

Homeless Legislation Consultation

On Tuesday 16 June 2009, the Minister for Housing, The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, requested that the House Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth Committee conduct an inquiry into homelessness legislation. The Committee invites interested persons and organisations to make submissions addressing the terms of reference by **14 August 2009**. See the website for details: http://www.aph.gov.au/house/house_news/news_stories/news_homeless_inquiry.htm

Consumer Voices Consultation

More from CoAG's overwhelming 'consultation' breakneck turnaround times concerning everything to do with the Reform Agenda is the current exploration of advocacy and research in Australia's new Consumer Policy Framework. This new law will entail harmonising many functions that currently happen on a State level including Fair Trading regulations and Consumer Credit Laws. The Commonwealth is looking to establish a national consumer advocacy body and closes on **17th July**. See the detail on the website here: <http://www.treasury.gov.au/>. This is important to Shelter WA as the treatment of issues such as tenancy 'blacklists', residential tenancy legislation and pay-day (low-doc) loan businesses will be impacted by the new Australia wide law. The Department of Commerce held a consultation Forum on 16th June and WACOSS is conducting a further workshop on 3rd July 3:00-5:00 pm for Consumer Advocates. To attend the WACOSS meeting email caroline@wacoss.org.au

Domestic Violence Forum

The West Metropolitan Family Protection Unit of the WA Police Service is holding a Domestic Violence Forum. The main objective is to become more familiar with the services available to the public that can be accessed by Police and people in the community affected by Domestic and Family Violence. The WA Police has developed an initiative to manage families that are repeatedly requiring police attendance due to Domestic Violence situations at a local level. The Forum held on **12th August** and interested agencies delivering FDV services are encouraged to attend and raise the knowledge of the Police service. Email Constable Kylie.VELIOS@police.wa.gov.au if you are interested in attending.

Australian Residential Tenancies Conference

The 9th Australasian Residential Tenancies Conference (ARTC) is to be held on the Gold Coast at the Sheraton Mirage Resort on Wednesday **9 September to Friday 11 September 2009**. To see the conference program and register go to the website: <http://www.restenconf.com/>

Midland Place Planning

The City of Swan covers a large land area and serves the needs of a diverse population. The City divides this area into 13 smaller areas or 'Place Planning Areas' in order to identify and address the specific needs of its diverse communities. The City of Swan has been pro-active in considering its future needs and the needs of emerging populations and has convened and supported the Swan Accommodation Providers Network since July 2008 to identify and address the need for affordable housing, crisis and emergency accommodation in the region. The City of Swan could also be anticipating the establishment of an International University on the former Railway Works site. If you would like to be involved in Place Planning to inform the City of Swan, workshops have been running throughout June and **will be held through July**. Residents are encouraged to attend or submit responses through the online survey. Phone Kellee Brown on 9267 2393 or go to the bottom of the page <http://www.cityofswan.com/opportunities> for the survey.

Homeless Persons Week from August 3rd

Homeless Persons Week commencing **August 3rd** will soon be upon us. The Community Housing Coalition is again the lead agency in WA for HPW arrangements and Shelter WA together with key service providers will be performing activities and events. If you work with homeless people or those at risk of homelessness, would like to be involved or have any ideas to contribute to this week contact Gerhard Rousseau at CHCWA policy@communityhousing.com.au

Equal Opportunity Commission Report on Discrimination in Private Rental Housing

In June 2008 Commissioner Henderson launched an inquiry into whether persons from CALD and Aboriginal people were being discriminated against in the private rental housing market. The investigation was partly a result of the work done by the Housing Crisis Committee for CaLD and is now completed and released. To see the report including recommendations go to <http://www.eoc.wa.gov.au/> and scroll to the bottom of the **What's New** page to download the full report and media release.