

Members Bulletin – 6 June 2022

A short bulletin in part reflecting the pause in activity at the Commonwealth as the new Ministry comes together and appointments are made to the new Ministers' offices. A bout of COVID curtailed my plans too.

New Ministry

By now you will have seen the shape of the new federal ministry. Placing the housing portfolio back in Cabinet sends a clear and overdue message that access to a safe, secure and affordable home is something of national importance and concern.

We [welcomed](#) the Hon Julie Collins MP to her new role as Minister for Housing, Homelessness and Small Business, and extended thanks to the Hon Jason Clare MP for the commitment he brought to his housing role in opposition. CHIA's work of course spans other of the Ministerial portfolios including domestic and family violence, veterans, disability and infrastructure. We are in the process of establishing connections and setting up meetings with key players in these areas. At the same time meetings with cross benchers are being sought.

I am sure most readers will already be familiar with the new ALP ministry but in case you missed it click [here](#).

Community Housing Data and Information

One important task with a new Parliament will be to promote the sector. I've lost count of the times that I've been asked for national data on the sector and have had to explain there isn't any single source of consistent, credible information on our profile, activities and contribution.

The AIHW has been leading a community housing data strategy project for the last year focusing on their collections and the ROGS. It is anticipated the strategy will only be published in 2023 and thus probably at least another year before changes are made to any collections. Consultation on strategy content will commence this month and remain open until early July.

Separately, in the government statement of expectations issued earlier in the year, NHFIC has been asked to take a role in collating community housing data. Of course, sector regulators have a role too. CHIA and CHIA NSW met NHFIC this past week to open up discussions about NHFIC's own role here, and to share the work each organisation has been doing to fill the gaps. There are positive signs that NHFIC will work with us to bring some leadership and co-ordination to the data improvement projects.

While we wait for government action, CHIA has been very fortunate that Professor Vivienne Milligan has assisted CHIA in devoting considerable time and brain power to the job of pulling together a national data digest using publicly available sources. It was a laborious task but worthwhile. We put off publication to this coming week to capture new members. I have attached an advanced copy. Please do not publish or circulate this until it is officially launched. Jo will be sending a notice.

We are currently in conversation with NHFIC about further editions.