



NSW Federation of
Housing Associations inc

Federation Bulletin



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Federation supports the community sector campaign for investment in homelessness services

NSW Council of Social Services (NCOSS) and three peaks in the homelessness sector have joined their efforts in advocating for additional investment in homelessness services system past June 2013.

While the Homelessness Action Plan covers the period 2009-14, funding under the Homelessness National Partnership (NPAH) is due to cease at the end of June 2013. To date neither the Commonwealth nor NSW Governments have committed to a further funding package from July 2013. It is estimated that annual funding of more than \$35 million being provided to NSW projects under the NPAH.

The future of projects funded under the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH) was discussed at the meeting of the COAG Select Council on Housing and Homelessness on 31 August. The Ministers noted the importance of ongoing investment in homelessness, but no concrete resolution was achieved.

The Federation has joined the campaign and has written to both ministers calling for continuation of funding. We have also prepared a [submission](#) to the NSW Government's reform agenda *Going Home Staying Home*.

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ACNC Bill introduced in the Federal Parliament

Update on the charities regulation

Assistant Treasurer David Bradbury has introduced a second reading speech of the Australian and Not for Profits Commission (ACNC) Bill. The Bill has passed the House of Representatives and is now being considered by the Senate. This follows the government's adoption of 11 recommendations made by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Economics who were asked to conduct an inquiry into the draft legislation for the Bills, and published their [report](#) and recommendations in August.

The legislation will establish the ACNC as a one stop shop for national non-profit regulation, with the objective of reducing the regulatory burden on the non-profit sector.

The legislation also transfers responsibility for determining eligibility for charitable status from the ATO to the ACNC.

The Interim Commissioner for ACNC, Susan Pascoe OAM, also has a very informative [blog](#) on the latest developments in the charities regulation.

Unrelated Business Activities Taxation

The taxation of unrelated business activities (UBIT) still remains to be resolved. Until the exposure draft of the legislation is released in October 2012, it is not yet clear how earnings from unrelated commercial activities in community housing will be taxed. There were few options canvassed in the Australian Government consultation paper released in May 2011. The Community Housing Federation of Australia (CHFA) has provided a [submission](#) to the consultation paper, calling for the clear exemption of community housing from the proposed taxation.

The Federation will continue to advocate and will keep you up to date to any legislative changes with the impact on the community housing sector.

Adoption of National Law on Regulation passes NSW Parliament

Consultation on Guidelines Underway

The move towards national regulation of community housing sector takes a significant step forward.

The National Regulatory System is being developed through an applied law scheme with NSW as the host state. The *Community Housing (Adoption of National Law) Bill 2012*, has passed NSW Parliament on 28 August 2012. The Act now provides uniform template legislation – the National Law for Community Housing Providers - for the National Regulatory System.

Other participating jurisdictions will submit to their parliaments legislation that applies the National Law or substantially corresponds to the National Law. The consultations on the Draft Evidence National guidelines are now underway in NSW until 7 September 2012.

For more up-to-date information please see www.nrsch.gov.au

The Federation is a member of the Technical Working Group drafting the evidence guidelines. The evidence guidelines will describe performance indicators and evidence sources for the assessment of providers against the National Regulatory Code.

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