

## News from Western Sydney Community Forum

# Forum Flash

19 June 2009

## The Productivity Commission Inquiry into Contribution of the Not for Profit Sector

WSCF & Voice for SONG along with many other agencies such as LCSA & ACOSS made submissions to this inquiry. The submissions can be viewed on the Productivity Commission's website <http://www.pc.gov.au/projects/study/not-for-profit/submissions>

The Illawarra Forum's submission is particularly good as it used their three year study "*Maximising the contribution of NGO's in a new planning framework for community service provision*" (a partnership with UWS and Sydney Uni). This study provides great resources for our sector and hopefully will also inform Government.

## Western Sydney Public Transport Users Symposium 20<sup>th</sup> of June

At this symposium, we want to learn about, celebrate and honour the work that has been done over many years by community and volunteer public transport advocates. We think it's time to create a voice that promoted the interests of public transport users in Western Sydney. We would like you to join us, register here.

Date: This Saturday, June 20th, 2009, 9:45am Venue: Granville Youth & Community Centre Address: 3a Memorial Drive, Granville, 2142  
<http://www.pingg.com/rsvp/yakz6qxfjm58ts5j7>

## Please Note Change of Venue: Shelter NSW's conference "The Crisis and beyond: For a stronger and Fairer Housing System"

Due to great interest in this conference, the venue has changed to NSW Teachers Federation conference centre on Thursday 2 July at the auditorium, 37 Reservoir Street, Surry Hills, Sydney. This venue is 5 minutes' walk from Central station. Link to an online map:

<http://www.conferencecentre.nswtf.org.au/about/topics/2056.html>>.

If you have not already registered to attend, there's still time! **Registrations now close on July 1** <<http://www.sheltersnsw.org.au/docs/fly0904conference-about.html>>.

Speakers include:

- . the Hon. Tanya Plibersek MP, Commonwealth Minister for Housing
- . the Hon. David Borger MP, NSW Minister for Housing
- . Mike Allen, Director-General of Housing NSW
- . John Mant, lawyer and urban policy consultant
- . Yuri Grbich, formerly Professor at Law, UNSW and founding director of Atax, UNSW

- . Kath Hulse, Associate Professor, Institute for Social Research, Swinburne Institute of Technology
- . Sue Cripps, Chief Executive Officer, Homelessness NSW
- . Simon Pinnegar, Deputy Director, City Futures Research Centre, UNSW
- . Carol Croce, Executive Director, Community Housing Federation
- . Adam Farrar, Executive Director, NSW Federation of Housing Associations.

To download a conference leaflet, click here:

<<http://www.sheltersnsw.org.au/docs/fly09conference.pdf>>.

## Planning for natural disasters: Do you have a Business Continuity Plan?

In light of WHO's recent declaration of the swine flu as a pandemic, this might be a good time for your service to develop or review a Business Continuity Plan (BCP). In simple terms, a BCP specifies how an organization is going to continue delivering services in case of a disaster like fire, earthquake or a pandemic.

Because HACC and Community services provide vital services to vulnerable persons, it is important that we plan for any potential disruption. More than that, we need to communicate these plans to staff, and to review them periodically. The plan may be simple or it may be elaborate, depending on your service delivery needs and profile. There are several resources, workbooks and kits on the Internet. Here are a couple of them:

### ***Building resilience through business continuity and pandemic planning***

[http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/communities/progserv/Documents/pandemic\\_influenza/default.htm](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/communities/progserv/Documents/pandemic_influenza/default.htm)

### **Victorian Government Health Information**

[http://www.humanswineflu.health.vic.gov.au/businesses/bus\\_con.htm](http://www.humanswineflu.health.vic.gov.au/businesses/bus_con.htm)

### **To Service Managers:**

Be there when we discuss “*Developing a Business Continuity Plan*” at the next Western Sydney Community Care Managers’ Forum on Wednesday 15 July 2009, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm at WSCF, Level 4, 146 Marsden St, Parramatta. Mark your calendars and watch this space!

## For a full copy of the WSCF HACC Flash

[Click \(link to HACC Flash in Flash file\)](#)

## Want a Volunteer Treasurer?

Ragan Thiru is a fully qualified Accountant looking for experience in the Australian community sector. He is eager to find a voluntary position. Ring Gabrielle 0423-334-005 if you'd like to talk about your organization's financial needs.

## Alas ... Nothing in the Budget for CSGP

While it is easy to be discouraged with this setback WSCF will continue to develop our campaign for enhanced funding. We urge everyone to stand firm and continue this struggle. The CSGP NGO Roundtable members are meeting next week to plan the next part of the campaign.



LCSA's website today has good information for an immediate response:

[http://www.lcsa.org.au/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=1905&Itemid=1](http://www.lcsa.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1905&Itemid=1)

### The Budget - Another year with no enhancement for Neighbourhood Centres

Despite the DoCS Business Case to Treasury, the Special Inquiry into Child Protection, the Government's response to that inquiry Keep Them Safe and a concerted campaign across the sector, particularly in February and March as the budget was being finalised, there was no enhancement of funding for the Community Services Grants Program in yesterday's budget.

LCSA can however communicate the following to our members:

1. The Minister for Community Services, Linda Burney, indicated that as far as she was concerned CSGP funding has not gone away and she is still working on it; the under-funding of Neighbourhood Centres was noted in her presentation to the sector last night
2. The Minister indicated that some \$27million in Keep them Safe which has not yet been allocated, will go to tender; she was committed to a substantial amount of this to be allocated to small organisations
3. Daily Telegraph 17.06.09 page 9 reported that funding will be made available to community groups "to improve facilities at a local level" over the next 18 months. Given that many Centres have raised their profile significantly over the last six months with their local members, many who have expressed their support, LCSA encourages Centres to again engage with their local members to inquire about this funding
4. LCSA Executive Officer, Brian Smith, spoke to the Minister's advisers last night and a meeting has been arranged to explore alternatives in advancing the case for increased funding.

While it is easy to be discouraged with this setback LCSA is treating it as just that, a setback, and will continue to develop our campaign for enhanced funding. To this end Centres will shortly receive a suggested response to the letters which have been sent

by the Minister to Members of Parliament who have supported Centres in the CSGP Campaign.

## **Joke Spot**

Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?