



NATIONAL BULLETIN

An eBulletin from CHFA - your national community housing peak organisation

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Community housing tenants survey results available

The 2007 National Social Housing Survey-Community Housing report is now available through the Australian Institute for Health and Wealth website.

Satisfaction remains high, with 80% of tenants surveyed nationally giving high marks to community housing. For example, 'treatment by staff' was deemed by tenants to be a high priority and had a high satisfaction rating. Nearly three quarters of all tenants said living in community housing improved the quality of their lives.

A Key Results summary bulletin of the report is forthcoming. In the meantime, the full report can be accessed at:
http://www.aihw.gov.au/housing/assistance/nshs/community_and_indigenous_nshs.cfm

Housing by IKEA promotes shared space design

Before making jokes about how many allen keys it takes to build a house, read about how IKEA partnered with a Swedish property company to develop BoKlok housing. These multi-family timber-framed flat-pack units are offering quality affordable housing to thousands in Europe. And they may be coming to Australia.

These houses may offer potential for community housing, especially given the communal aspects of housing designed around shared space.

"In developing these mass-market homes, BoKlok did considerable research asking potential dwellers what they wanted from a house. The answer was low-rise, airy with high ceilings, flexible, open-plan layouts, large windows and balconies, natural materials and wooden floors.

These desires were coupled with a desire for "community" and togetherness, and sustainable elements such as recycling, and

solar panels. What people didn't want were "high-rise homes, crammed spaces with no soul."

Read the full article at:

<http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/news/opinion/home-truths-for-an-ideasfree-zone/2008/01/06/1199554482225.html>

To see a BloKlok house, click here:

<http://www.livesmarthome.com/resize/htmlsite/boklok.php>

For some fun, take a virtual tour through a BoKlok unit. Click here: <http://www.boklok.com>, then go to the Swedish site, click on the second yellow cube on the left, and then click on 'Rundtur' in the right column. It takes you to a floor plan and you can click on the red circles and get panoramic interior views.

Creative solutions to affordable housing crisis

Homes for Working Families, a newly created US non-profit organisation, with financial support from the Fannie Mae Foundation to produce a research report, *Solving America's Shortage of Homes Working Families Can Afford: Fifteen Success Stories*. The report looks at four programs and 11 projects that showcase creative solutions that address the lack of affordable housing.

This is the first publication in a series of research reports. Homes for Working Families' mission is to demonstrate that "the affordable housing crisis facing America is solvable and that solutions are

available to concerned and committed communities".

An Executive Summary and the full report can be found at:

<http://www.knowledgeplex.org/showdoc.html?id=154505>

New housing research

A few new reports from the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute and Australian Bureau of Statistics:

Older persons in public housing: present and future profile: research paper by Sean McNelis, AHURI
http://www.ahuri.edu.au/publications/download.asp?ContentID=50318_rp

The regional impact of housing costs and assistance on financial disadvantage: final report, by Justine McNamara, Robert Tanton and Ben Phillips, AHURI
http://www.ahuri.edu.au/publications/download.asp?ContentID=30295_fr

The financial impact of welfare targeting in public housing, by Jon Hall and Mike Berry, AHURI
http://www.ahuri.edu.au/publications/download/rap_issue_89

Housing occupancy and costs, Australia, 2005-06, ABS
<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/mf/4130.0.55.001?OpenDocument>

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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