



**Government
of South Australia**

Minister for Human Services

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Our ref: 18MCOR/0091
Your ref: 7128299

Ms Nat Cook
Member for Hurtle Vale
PO Box 158
WOODCROFT SA 5162

Sent by email: Tristan.rust@sa.gov.au

Dear Ms Cook,

Freedom of information application

I refer to your application under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (the Act), received by the Office of the Minister for Human Services on 12 October 2018 seeking access to:

Copies of any and all documents (including but not limited to physical and electronic material) regarding Ministerial agenda item "Minister's Housing Advice and Community Fund Service Arrangements" from 8 May 2018.

Unfortunately, a determination was unable to be made within the 30 days, therefore it is considered to be a 'deemed refusal' under section 19(2)(b) of the Act. However, our office has continued to process your application outside of this timeframe. Section 19(2)(a) of the Act provides that an agency can release documents outside of the thirty-day timeframe, and this is still taken to be a determination under the Act.

One document has been identified as falling within the scope of your application and I have determined to release the document in part.

This document contains matter consisting of information concerning the financial affairs of any agency the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to have an adverse effect on those affairs, and would on balance, be contrary to the public interest. Clause 7(1)(c) has been applied to the document that relate to the business and commercial affairs of both this agency and the named service providers. I have therefore determined to refuse access to this document in part pursuant to clause 7(1)(c) of Schedule 1 to the Act.

Please find enclosed a copy of the document, and a document schedule containing a brief description of the document.

If you are dissatisfied with my determination, you can seek an internal review by writing to the Minister for Human Services as the Principal Officer of the agency. Your request should be sent within 30 days of your receipt of this letter.

In accordance with the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045, details of your FOI application, and the documents to which you are given access, may/will be published on the agency's disclosure log. A copy of PC045 can be found at <http://dpc.sa.gov.au/what-we-do/services-for-government/premier-and-cabinet-circulars>.

If you have any questions in relation to this matter, please contact Amanda Hockings, Office Manager, on telephone 8463 3388 or by email at amanda.hockings2@sa.gov.au. If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of your FOI application, you have the right to complain to the Ombudsman SA. Please contact the Ombudsman directly on (08) 8226 8699.

Yours sincerely



Amanda Hockings
ACCREDITED FOI OFFICER

25 / 3 / 2019

9SCHEDULE OF DOCUMENTS – MCOR/0091

Freedom of information application from the Ms Nat Cook seeking access to *Copies of any and all documents (including but not limited to physical and electronic material) regarding Ministerial agenda item "Minister's Housing Advice and Community Fund Service Arrangements" from 8 May 2018.*

No	Author	Addressee	Date	Description of document	Determination	Reason
1.			7/5/2018	Agenda Item – Minister's Housing Advice and Community Fund	Released in Part	Exempt – Clause 7(1)(c) – business and commercial affairs



MINISTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES MEETING	
AGENDA ITEM	
TITLE OF PAPER:	Minister's Housing Advice and Community Fund
MEETING DATE	DISCUSSION 7 / 05 /2018
KEY POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2017-18 Housing SA received funding through the National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA) Other grant of Clause 7(1)(c) of which Clause 7(1)(c) was allocated towards the Minister's Housing Advice and Community Fund (MHACF). • The MHACF funding in 2017-18 supported service level agreements with Shelter SA, the Community Housing Council of South Australia (CHCSA), the Welfare Rights Centre (Housing Legal Clinic) and SYC Ltd (Tenant's Information and Advocacy Service and Get a Place Program). The service level agreements with all providers expire on 30 June 2018. • The Department would like to discuss the allocation of MHACF funding from 1 July 2018 with you.

Minister's Comments:

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BACKGROUND

In 2017/18 Housing SA received **Clause 7(1)(c)** of funding through the National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA) Other grant, of which **Clause 7(1)(c)** was allocated towards the Minister's Housing Advice and Community Fund (MHACF).

All MHACF providers' service agreements end on 30 June 2018. MHACF providers have requested advice from the Department regarding whether their funding will continue beyond 30 June 2018. Housing SA would like to discuss the allocation of MHACF funding from 1 July 2018 with you.

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DISCUSSION

The MHACF presently distributes funding to Shelter SA, the Community Housing Council of South Australia (CHCSA), Welfare Rights Centre SA (to administer the Housing Legal Clinic) and Service to Youth Council Ltd (SYC) (to administer the Tenant’s Information and Advocacy Service and Get a Place).

Total funds of **Clause 7(1)(c)** were allocated in 2017-18 as outlined below:

Shelter SA is allocated funding of **Clause 7(1)(c)** to advocate for the interests of vulnerable and disadvantaged housing consumers from a housing system perspective as the peak housing body in South Australia. In particular, Shelter SA is funded to represent and give a voice to the interests of vulnerable and disadvantaged people in relation to the housing system including through the provision of advice, advocacy, policy development and research.

SYC is allocated funding of **Clause 7(1)(c)** to administer the Tenants Information and Advocacy Service (TIAS) which aims to assist low income private, community and public housing tenants to sustain their tenancies through:

- the provision of education, information and advice regarding their rights and responsibilities as tenants
- the provision of advocacy and representation for tenants facing tenancy difficulties
- mediation services to assist in the positive resolution of tenancy disputes and issues, including assisting with representation through the South Australian Civil and Administration Tribunal.

SYC also received funding of **Clause 7(1)(c)** to administer the Get A Place Program (GAPP) which aims to provide information and advice to assist young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to access and maintain a range of sustainable housing options and enhance their independent living and budgeting skills, including through the delivery of independent living workshops and one-on-one support.

The Community Housing Council of South Australia (CHCSA) is allocated funding of **Clause 7(1)(c)** to advocate for the interests of community housing providers and consumers as the peak community housing body in South Australia. In particular, CHCSA is funded to represent, advocate for and promote issues of interest to the community housing sector, disseminate relevant information to members of the community housing sector and broader community and support the professional development of community housing sector workers.

The Welfare Rights Centre SA is allocated funding of **Clause 7(1)(c)** to run the Housing Legal Clinic which seeks to prevent homelessness through assisting tenants at risk of eviction with legal advocacy, advice and the facilitation of access pro bono legal services, primarily in relation to civil and administrative matters including housing and tenancy, debt, fines and infringement notices etc. Welfare Rights is funded to provide services across metropolitan and regional South Australia.

Division	Housing SA		
Executive Director	Phil Fagan-Schmidt/...../.....
		<i>signature</i>	
Chief Executive	Tony Harrison/...../.....
		<i>signature</i>	

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Overview of what CHSCSA and Shelter SA are required to deliver under their service agreements

Contact Officer:	Phil Fagan-Schmidt, Executive Director Housing SA 0419 822 959
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ATTACHMENT 1:**SHELTER SA – OVERVIEW OF SERVICE AGREEMENT REQUIREMENTS:****Key Responsibilities:**

- Advocate for the interests of vulnerable and disadvantaged housing consumers, with a focus on system level advocacy
- Represent and promote relevant housing issues in the interests of vulnerable and disadvantaged housing consumers
- Provide advice, advocacy and policy research that are in the interests of vulnerable and disadvantaged housing consumers
- Disseminate Information to the housing sector and community regarding important housing issues
- Support the development of the housing sector through the promotion of innovative ideas and practice within the housing sector.

Performance Monitoring Requirements:

- Shelter is required to provide annual business plans that incorporates their key responsibilities
- Shelter is required to provide output data against each of the agreed responsibilities once per annum and achieve stakeholder satisfaction ratings of 75% or better.
- Shelter is required to provide quarterly financial reports detailing receipt and expenditure of the allocated funds.

CHCSA – OVERVIEW OF SERVICE AGREEMENT REQUIREMENTS:**Key Responsibilities:**

- Advocate for the interests of community housing consumers and community housing providers
- Representing and promoting relevant community housing issues in the interests of community housing consumers and community housing providers.
- Provide Advice, Advocacy and Policy Research that furthers the interests of community housing consumers.
- Disseminate Information to the community housing sector to ensure that members are informed about issues and changes relevant for them.
- Support the development of the community housing sector through the promotion of innovative ideas and practice within the housing sector

Performance Monitoring Requirements:

- CHCSA is required to provide annual business plans that incorporate strategies for meeting their key responsibilities
- CHCSA is required to provide output data against each of the agreed responsibilities once per annum and provided data on stakeholder satisfaction ratings.
- CHCSA is required to provide quarterly financial reports detailing receipt and expenditure of the allocated funds.

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