



# NATIONAL BULLETIN

An eBulletin from CHFA - your national community housing peak organisation

## Edition 46 – December 14, 2007

### **WA awards for excellence in community housing**

CHFA would like to congratulate the winners of the 2007 Western Australia Awards for Excellence in Community Housing, as well as the Community Housing Coalition of Western Australia, who organised the awards. The winners are listed below.

**Excellence in Services to Tenants**  
Patrick's Community Support Centre

**Excellence in Corporate Governance**  
St Bartholomew's House

**Excellence in Organisational Management**  
Centacare

**Excellence in Asset management**  
St Bartholomew's House

**Excellence in Service to Tenants and Communities in Rural and Remote Areas**  
Baptistcare Geraldton

### **Overall Excellence in Community Housing**

St Bartholomew's House

The winners each received a trophy presented by the Honorable Michelle Roberts, Minister for Housing and Works, at the Awards Dinner held at Rendezvous Observation City in Scarborough following the WA Community Housing Conference on 23 November, plus \$1000 that had been kindly donated by the sponsors for the evening. These sponsors were: the Department of Housing and Works; ACI Insurance Broking; Community Sector Banking; KGA Consulting; EasiFleet Management; and the WA Centre for Leadership and Community Development at Challenger TAFE. It is wonderful to see this level of commitment to the community housing sector and the recognition by the sponsors of the great work that is happening in the sector.

## **Pre-budget submissions for 2008 Federal Budget**

The Treasurer, Wayne Swan, is seeking public submissions regarding priorities for the 2008-09 Budget. People and organisations that are interested in contributing their ideas for the Government's first budget are being encouraged to participate in this process.

Lengthier submissions should ideally include an executive summary of no more than two pages. For further information, please email [prebudgetsubs@treasury.gov.au](mailto:prebudgetsubs@treasury.gov.au), or contact Penny Sirault on 02 6263 3725. Submissions are due by 18 January 2008.

## **Cheap software for the community sector**

For many small (and large!) organisations in the community sector, computer software represents a significant operating cost. DonorTec is a not-for-profit organisation that provides very affordable donated software and hardware from companies such as Microsoft and Cisco to eligible Australian non profit groups with Income Tax Exempt Status (ITE). Via this program organisations can access software, including Windows' Vista and XP operating systems, as well as the Office packages, that include Word and Excel.

DonorTec requires that organisations wishing to purchase software first register with them, by providing their ABN number so that their ITE status can be verified. For more

information please see [www.donortec.com.au](http://www.donortec.com.au).

## **Community housing on the radio**

CHFA Board member and Managing Director of Community Housing Ltd, Steve Bevington, has once again graced the airwaves with his dulcet tones and trademark wisdom. He spoke to Richard Aedy on ABC Radio National's Life Matters program on 6 December 2007 about the future role that community housing has to play in Australia, and about his organisation's work in East Timor. Audio of the program is available for download and streaming for one month after the original broadcast at [www.abc.net.au/rn/lifematters/stories/2007/2110398.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/rn/lifematters/stories/2007/2110398.htm).

## **Break in transmission**

CHFA would like to wish all of our members a (safe, secure, and affordable) break over the silly season. We'll be back with the first NB of the new year on Friday 11 January 2008.

## **Acknowledgements**

Information for our eBulletin comes from many sources. We would particularly like to thank State and Territory community housing peaks for their contributions, and also Garry Mallard of TSN Bulletins, and Infoxchange Australia for their invaluable news streams.

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of Families, **Housing**, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

### **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)