

July 2006

REDWATER NEWS



The Redfern and Waterloo Neighbourhood Advisory Boards Newsletter

Volume 11 Issue 2

Department of Housing Access, Allocation and Tenure Policy Proposal

On 27 April 2005, the NSW Government announced that the priority client group to be assisted by public housing in the future would be low income people with Complex Housing Need or low income people who do not have access to stable, affordable housing in the private rental market.

This means that people who are homeless, the frail elderly, young people under 20 years without family support, people with a disability or mental illness will be considered a priority.

Other groups eligible for Public Housing will include families with children, aged pensioners, unemployed and low waged adults.

The proposed reforms represent an explicit move away from public housing being for those with low incomes to public housing being for those with low incomes and a Complex Housing Need, Affordability and Accessibility issues.

The *Reshaping Public Housing* reforms end the policy of tenure for life for new tenants and introduce set periods of tenure that may be reviewed on the basis of housing need. Tenants who have already been housed before April 2005 will still keep their life tenure.

The proposed changes to tenure for new tenants include *Long, Medium or Short term* tenures.

Long-term tenure (ten years plus) will be offered to households who have long term housing needs related to their advanced age or permanent disability who have very limited options in the private rental market;

Medium term tenure (five years) will be offered to households who need stable housing at the time of application or allocation but may be able to move into the private rental market in the future (for example, after their children have grown up or their requirement for intensive support has decreased considerably); and

Shorter-term tenure (two years) will be provided to households who may need assistance only for a limited period before they can move into the private market. Examples include young people without family support.

In the case of Waterloo and Redfern the impact of the proposal if introduced will not be as dramatic as in other areas. This is because under the current allocation policies most of the tenancies started in the last few years have been for people in the 'Priority' category which is very similar to the proposed new top category. Waterloo and Redfern have again been the 'laboratory' for testing new ideas. It will be interesting to see the effect on the fabric of the tenant community, especially in a few years time. Hopefully the lessons learnt here will be reacted to quickly to minimize any adverse impact on the tenant community.

The above is based on the overview of the Department of Housing's Targeting and Tenure section of the Access, Allocation and Tenure Framework Policy Proposal of 27th March 2006.

For further information contact the Department of Housing or your local Tenant Resource Service worker [9698 6558].

Alternatives to high cost credit

High cost credit refers to loans offered by fringe lenders, where as well as a high rate of interest, numerous fees are also charged. Many disadvantaged consumers are drawn into high cost loans by the advertising which promotes the loans as being available to those with a bad credit history and also advertises that the credit can be accessed straight away. These high cost loans are promoted as a way of solving consumers' financial problems, but are more likely to keep consumers in a never ending debt trap. Many people on low incomes or in financial difficulty enter high cost loans because they are not aware of other alternatives which include Centrelink, Credit unions, Charities and the No Interest Loan scheme (NILS).

Centrelink provides benefits in addition to regular entitlements, such as a crisis payment if a person is in severe financial hardship, a pharmaceutical allowance to cover the cost of prescription medicines, rent assistance and telephone allowance. To obtain more information contact Centrelink on 13 10 21.

Credit unions offer loans for as little as \$200 with terms starting at three months. They assess consumers' repayment ability and lend to those on welfare benefits.

The Salvation Army is one of the largest providers of material aid in Australia, through more than 260 community services centres nationwide. This may include assistance to families with cash/cheque, food vouchers/ food parcels, clothing, furniture and other household items, accommodation vouchers, housing cost, electricity, gas, rates and other bills, public transport fares. medical and educational expenses and other forms of help as appropriate to the individual. You can contact the Waterloo Salvation Army at the corner of Philip and Cope Sts. on 9380 2882.

Other charities which may also provide assistance are The Smith Family Tel: 9895 1233, Red Cross Tel: 9229 4111, St Vincent de Paul Tel: 9560 8666, and Barnardos Tel: 1800 061 000

The 'No Interest Loans scheme' offers loans for essential household goods and medical equipment at no interest. A typical NILS loan is for \$600–\$1000 and available for essential household goods such as a washing machine, fridge or medical appliances such as a wheelchair. As loans are repaid over 12-15 months, the money is lent out again to other people in the community. NILS are run by local community groups such as

What has HCAP been up to?



Well it's all been quite exciting since the last edition of RedWater News. We have new tenants who are super keen to be involved somehow – either through letter boxing their streets with the paper, checking out the articles before they go into the edition or even skilling up in the computer side of its production – which is fantastic!

This time of year is also grant application time... so application writing it has been! Applications have been submitted to the City of Sydney Council and Clubs NSW to help support RedWater News, the Waterloo and Redfern Neighbourhood Advisory Boards (NAB) for small precinct social gatherings and the increasingly successful Waterloo Recycling Workshop.

HCAP has also still been supporting the Waterloo and Redfern NABs in their transition to something that will be sustainable after the HCAP has left in three years time. Certainly people have expressed their concern about the need for the NABs to be sustained as we are all aware of the importance of the NAB being a voice for public housing tenants.

If you would like to know more about any of these things or you have some community information that is relevant to other public housing tenants in Waterloo & Redfern please let me know!

Orna Marks (HCAP) The Factory
Ph: 9698 9569

Email: hcap@the-factory.org.au

The Aboriginal Tent Embassy has arrived on The Block. If you want any information drop in 24-7 and say hello.

Revenge on the Telemarketer

Three Little Words That Work!!

(1) The three little words: "Hold On, Please..." Saying this, while putting down your phone and walking off instead of hanging-up immediately) would make each telemarketing call so much more time-consuming that boiler room sales would grind to a halt.

Then when you eventually hear the Telstra's "beep-beep-beep" tone, you know it's time to go back and hang up your handset, which has efficiently completed its task.

These three little words will help eliminate telephone soliciting.

(2) Do you ever get those annoying phone calls with no one on the other end? This is a telemarketing technique where a machine makes phone calls and records the time of day when a person answers the phone.

This technique is used to determine the best time of day for a "real" sales person to call back and get someone at home.

What you can do after answering, if you notice there is no one there, is to immediately start hitting your # button on the phone, 6 or 7 times, as quickly as possible. This confuses the machine that dialed the call and it kicks your number out of their system. Gosh, what a shame not to have your name in their system any longer!!!

3: When you get those "pre-approved" letters in the mail for everything from credit cards to 2nd mortgages and similar type junk, do not throw away the return envelope.

Most of these come with postage-prepaid return envelopes, right? It costs them more than the regular 50 cents postage "IF" and when they receive them back.

It costs them nothing if you throw them away! In that case, why not get rid of some of your other junk mail and put it in these cool little, postage-prepaid return envelopes.

Send an ad for your local chimney cleaner to American Express. Send a pizza coupon to Westpac.

If you didn't get anything else that day, then just send them their blank application back!

If you want to remain anonymous, just make sure your name isn't on anything you send them.

You can even send the envelope back empty if you want to just to keep them guessing! It still costs them \$1.00

The banks and credit card companies are currently getting a lot of their own junk back in the mail, but folks, we need to OVERWHELM them.

Let's let them know what it's like to get lots of junk mail, and best of all they're paying for it... Twice!

Let's help keep Australia Post busy since they are saying that e-mail is cutting into their business profits, and that's why they need to increase postage costs again. You get the idea!

If enough people follow these tips, it will work — — maybe you'll get very little junk mail in the future!



We want your voice !

Do you want to inform the Housing Communities Assistance Program (HCAP) about what it's like to be a social housing tenant in Waterloo / Redfern?

If you want the opportunity to be to be involved in steering the HCAP in Redfern/Waterloo and you have:

- Strong networks with other tenants in the area
- Are able to actively participate in a team – to listen as well as contribute

Then contact Orna - your Housing Communities Assistance Program (HCAP) worker!

Tel: 9698 – 9569

Email: hcpa@the-factory.org.au

The Factory: 67 Raglan St Waterloo 2017



Redfern Computer Centre has a New Home

After 5 years at 180 George St the Redfern Computer Centre has relocated to 638 Elizabeth St, Redfern (inside the PCYC). We continue to offer free access and training in a range of computer skills for the people of Redfern and Waterloo. Our drop in hours remain unchanged and we are still open 9-3 every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. You can learn at your own pace, even if you have never used a computer before! For enquiries come and visit during drop in or call Matt on 93194195.

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Is Your Child Starting School in 2007?



Alexandria Park Community School invites you to an Information Morning



Come for a visit, find out about the Kindergarten Transition Program, have a cuppa and a chat with the Principal and some of the staff. There will also be a tour of the school and community centre. An information pack will be provided.

**Wednesday August 16
9.30am - 11am**

**cnr Power Ave & Park Rd,
Alexandria**

Please RSVP by Friday August 11 on 9698 1967

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South Sydney Community Aid has found a new home in Alexandria Town Hall, 73 Garden St, Alexandria.

The City of Sydney Council provided us with accommodation as we had to move out from the Old Public School in Redfern by the end of May. We have set up our New Neighbourhood Centre and welcome the local community, our old and new clients from Monday to Friday from 9.30am-4.30pm.

We are located in a very friendly neighbourhood not far from Alexandria Park and just a few minutes walk from Botany Rd IGA supermarket. As spring comes by we can organise picnics in the nearby park.

Come and visit us!

We are running the following groups:

- Russian Community Support Group every Thursday from 11am -12.30pm
- English Classes with Mitch on Fridays from 1-2pm - Multicultural Sewing Groups on Tuesdays from 10-12pm and from 1-3pm
- Free Tax help for low income earners from the end of July by appointment
- Multicultural Bus Trips to Shell Harbour on the 7th July, to Central Gardens, Merrylands on the 17th July, to Fenbrook Garden and Gallery on the 4th August. Bookings are essential and places fill up very quickly!
- Case work, referral and advocacy,
- Limited use of photocopy, telephone, fax and internet,
- Multilingual information is available.

The free computer classes will continue as soon as we can set up our new computer room. We will advertise the free courses and upcoming programs, events and groups so please keep an eye on notice boards and pick up a community newspaper from nearby.

Our New Address is 73 Garden St, Alexandria, NSW 2015

Phone number: 9319 4073

Fax: 9319 4741

Email:mnc@ssca.org.aum

Come and have a cup of tea or coffee with Jhan, Kati and Soheir.

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News from the Waterloo Recycling Workshop

Hello locals and visitors!

Toby here, my able helpers and I and are now able to provide the community with some cheap, good condition furniture and household smallgoods, coffee tables, cupboards, etc.

We are always open on Fridays around 10am to 2pm and someone is usually here on weekday mornings, so always pop in and ask for help – ‘cause that’s what we’re here for!

I’m also able to help if you need a hand with shelves, or simple requests for wood, for those handy people out there. I’m always getting new things donated, so it’s changing all the time.

Also, please let us know if there’s anything that you might want to donate – our community relies on its own residents.

So I hope to see lots of locals down here, and let’s see how we can help our neighbours.

**TOBY and the hole
in the wall gang.
0424 304 781**

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LOCAL PLAYGROUPS

ARE HELD ON:

WEDNESDAYS 10AM-12

MIDDAY at ALEXANDRIA PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE Corner Power Avenue and Park Road ALEXANDRIA For info contact Jo on 9319 3207

THURSDAYS 1PM – 3PM @ MOUNT CARMEL PRIMARY SCHOOL Kellick Street WATERLOO

For info contact 9699 1407

FRIDAYS 9.30AM – 11.00AM

at DARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL, Golden Grove Street DARLINGTON

For info contact 9516 2300

There is a free minibus to pick you up and take you to Darlington.

around the precincts of redfern

Gilmore

On Friday 26th May Gilmore's front security door was fixed. Less than 24 hours later it was broken again – let's hope the camera was working!

The intercom system is being looked at again and may take some time to be sorted out.

Gilmore still has cleaning problems with the urine left to dry out in stairwells.

With regard to the build-up of broken glass and rubbish, I don't know why a decent sized hard broom can't be used on driveways at least twice a week to stop it becoming ground into the concrete,

On a more positive note, the Police had a successful BBQ at Poets Corner on Tuesday 23rd May. Tenants will certainly look forward to the next one.

Precinct Rep.

- The South Sydney
- Aboriginal Resource
- Corporation has relocated
- to PCYC at 638 Elizabeth
- Street Redfern. Phone number
- 9319 4428

CALLING ALL REDFERN & WATERLOO VISUAL ARTISTS

The City of Sydney is producing the Danks Street Festival on Sunday 22nd October 2006.

Photographs of your work, an outline of your experience as a visual artist and contact details can be sent to the following address by 5pm, Friday 28th July, 2006

**The Event Coordinator
Danks Street Festival
City of Sydney
Level 2, Town Hall House
456 Kent Street
Sydney NSW 2001**

The City will then contact successful applicants.

Please note only artists who send photographs of their work will be considered for participation in the Danks St Festival *Art Market*.

Photographs cannot be returned.

For more information on the Danks Street Festival, please visit our website on www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/whatson

Mc Kell Community Room

Monday

Morning (9:00 am – 12:00pm)
VACANT

Afternoon (12:30 pm - 5:00pm)
Games Day - cards, dominos, monopoly, snakes n ladders or any other games you want!
Library Open – books are donated by tenants for tenants

Tuesday

Morning(9:00 am – 12:00pm)
VACANT

Afternoon(1:00 pm – 5:00pm)
Mercy Arms Church Group

Wednesday VACANT

Thursday VACANT

Friday

Morning (9:00am – 12:00pm)
VACANT

Afternoon (12:30pm - 4:30 pm)
Russian Jewish group set up for the Saturday Sabbath

Saturday

9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Russian Jewish group

Sunday VACANT

Bookings for the room in the VACANT spots can be made at the Department of Housing ITM Poets Corner office: 43 Morehead St Redfern. 9698 1284

The Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Basketball Association is looking for expressions of interest to enter teams into the:

1st Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander NATIONAL Basketball Championships

When: From Monday 9 to Friday 13 of October 2006 at the Sydney Olympic Sports Centre at Homebush.

This event is open to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. There will be under 14's, under 16's, under 18's, A Grade Men's and Women's and Masters Teams.

Registration of a team into the National Championship is Free

If you would like to enter a team into the Championship or know of any one who would like to enter a team, please contact Nikita Ridgeway between 9am-6pm weekdays to obtain an information package and application form at the following:

(Phone/fax) 9836 4580

(Mob) 0415 095 661

(Email) Stephen@ridgewayenterprises.com.au

We will not accept applications to enter a team into the competition later than Wednesday 29 September 2006

around the precincts of waterloo

Are You a Nobody or a Somebody?

If you are reading this, you are a Somebody.

Nobodys don't go through the junk mail – they are not that curious. Junk mail is rejected out-of-hand by a Nobody. It has no potential, no possibilities.

Nobodys are big on the word a 'No' and the negative. Nobodys say things like, "No one will come", "Nothing will happen", "It won't work", "It's been tried before".

We are all capable of being a Nobody having not ever said "Yes" to anyone or anything for so long. This is because, as a 'Nobody', we hadn't taken the first step, the first to speak, the first to make up, never to admit fault.

Such moves are made by Somebodys.

A Somebody is a person who is able to say "No" and then offers alternatives. A Somebody will say, "Some one will read this", "Some one will come", "Something will happen", "It will work". They see the possibilities and they contribute, they participate. They say "Yes" and "Also". Somebodys would soon be missed. Somebody has to check the junk mail!

The world is changed by such people - hoppers, dreamers, wishful thinkers, believers.

Patrick Russell
The Factory Community
Centre Inc.

MARTON

There have been concerns from some tenants about children playing in the hallways, stairwells and laundries & in some instances most unfortunately there have been harsh words between children and tenants. It would be appreciated if the children could be supervised to some extent whilst playing inside the building. There have also been concerns about the graffiti that has appeared in the building. Your co-operation would be appreciated as we all have to live in the building.
Marton residents.

Hello to all our RedWater News Readers,

Having children I am always on the look out for a bargain, as we all are.

I recently stumbled across a great online auction site, and thought I would share my find with you all.

www.oztion.com.au
Membership is free, and I think it is a quick and easy website to use. There are thousands of items on the site starting from just \$1. Clothes, jewellery, books, gadgets etc, just about anything you can imagine. So if you have any unwanted items lying around, why not try and make something from them, and maybe grab yourself a bargain or two at the same time!

Peoples Precinct

There are no new details on the DoH's Humans Services Accord as yet. When they become available we will tell you.

Unfortunately there has been a massive increase in the amount of broken beer bottle glass in the area. Please watch out when walking, especially if you have children with you. The termites are on relief food packages now as the fences have all but disappeared. We have been told that another 'new' plan for the replacement of the fences is under development. The old one apparently has died without seeing the light of day. The DoH has again been asked to have the rubbish bins cleaned. The council has said that the Waterloo festival will be held in Danks street again next year and then may move back to Waterloo proper. When the DoH releases the report of the outcomes from the Tenant Conference last year copies will be made available at the Precinct meeting.

The DoH has given some undertakings to provide services in a more tenant friendly manner according to preliminary reports, but we have to wait for the official release to see exactly what undertakings have been given. Tenants are still feeding the pigeons and ibis despite the warnings not to do so. These birds are known lice and disease carriers and prevent other birds nesting in the area. Apparently the council and DoH are going to take action against those found feeding them, so listen to the warning, do yourself and the community a favour, and stop feeding them.

Ross Smith
Precinct Representative

A Few Basic Figures on Waterloo - Redfern Public Housing

THE PEOPLE

Who lives here?

	Number	% of tenants	% in NSW PH	% in NSW All
Aged over 60	na	53%	39%	17%
Aged under 16	674	11%	25%	22%
Single person	na	66%	49%	32%
Couple with children	75	2%	5%	
Single parent families	425	10%	19%	

Average Occupancy 1.45 people per property = 6017

How long do they live here?

	% of tenants	% in NSW PH
Lived here for more than 10 years	32%	32%
Lived here for more than 5 years	57%	24%
Moved out last year	9% (Lower than Public Housing generally)	

What is their source of income?

Earned income	7%
Centrelink	91% (28% Disability pension)
Average household income	= \$337 pw \$17,500 pa

In Summary

• An older population • Fewer children • More single person households • A stable group of tenants • High proportion of people with a disability • Very low incomes

How do Housing NSW expect it will change?

- Proportion of single people approved for public housing has declined slightly and will continue
- And the proportion of people in two person households will increase - one parent plus child
- The age of the public housing population is trending upwards
- The proportion of people with a disability will increase
- Long-term trend over last decade for public housing to focus on people with special needs will continue

THE PROPERTIES

Public housing properties in Waterloo - Redfern

Waterloo	2536 properties	92% of all housing in Waterloo			
Redfern	1604 properties	29% of all housing in Redfern Compared to 6% in NSW			
House /Unit size	Bed sit	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	3+ bed
Percentage of stock	9%	24%	52%	13%	2%

Homes in multi-unit properties not separately titled or serviced 90%

Properties are young and have a long life left - 55% built 1970s or later

Mismatch between housing size supply and tenant demand. Comparison of stock and waiting list.

Bedroom category	34% (Bed Sit & 1 bed)	53% (2 Bed)	13% (3 Bed +)
Family Composition	54% (Singles)	42% (2-4 Persons)	4% (4+ persons)

HOUSING NSW STRATEGIES FOR REDFERN WATERLOO

- To respond to the ageing population
- To continue to build the communities of Waterloo and Redfern
- To improve and sustain the accommodation
- To support people with mental health problems and their neighbours
- To address the mismatch between supply and demand

This article based on information from www.redwatch.org.au

community noticeboard

South Sydney Community Transport (SSCT) shopping bus and social outings

Our bus provides many services for people living in the Redfern/Waterloo area to make life just a bit easier ... and a lot more fun.

Bus trips run fortnightly to Eastlakes, Eastgardens and Marrickville Metro – shoppers are picked up and dropped off at home and given assistance with carrying their goodies. There's also a variety of monthly social outings which cater to different groups and needs. We go to markets, clubs and other destinations in and around Sydney with complementary morning tea on the way.

For more information, call Jenny or Lisa on 9319 4439.

Stretch & Conditioning Class at The Factory Tuesdays 10:00 am – 11:30 am

A combination of stretching and pilates influenced exercises, yoga asanas, simple isometric repetitions and meditation. For all levels!

Unwaged \$3 Part-time \$6 Rolling in it \$9

The Factory: 67 Raglan Street Waterloo

Ph: 9698-9569

Redwater News wishes to thank the City of Sydney Council and the Dept of Housing for their on-going support.

RedWater News is the Newsletter of the Redfern and Waterloo

Neighbourhood Advisory Boards
Produced for and by Redfern and Waterloo public housing tenants.

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CONTRIBUTIONS ALWAYS WELCOME!

Articles contributed by individuals/groups do not necessarily express the view of the Editorial Committee, which reserves the right to accept or reject articles according to the rules of publication and the Terms of Reference of the Redfern and Waterloo Neighbourhood Advisory Boards.

NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE : 18.8.06

RedWater News The Factory, 67 Raglan St, Waterloo NSW 2017 Phone 9698 9569 Fax 9310 4141

REDWATER NEWS

We are also now distributing RedWater News via email – so if you or others you know would like to be included on an email distribution list, just let me know Orna HCAP Worker 9698 9569

RedWater News is now available on the REDWatch website: <http://www.redwatch.org.au/redw/localmedia>

WATERLOO OVAL SKATE PARK OPENS SATURDAY JULY1, 2006.

With the Fernside Skate Comp.

U12, U14, U16 and OPEN (male and female)

Free entry. Great prizes. Register from 8.30am
Comp starts 10.30am.

For more info phone South Sydney Youth Services 9318 0539

REDWATER NEWS needs your help!

- If you want to deliver the paper in your area or be involved in the production, give us a call.
- Orna Marks, HCAP Worker 9698-9569.

FOR THE FRIDGE

Department of Housing	
WATERLOO: Drysdale	9310 8666
REDFERN: The Pottery	9319 9333
Poet's Corner	9698 1284
DoH Maintenance - 24 hours	13 15 71
South Sydney Community Trans.	9319 4439
(UNSW) Community Dev. Project	9245 1841
South Sydney Community Aid	9319 4073
Factory Community Centre	9698 9569
Waterloo Recycling Workshop	0424304781
Redfern Police	8303 5199
HCAP Worker	9698 9569
RICHSS	9319 3587