



# NATIONAL BULLETIN

An eBulletin from CHFA - your national community housing peak organisation

## Edition 45 – November 30, 2007

### **New Federal Housing Minister**

Prime Minister Elect, Kevin Rudd, has announced his new Ministry. The current Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs has been expanded and now includes Housing. Jenny Macklin will have responsibility for this Cabinet level Ministry. Outside of Cabinet, Tanya Plibersek will have responsibility for Housing and the Status of Women. CHFA has been advised that Tanya will be the primary point of contact for housing matters. We would like to welcome the new Ministers, and look forward to working with them in the future.

### **Regional impact of housing costs and assistance on disadvantage**

A new study from the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute examines the use of spatial microsimulation techniques to estimate at a small area level the impact of housing costs on spatial differences in financial disadvantage. Microsimulation was also used to

examine the actual or potential effect of housing assistance in reducing disadvantage.

The study found substantial differences at a small area level in the impact of housing costs on financial disadvantage which were not evident when the data was examined at a more aggregate regional level. Commonwealth Rent Assistance appears to have a modest but positive effect on the impact of housing costs for persons living in households renting in the private market.

It will probably come as little surprise to most people working in the housing sector that the study also found that the tenure group experiencing the greatest impact of housing costs on financial disadvantage was private renters.

The full report is available for download at [www.ahuri.edu.au/publications/download/30295\\_fr](http://www.ahuri.edu.au/publications/download/30295_fr).

## **New report on indicators of disadvantage**

Studies of Australian poverty have concentrated on comparing people's incomes with poverty lines. By focusing on income alone, poverty research has failed to connect with the actual living standards experienced by those in poverty. This paper addresses the broader issues of poverty and is the final report from stage 2 of a major project assisted by a Linkages grant from the Australian Research Council, and led by Professor Peter Saunders from the Social Policy Research Centre of the University of New South Wales, with Janet Taylor (Brotherhood of St Laurence) and Peter Davidson (ACOSS) as partner investigators. Mission Australia and Anglicare NSW are other industry partners.

The report found that identifying disadvantage involves extending the scope beyond a purely income dimension, because although income is an important determinant of the standard of living, many other factors also play a role.

The report can be downloaded at [www.sprc.unsw.edu.au/reports/ARC\\_Exclusion\\_FinalReport.pdf](http://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au/reports/ARC_Exclusion_FinalReport.pdf).

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## **Contributions**

If you have news or resources that you think would be interesting or helpful to others in your State/Territory or colleagues interstate, contact CHFA and we can plug your news into NB. Email your news to: [chfa@chfa.com.au](mailto:chfa@chfa.com.au)