300 880 882 or visit the [Nation Building webpage](#).

Progress of the National Rental Affordability Scheme in Queensland

The Australian Government, supported by the State and Territory Governments, established the National Rental Affordability Scheme in 2008. The scheme aims to encourage the provision of 50,000 new affordable rental dwellings across Australia by 2012. Full details about the scheme are available from the [Australian Government website](#).

The scheme is progressing well in Queensland, with 834 projects for new rental properties already approved. Community housing providers are involved in many of these projects, with Brisbane Housing Company, Gold Coast Housing Company and the Queensland Affordable Housing Consortium being the project proponents for 350 of these properties. A further 510 properties are expected to be available through the scheme during 2009.

All prospective tenants under the scheme in Queensland must be referred from the department's housing register.

It is important to note that people who have not applied (or who do not wish to apply) for social housing can apply to be on the housing register for scheme properties, provided they meet the income eligibility set by the Australian Government.

As the income eligibility for the National Rental Affordability Scheme is much higher than for social housing, the housing register has been expanded to accept clients for scheme properties. The department has established a separate application process for those applicants.

The department is contacting existing social housing applicants on the housing register about the availability of National Rental Affordability Scheme properties for rent in their area. Any client eligible for social housing who rents a property through the scheme may remain on the housing register; however their housing circumstances will be reassessed.

Anyone who is interested in renting a National Rental Affordability Scheme property can check if they are eligible by downloading a fact sheet and application form from www.housing.qld.gov.au/nras, or by contacting the call centre on 1300 880 882.

RentConnect Advisory Service

The RentConnect Advisory Service provides information and practical advice about how to find a suitable private rental property and how the private rental application process works. The service also helps people prepare a private rental application and link them to local real estate agents and community services.

The service has been trialled in Caboolture and Central Queensland for the past eight months, and is continuing to offer assistance in those regions. A full evaluation of the RentConnect trial will be conducted later this year.

To date, RentConnect officers have assisted 276 clients through an interview, and 91 of those clients have secured private rental tenancies.

A series of private rental fact sheets are available on the [departments' website](#) and in hard copy from the department's area offices for anyone seeking information about renting in the private market.

For more information about RentConnect, contact the department's Private Housing Program on 3227 7949.

Australasian Residential Tenancies Conference

The Residential Tenancies Authority of Queensland will host the 8th Australasian Residential Tenancies Conference this year.

The conference theme, 'Rental Realities – Under the Spotlight', will explore the challenges facing the residential tenancies sector in Australasia and discuss new ideas and approaches.

Conference delegates will be able to choose workshops from several specialty streams including:

- Tenancy Tribunals and Dispute Resolution
- Tenancy Information and Community Education
- Tenancy Policy and Legislation.

Registrations are now open for the conference, which will be held at the Sheraton Mirage on the Gold Coast from 9 to 11 September 2009.

For more information about the conference program and registration process, visit the [conference website](#).

Residential Tenancies Authority statewide information sessions

The *Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008* commenced on 1 July 2009, replacing existing tenancy laws for renting in Queensland. The Residential Tenancies Authority is conducting free public information sessions where providers can hear about the changes to Queensland's tenancy laws. Sessions will be held in Chermside, Hervey Bay, Mackay, Rockhampton, Townsville and Cairns throughout July.

For more information or to register for a session, visit the Authority's [website](#).

Latest research publications

The [Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute \(AHURI\)](#) is a national research organisation, specialising in housing and urban research and policy.

AHURI has recently released new publications available to download from its website:

- [Housing insecurity and its link to the social inclusion agenda](#) (Research and Policy Bulletin)
- [Enhancing the effectiveness of Australian social housing integration initiatives](#) (Research and Policy Bulletin)