



Issue 2: February 2009

Calling for providers with construction experience to build social housing

On 13 February 2009, the Australian Government approved the \$42 billion economic stimulus package - [Nation Building and Jobs Plan](#).

As a result of this Commonwealth funding, a cross-departmental team of officers from the Departments of Housing and Public Works has been established to coordinate the delivery of Queensland's capital program over the next three and a half years.

Request for offer

On Saturday 21 February 2009, the department will advertise in local and state media for offers from developers and builders who have projects ready to proceed on a turnkey basis which would be suitable for social housing. If you know of developers and builders with suitable projects that would meet the needs of people on the Queensland social housing register, please encourage them to apply.

Community Housing Capital Grants Stage One

The department is also establishing a two-stage capital grants process for registered providers. This process will be rolled out as a complementary process to the department's capital program.

In Stage One, the department will allocate funding to registered providers for construction projects which are already in the pipeline. Providers with a strong track record in housing construction, that have land and development approval finalised or pending, are asked to submit project details using the 'Proposed new construction projects' template. Projects must be able to be completed by 30 June 2010. Providers who have already submitted projects to the department for consideration should not re-submit.

For more information and to request the template, please telephone Sandra Cuthbert, Principal Project Officer on (07) 3872 0958 or email sandra.cuthbert@housing.qld.gov.au. Submissions should be emailed to [Sandra](#) and must be received *no later than 8am Monday 2 March 2009*.

If a provider does not have development projects in the pipeline that will meet the Stage One timeframe, there will be further opportunities to participate in the Nation Building and Jobs Plan.

Community Housing Capital Grants Stage Two

Stage Two expressions of interest for suitable social housing construction projects will be sought by late March/early April 2009. Providers with the capacity to deliver new residential construction within the required timeframes and have contributions or are able to secure contributions of land or cash, or contributions from local council or other stakeholders, are encouraged to apply.

The Queensland Government is required to submit all recommended projects in Stage Two to the Australian Government by 30 June 2009. The Australian Government will assess the proposals and, subject to proposals meeting the key requirements, the Queensland Government will receive approval by 30 August 2009. Applicants will then be notified.

Other opportunities

An expression of interest for tenancy and property management will be conducted by the department in the first half of 2009/2010. Providers interested in managing housing constructed through the department-managed capital works program are encouraged to apply.

The department will keep providers informed about the implementation of the housing economic stimulus package through future information bulletins.

National Rental Affordability Scheme

Applications under Round Two of the National Rental Affordability Scheme close at 5pm AEST on Friday 27 March 2009. Applications can be submitted at any time before the closing date, however, late applications will not be considered.

Further information and application documents are available from the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs website - <http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/housing/nras.htm>

Community Housing Federation of Australia workshops

The Community Housing Federation of Australia, the national peak body representing community housing providers across Australia, has been contracted by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) as a Partnership Facilitator for the National Rental Affordability Scheme. Its role is to promote the opportunities available under this new government scheme, engage with key stakeholder groups that could be potential participants in the scheme, and assist interested parties to better understand what's involved in forming a partnership under the scheme.

FaHCSIA and the Queensland Government have held information sessions in Brisbane and Cairns that provided detailed information on the National Rental Affordability Scheme guidelines and the application process. The workshops presented by the Community Housing Federation are designed to complement those sessions by exploring partnership possibilities and requirements, as well as identifying the capacity building needs of potential partners.

The Federation invites you to participate in one of two workshops on developing partnerships between housing providers, investors and developers for building affordable housing under the National Rental Affordability Scheme.

The workshops will be held on:

Monday 23 February – 10.00 am to 1.00 pm
Rydges Gladstone
100 Goondoon Street
Gladstone

Tuesday 24 February - 10.00 am to 1.00 pm
Hotel George Williams
317-325 George Street
Brisbane

To participate in a workshop, please contact Shelly Forceville at the Community Housing Federation of Australia as soon as possible on (02) 6232 5043 or by email at chfa@chfa.com.au.

National Rental Affordability Scheme Capacity Building Strategy

The Australian Government has committed approximately \$1.7 million over the next two years to improve the capacity of the community housing sector participating in the National Rental Affordability Scheme. Strategies include:

- engaging the Community Federation of Australia to establish and manage a Business Development Clearing House. The clearing house will provide access to resources and information on the scheme, including information on individuals and organisations with proven expertise in affordable housing. It will also provide an opportunity for participants and other interested parties to share information and to link with organisations seeking partners
- engaging the Federation to deliver a series of workshops for those interested in participating in the scheme, and
- a grants program for approved participants of the scheme to assist with areas such as information technology, financial and legal services, governance and management structures.

Rural NGO Workforce Access to Education and Training Initiative

Free Workforce Planning Workshops are being held in various locations across the state in coming weeks. These workshops are part of the *Rural Non Government Organisations Workforce Access to Education and Training Initiative*, specifically targeting rural and remote non-government organisations that deliver services to rural and remote communities, as outlined in the *Blueprint for the Bush* strategy. This initiative aims to improve the workforce capacity of rural and remote community organisations by facilitating access to education and training for staff and volunteers.

Workshops will include:

- a session on 'how to conduct a workforce planning process'
- workbooks and templates to assist your organisation to complete its workforce planning, and
- networking opportunities with workers from other organisations.

For any enquiries about these workshops, or to secure your place, please contact Chris Stephen on 1800 637 193 or email chris.stephen@deta.qld.gov.au

Workforce Planning Workshops

Venue	Facilitator	Date	Room No	Address	Time
Maryborough	Nicole Shang	Tues 03/03/09	Conference Room C1.11	Maryborough Campus of TAFE 65 Nagel Street Maryborough	9:00am – 12:00pm
Bundaberg	Nicole Shang	Thurs 05/03/09	Theory Room, nursing section	Bundaberg Campus of TAFE 118 Walker Street Bundaberg	9:00am – 12:00pm
Toowoomba	Helen McWaters	Wed 11/03/09	To be confirmed	Vineyard Christian Church 85 Connor Street (Texas Road) Stanthorpe 4380	1:30pm – 3:30pm
Cairns	Mark McCarthy	Thurs 12/03/09	U117A	Cairns Campus of TAFE Eureka Street Cairns	9:00am – 12:00pm

2009/10 Residential Tenancies Authority Community Education Grants Scheme

Community and industry-based organisations, local governments and tertiary institutions are invited to apply for funding under the 2009/10 Residential Tenancies Authority Community Education Grants Scheme.

Applications close on Friday, 27 March 2009. For further information, visit [Residential Tenancies Authority](#).

Residential Tenancies and Rooming Act (2008)

On 2 December 2008, the Queensland Parliament passed the *Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008*. The new Act will commence from 1 July 2009.

The existing *Residential Tenancies Act 1994* and the *Residential Services (Accommodation) Act 2002* will continue to apply until 30 June 2009. The Residential Tenancies Authority will soon begin an extensive education campaign for the sector about the new laws.

Providers should regularly monitor the Authority's website for information about the new Act.

Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute – latest research papers released

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 two new reports which are available to download from its website:

- [What makes case management work for people experiencing homelessness?](#)
- [Operating deficits and community housing: policy options for reversing the trend](#)