

Inner Sydney Regional Council

www.innersydney.org.au

Annual Report

2008-09



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Inner Sydney Regional Council – Projects and Activities

Regional Information Service

Funded by:

- *Community Services, Department of Human Services NSW*
- *Randwick City Council (contributes to Inner Sydney Voice)*
- *City Of Sydney Council*

- 🔗 Regional Policy and Advocacy
- 🔗 Community Development
- 🔗 Support for Community Organisations
- 🔗 Social Planning
- 🔗 Information – Inner Sydney Voice, Website, E-News and Brochures

Regional Tenants Resource Service

Funded by:

- *Housing NSW, Department of Human Services NSW*

Tenants in public housing, Aboriginal and community housing supported through forming and resourcing tenant groups, training, information, advocacy and referral.

HACC Development Officer

Funded by:

- *Ageing Disability and Home Care, Department of Human Services NSW*

Supports Home and Community Care services in the region by providing information, support, advocacy, policy and planning.

Our Story

In late January 1974 Andrew Jakubowicz, University of NSW sociology academic and Chairperson of the Surry Hills Resident Action Group brought together some 40 people to discuss the establishment of a Regional Council for Social Development covering the Inner Sydney region, at that stage consisting of Sydney, South Sydney and Leichhardt Local Government Authorities (LGA). This was a Whitlam initiative and part of an Australia wide plan.

In July 1974, seeding funds of \$3,000 were used to bring together a wide range of people who agreed to form the interim Inner Sydney Regional Council for Social Development (Regional Council). Funding was sought from the Area Assistance Program for a social planner, secretariat staff and three Community Development Officers, one in each LGA to assist people formulate their plans of action.

Regional Council's first Executive Officer, Colin Menzies started work at the office in Glebe in February 1975. The organisation then moved to offices in Chippendale.

In 1977, Regional Council was incorporated as a co-operative. Three weeks later the Whitlam Government lost power and funding was withdrawn. The organisation lost most of its staff, but remained as a Regional Information and Resource Centre with State funding from The Department of Youth and Community Services. Again offices were changed and Regional Council moved in with Shelter and the Australian Social Welfare Union. In March 1978, production of the Journal *Inner Voice* commenced.

1977 – 79 saw a clarification of Regional Council objectives, which were to provide information to local people and assist local networks. The organisation became involved in several urban environment issues such as lead in petrol and media projects including the film 'Waterloo' and the formation of Radio Eastern Sydney.

The early 80's saw involvement in more planning and environmental issues – the Waterloo incinerator and Port Botany plans. The Eastern Suburbs were added to Regional Council's coverage. The organisation was forced to move again, this time to Pitt Street and moved its focus to transport issues.

In 1985/86, the HACC Development Project commenced, along with the Urban Environment Council. Research was undertaken on the impacts of inappropriate development across the city and eastern suburbs, a new freeway and the third runway. The big issue at that time was the social consequences of economic restructuring. 1989 saw another move, this time to Alexandria. Environmental issues became a primary concern as well as questions about the intersection of welfare/community /environmental issues.

The 1990's began with an examination of Regional Council's role and relevance in its region. The organisation was involved in many regional planning committees both departmental and community. A seminar was organised to support low income residents of the Inner City areas as gentrification took hold. Economic rationalism arrived, as did the Olympics. The organisation moved once again this time to Waterloo. A 'Hands off HACC' campaign prevented the threatened loss of HACC funding. A journalist was employed to write *Inner Voice*. A seminar identifying quality of life problems for Public Housing Tenants convinced South Sydney Council to set up the South Sydney Housing Task force and Regional Council received funding for more workers in various projects including importantly, the Housing Communities Assistance Program (HCAP) which commenced in April 1994.

The organisation was heavily involved in campaigns such as local bank closures, setting up community banks, saving Waterloo Post Office, trying to prevent closure of the Rachel Foster Hospital and the Royal South Sydney Hospital.

The 25th Birthday of *Inner Voice* was celebrated by the many people involved in the community sector over that time. Subsequently, Executive Officer Marg Barry retired, leaving a massive gap in knowledge and contacts. Regional Council's Board of Management worked hard with limited resources to restructure the organisation. The HACC Development Officer changed on two occasions and the Executive Officer and Inner Voice positions were combined.

The new millennium saw a continuation of the organisation's adjustment to its changed situation. Various strategies were tried by the Board to meet the need for

- Increased management required to sustain projects

- Increasing government accountability requirements
- Finding the balance between the management role and the community information/development role

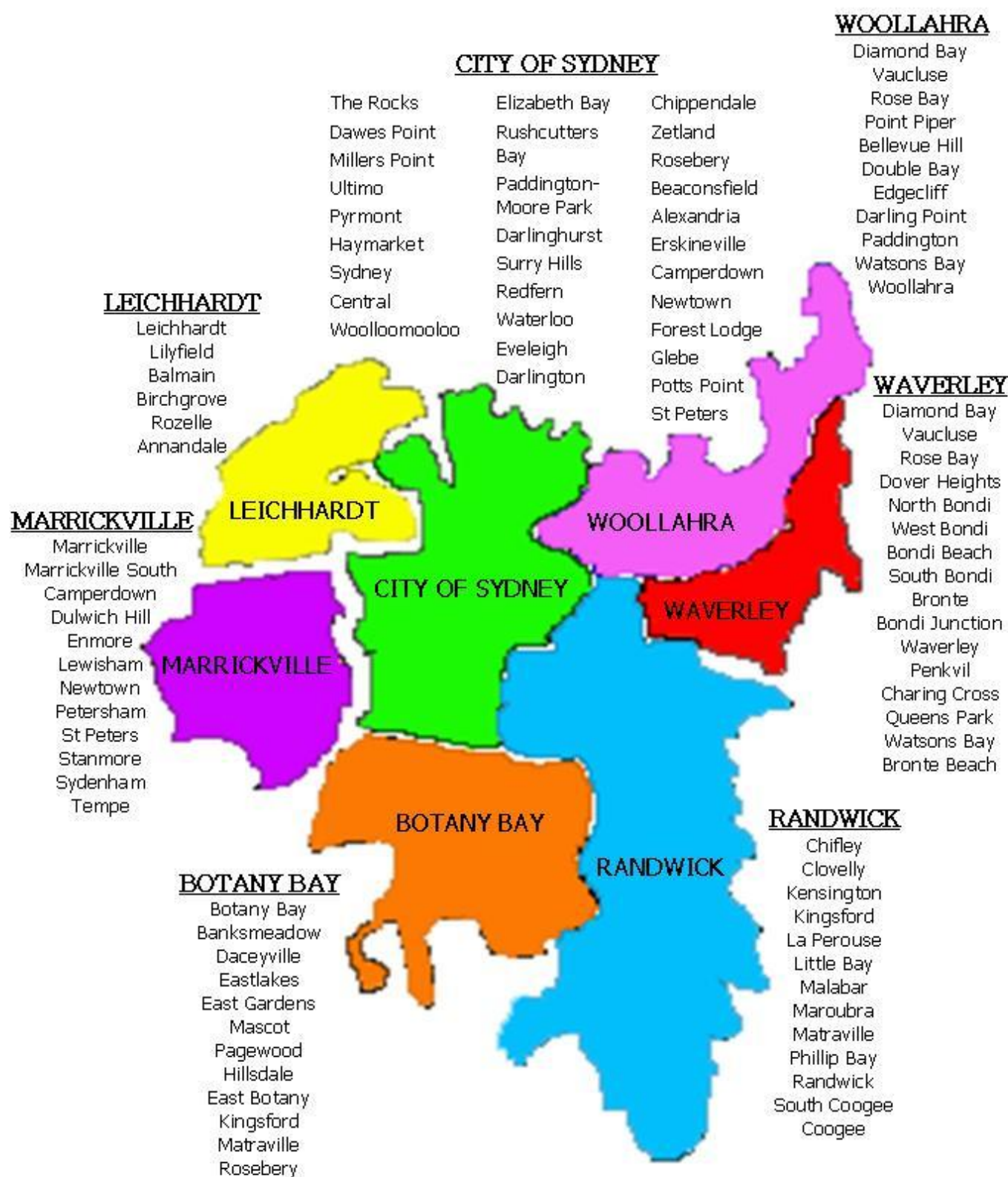
The funding situation eased with the organisation being offered new monies and the role as a regional liaison organisation for NCOSS developed.

A new regional housing project, Central Sydney North Regional Tenant Resource Service (CSNRTRS) commenced in April 2002. Working with Eastern Sydney to stop the closure and sale of Public Schools in some ways brought us back to our original place.

Today, still housed in Waterloo, Regional Council continues as a strong well-established organisation. We are going through another period of change but the main challenge is to remain responsive to the needs of the local communities and the community agencies in each of our regions.

Regions

Inner Sydney Regional Council is a regional information, advocacy and community development agency. We work in the Inner Sydney and Eastern Suburbs of Sydney, covering the Local Government Areas of:



To ensure we have coverage across our region, we draw our board members from the Local Government Areas we cover. We have two representatives from each area and they report to us regularly.

Board of Management 2008–2009

Executive



Vivienne Pusey
Chairperson



Helen Campbell
Vice-Chairperson



Annie Parkinson
Secretary



Barb Kelly
Treasurer

Board Members



Terry Murphy
City Of Sydney



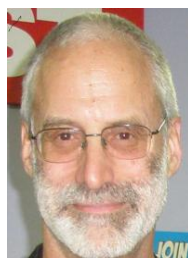
Bill Pope
City of Sydney



Carole Strong
Leichhardt



Anna Hartree
Randwick



John Gilbert
Botany Bay



Jacqui Swinburne



Larry Belington
(To January 2009)

Margaret Jones
Leichhardt
(To May 2009)

Denise Wasely
Randwick
(To May 2009)

Leta Webb
(To May 2009)

Staff 2008 – 2009



Regional Council Staff 2008/09 - Charmaine Jones, Pam Marsh, Edwina Tohi, David White, Chris Bath **Inset** – Luseane Faka'osi

Executive Officer

Office Manager

Office Assistant

HACC Development Worker
(Home and Community Care)

CSNTPRS Tenant Resource Worker
(Central Sydney North Tenant Participation Resource Service)

Regional Training Worker

Pam Marsh

Edwina Tohi

Luseane Faka'osi

Chris Bath (to May 2009)

David White

Charmaine Jones

Chairperson's Report

As Chairperson of Inner Sydney Regional Council for Social Development, I am providing an overall report on behalf of the Board on the work of our organisation during the financial year 2008/2009.

This has been a year of changes for Regional Council. As has become the norm, in addition to maintaining our current levels of service and activities we set ourselves a number of main goals for the year:

- Review and assess the organisation, its systems and activities
- Undertake major strategic planning as part of that review
- Continue to support community organisations in our area
- Maintain and improve our coverage of the whole of our region
- Complete the update of Regional Council's IT capabilities
- Assess and improve information dissemination, particularly through the production of *Inner Sydney Voice*, our website, E-Newsletters, brochures, etc.
- Continue to work with the HACC community and with Housing NSW residents to strengthen community links and community interventions into policy decisions.

The review of the organisation's structures, systems and activities including a review and rewrite of our constitution together with an intensive strategic planning process has taken up a great deal of our time and energy during the past 12 months. I am happy to report that this has proved worthwhile. The changes recommended and agreed to have now been implemented, we have a new easy to work to constitution and a constructive strategic plan to follow. Our sincere thanks to Janet Green for her guidance and patience during this lengthy process.

We achieved the goals of operating across the whole of our region and supporting local community organisations in many ways. We have maintained and strengthened our involvement in community organisations in Rozelle, Maroubra and Redfern, supported and/or resourced region-wide forums such as the South Sydney Interagency, the Eastern Suburbs Interagency, the HACC Forum, the Neighbourhood Centre Forum and tenant organisations. We also established a new interagency for Leichhardt and a very new Managers Group.

As I pointed out in my report last year, it is essential that the electronic capabilities of a regional information service are of a high standard and we have been steadily working towards that goal. Most of our equipment and software has been updated or replaced during the last two years and the Regional Council database we have been talking about for so long is now completed and in use.

The production of three issues of *Inner Sydney Voice* per year has continued as planned. You may remember that last year we undertook a review of the journal and reluctantly decided that as from 2009 it would be necessary to reduce the number of issues to three per year instead of four. This difficult decision was made against a background of financial and co-ordination constraints. Greg Hawken and Toby Andrews continue to work with our Executive Officer, Pam Marsh on producing *Inner Sydney Voice* and our thanks to them both for their excellent work.

The HACC brochure was again updated during the year. This brochure together with the brochure detailing Mental Health Services in Eastern Sydney produced in conjunction with Echo Neighbourhood Centre and Waverly Council is constantly in high demand particularly from doctors and hospitals. A new brochure for the Regional Tenant Resource Service is underway and the Regional Council brochure is being updated and reprinted.

The fifth Marg Barry Memorial Lecture was held in September 2009 and was a very successful event. The speaker was Professor Jock Collins, who gave a lecture entitled The Global Financial Crisis and Social Inclusion in Sydney. The event was opened by the Hon Dr Meredith Burgmann.

Of special note is the retirement from the Regional Council Board of Inaugural Life Member, Terry Murphy. Terry has been a Board member since 1990 and was President from 2000 to 2007 and we are very sad that he will no longer be a member of the Board. Our sincere thanks and appreciation go to Terry for the invaluable contribution he has made over the years and our best wishes for the future.

I warmly welcome two new members of staff, HACC Development Officer, Enis Jusufspahic and Administrator, Amylea Sepple. Both Enis and Amylea have settled into their roles very quickly and are already part of the team.

My thanks go to the members of the Board for their input and ideas and for the generous time and commitment they gave to the organisation through the year.

Finally on behalf of the Board my thanks and appreciation go to the staff of Regional Council for their dedication and on-going hard work.



Vivienne Pusey
Chairperson

Executive Officer's Report

This has been my first full year as Executive Officer of Regional Council and it has been a year of review and change for the organisation.

This last year saw us undertake a review of all aspects of the organisation, together with a strategic planning process that gave us the opportunity to review and assess our Vision and Statement of Purpose for the organisation and its future directions. We also reviewed and rewrote our Constitution bringing it into line with the majority of other similar organisations. We very much appreciate the guidance and support of Janet Green throughout this process and for her seemingly endless calm and patience.

It has taken some time for things to settle down after this period of change and introspection and, of course, change is never easy, but I feel that the time and energy we all put into the review and planning processes has been very worthwhile and we are confident that Regional Council will be able to respond effectively to the new and existing needs of the community agencies and communities in our area.

Regional Activities

We have been very busy with regional activities this year. We have maintained our active involvement with agencies in Maroubra, Rozelle and Redfern and have provided information, support and advice to many others. We maintained our support and input to as many interagencies and forums as possible and also successfully established two new groups during the year: the Leichhardt Interagency and the Managers Group.

The fifth Marg Barry Memorial Lecture took place in September and was a very successful event. Professor Jock Collins gave an extremely interesting lecture on the Global Financial Crisis and Social Inclusion in Sydney, stimulating many questions from the audience. The Hon Dr Meredith Burgmann gave the opening address, talking about her early memories of Marg Barry.

Information Distribution

The HACC brochure was updated and reprinted during the year and is still very much in demand as is the pamphlet detailing Mental Health Services in Eastern Sydney, produced in partnership with ECHO Neighbourhood Centre and Waverly Council. The Regional Council brochure has also been updated and reprinted while a new brochure providing information about the Tenant Participation Resource Service is about to be produced.

Our website continues to be popular, however maintenance of information is still proving to be a problem. We have managed to partly address this issue by various means but are working towards making the whole process more cost effective and efficient.

We now have a functional database, and thanks to Charmaine Jones, it now has Regional Council information entered and accessible. While we are still running into early teething problems, it is up and running and in use and has made such tasks as mail outs and distribution of our E-News easier and less labour intensive.

Inner Sydney Voice continues however the number of issues produced per year has been reduced from four issues to three, prompting us to try to make each as interesting and topical as possible. Greg Hawken continues to manage production, while graphic designer, Toby Andrews continues to make this and our other publications look very attractive and I thank them both for their expertise and their patience.

Policy

The now not so new Federal Government continues to impact on our region as election commitments and the remainder of the stimulus package are rolled out. We have made submissions or had input into a range of government policies including the White Paper on Homelessness and the Human Rights Consultation. We are making every effort to keep abreast of events leading up to the implementation of the Keep Them Safe reforms as so many of our members will be directly affected in one way or another by them.

There have been threats of changes to the HACC Program via COAG for quite some time but these have so far not eventuated and the HACC Development Officer Program was rolled over for another two years.

These proposed changes have not, however, been removed from the agenda altogether, but look as if they may now be some way down the track.

We also actively supported the Community Services Grants Program (CSGP) Campaign conducted by LCSA. The CSGP funds a wide range of services and programs including neighbourhood centres and many state and regional peak bodies and has not received any growth money for several years. This campaign was aimed at persuading the NSW Government to address this issue.

Our organisation

We successfully tendered for the Tenant Participation Resource Service during the latter part of the year. While we were all very pleased to have retained the program, the process took up considerable financial and staff resources. The delay in informing tendering organisations of the result was also not helpful.

We have implemented a number of new systems and procedures which all seem to be working efficiently and our IT capabilities are, for the moment at least, up to date and meeting our needs.

Towards the end of this year we said a sad goodbye to Chris Bath, who had been with the organisation for over six years, first as the HCAP Worker then the HACC Development Officer. We then just as sadly farewelled Edwina Tohi and Luseanne Faka'osi. Edwina had been with the organisation for over 20 years in various roles, finally as Office Manager while Lucy had been with us for 7 years as Admin Assistant. Our very best wishes and thanks to them all.

We have had two new members of staff join us and I warmly welcome to Regional Council, Amylea Sepple (Mahlia), our now not so new Administrator and Enis Jusufspahic, our new HACC Development Officer. It is great to have Mahlia and Enis working with us and they have both very quickly become part of the place.

Finally...

My thanks and appreciation to the Board for their involvement, hard work, support and encouragement during the year. I must also sadly add here a farewell and thank you from us all to Terry Murphy who is finally retiring after 17 years service on the Board, seven of them as President. We will all miss Terry very much.

And a very warm thank you to the staff for their professionalism and commitment and for being so nice to work with.

I am looking forward to an exciting and productive 2009/10 with the confidence that we will be able to effectively respond to the changing needs of our region.



Pam Marsh
Executive Officer

Home and Community Care (HACC) Development Officer Annual Report 2008/09

The Home and Community Care Development Officer (HACC DO) assists Home and Community Care (HACC) funded services and users of HACC services by providing information and resources; identifying training needs; representing the views of networks to government agencies, peak bodies and the Community Services sector; and assisting with planning and co-ordination of service delivery.

Information

Responding to enquiries; providing information to community, cataloguing concerns of the community and services and communicating this to government, disseminating information through email networks, forums and newsletters and, enhancing connection between HACC and other Community Services streams.

The Regional Council has experienced significant demand for printed copies of the HACC brochure. Members of the community, health care and social work professionals find it to be an invaluable resource.

The Eastern Sydney HACC Forum and the Aboriginal Interagency are two core Forums that the HACC DO conducts in Eastern Sydney – more details further in this Report. The HACC DO is involved with other Forums such as the Eastern Sydney Squalor Interagency, Eastern Sydney Food Forum, NSW HACC Issues Forum, Eastern Sydney Migrant Interagency and the Multicultural Advisory Forum.

The HDOs Network continues to serve as a forum for information sharing, allowing HDOs across the state to share issues, concerns and good practice from their region.

Networks

The HACC DO supports a number of networks and working groups. The primary network supported by the HACC DO is the Eastern Sydney HACC Forum. Chris Bath took up another position and Enis Jusufspahic commenced as the new HACC DO in November 2009.

An important piece of work this year was evaluating the Forum's achievements over the past year and determining new priorities. Key areas of work include squalor and hoarding, compliance costs for community organisations, and issues specific to Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) and Aboriginal communities. The issues regarding membership and ambit of the Forum such as the standing of for-profit providers, whether the meetings are open to the public, whether the constitution needs to be simplified, and the roles of the minute taker are to be further defined in 2010.

The Aboriginal Interagency continued to contribute to a range of research and development projects that aim to identify the needs of Aboriginal communities, as well as Aboriginal services and networks.

Planning

The NSW Government Aging, Disability and Home Care (ADHC) Agency of the Department of Human Services had begun planning for the next triennial cycle pending the outcome on the proposal to change the administrative/operative arrangement between the states and the Commonwealth. The planning process is to take place early next year and if member of the Forum agree the Regional Council will hold planning sessions together with other peaks where feasible to ensure that the planning process is informed by service providers, together with frail people and their families.

Service development

All HACC services, including our own are required to undergo performance assessments during the year. ADHC advised that the review process will remain the same i.e. self-assessment and confirmation by Departmental Officer – however, the Department will release new assessment material in 2010.

The new ADHC purchasing strategy emphasizes service responsiveness/flexibility for client needs, purchasing by service groupings, specialized providers, encouraging providers of similar services to deliver in concert where appropriate.

Reforms

A range of reforms continue to roll out. A centralized assessment and referral point for HACC services was established in the Hunter as part of the national community care reforms. The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) recently announced that they are considering splitting the funding responsibilities for the HACC program. This would entail the Commonwealth taking responsibility for aged care services and the States and Territories taking responsibility for disability services. If these reforms go ahead it is likely to bring significant change for services and the people receiving them.

ADHC is working on implementing the IMPACT Group's recommendations on Consumer Directed Care programs (direct funding provided to the care recipient) through the Innovations Project mapping best practice across the state, education raising awareness of IMPACT, as well as conducting three regional demonstration projects in 2010 around people who need short term intervention to delay future need – post operation assistance for those just outside the target group.

ADHC is working on Workforce Recruitment Project and the HACC Workforce Mapping Project. Furthermore, the HACC Learning and Development Framework is due to be released in 2010.



Enis Jusufspahic
HACC Development Officer

Regional Tenant Resource Service Report 2008/09

2008-09 was the transition year for the Service from the Regional Tenant Resource Service to the Tenant Participation Resource Service. There were a number of changes in core areas and outcomes as we moved from the 6 core outcomes in the RTRS to the 5 core outcomes in the new areas and outcomes. The 5 being:

1. Social Housing Tenants are engaged in Communities;
2. Social Housing Tenants' needs are identified and considered in Planning and Service Delivery;
3. Social Housing Tenants are informed about their Rights and Responsibilities and are supported with their housing needs;
4. Social Housing Tenants have Skills and Resources to participate in community life and
5. Social Housing Tenants receive services that are coordinated, flexible and responsive to their needs

This Report is a quick snapshot of the service provided. Central Sydney North Tenant Participation Resource Service (CSNTPRS), is a service funded by Housing NSW to work with Social Housing Tenants in the Northern half of Central Sydney Housing Services Division. The service dealt with over 1,100 tenant enquiries of varying complexity in the 2008-9 financial year.



Gocher Court Tenant Group meeting

For the third year in a row maintenance failed to take out the number one enquiry spot as tenants become more aware of other circumstances that affect their lives and try to bring about change. It now has dropped to number three. Topping the list this year are enquiries about the Reshaping Public Housing concerns (involving Mental Health issues, Anti-social behaviour and rebuilding community cohesion) followed by complaints about contractor work. Enquiries about RTRS information and training came in fourth. There has been an increase in complaints about Housing NSW Staff which are very area specific.

The following user percentages were collected:

- Public housing tenants formed the great majority of users – 61%.
- Inquiries from the Aboriginal Housing Office tenants – 5%.
- Community Housing tenants accounted for 11%, up from 9% last year.
- People from culturally and linguistically diverse communities accounted for 13% of total enquiries, up from 11% last year.
- At 72%, Women used the service much more than men which has been the case for the last two years.
- The two age groups accessing the service the most frequently were the 50-70 year olds with 44% and the 35-50 year olds with 28% of the tenant enquiries.
- The CSNRTS has built increasingly comprehensive working relationships with community development workers in the area, with around 23% of enquiries coming from these workers. This includes Area Health, Local Police, Local Government, NGO Service Providers and other TPRS Workers who may best meet the needs of Tenants

Most enquiries came from Surry Hills followed by Redfern, Waterloo, Gladesville, Lilyfield, Woolloomooloo, Manly and Millers Point/The Rocks.

231 outreach services were provided to tenants throughout the Central Sydney North Division which included accompanying tenants to Housing NSW who were unable to represent themselves because they couldn't understand the issues involved (mainly because of mental health issues) to visiting tenants to help them with the process and procedures involved in dealing with a multitude of issues. I have formed close working relationships with several Tenant Advice and Advocacy Program (TAAP) Services and refer several tenants to these and other services for tenants, such as The Welfare Rights Centre.

Supporting newly formed tenant groups is one of the most important pieces of work I have done during this period. Six new Tenant Groups were formed in this period. I have also run the elections for existing Tenant Groups and helped the Training Worker to run various training and planning sessions for the elected Committees and Neighbourhood Advisory Boards (NAB) Representatives. We have also engaged with TAFE Outreach to run programs for Tenants in various localities and I work closely with TAFE Outreach in Ultimo especially on their Communities in Harmony Project, which involves building partnerships and networks between and beyond public housing tenants and community members in the City of Sydney.

As an example of the work done during the year, I have been working with all NABs intensely to try to improve the NAB model, to evolve and grow and for them to take more ownership of their decisions. As part of that process and with help from Housing NSW we have moved the Housing Standards maintenance overflow away from the NAB, leaving the NAB to deal with Issues of an Estate nature.

I have also worked very closely with the Housing NSW's Surry Hills Community Development Worker, Catherine Carr, St Vincent's Community Health's Health Education Officer, Jeanette Cudmore and the City of Sydney's Public Housing Liaison Officer, Dominic Grenot to jointly work alongside the Life Support Network (LSN), to make a difference to social outcomes and work towards developing equity, access and capacity of social housing tenants. This involves working on a range of issues affecting tenants, including Mental Health and Safety Working Parties.

Working with all tenant groups to make a difference to social outcomes and to serve and strengthen their tenant community involves working jointly on a range of issues affecting tenants, including Mental Health and Safety issues and seeking funding for projects.

I regularly liaise and provide feedback to Housing NSW regarding tenants' social housing situations including meeting with Team leaders on an irregular basis (usually to overcome problems) and attending all the Area and Team forums.

As stated earlier, 2008-09 was the transition year of the Regional Tenant Resource Service to Tenant Participation Resource Service with a number of changes in core areas and outcomes. We look forward to meeting and excelling these challenges in the year ahead.



David White

Tenant Participation Resource Worker

Regional Training Worker's Report 2008/09

The year passed in a whirl of activity. The Regional Tenant Resource Service (TPRS) training schedule continued to be rolled out and included sessions on Environmental Sustainability, Anti-discrimination, Drama and Performance, Housing Rights, Committee Skills and Building Membership.

A significant amount of time was devoted to the Expression of Interest for the Tenant Participation Resource Service (TPRS), which saw the Regional Tenant Resource Service and the Public Tenant Council merge into one funded project. In anticipation of this change and to avoid confusion, the Regional Tenant Resource Service changed its name to TPRS. Fortunately, Inner Sydney Regional Council was successful in their tender and the TPRS has successfully transitioned into the TPRS.

The Rudd Government's National Stimulus Package saw Housing NSW receive a large amount of funding dollars. This money had very specific conditions and timeframes attached to its expenditure with a certain percentage being set aside for back log maintenance. Suddenly, tenants, who had been waiting years for work to be done, saw a flurry of activity in and around their homes. A number of information sessions about how and where the stimulus package was to be spent were coordinated with Housing NSW. These sessions ranged from the broad state wide overview to local tenant groups being informed about the planned works in their area.

We continue to maintain our strong relationships with TAFE Outreach, Shelter, VAST and other training providers and to build on relationships with other NGO's, Community Development Projects (CDPs) and service providers. Two new key relationships of the last year were with St Vincent's Mental Health and Social Justice, Social Change Centre.

St Vincent's Mental Health have supported the TPRS in a range of work with tenants, including running a series of Mental Health First Aid training for tenants in Surry Hills and Woolloomooloo. Through this relationship, the TPRS has been able link-in tenants with mental health issues with support agencies like PHaMs (Personal Helpers and Mentors) and Neami.



Our partnership with the University of Western Sydney's Social Justice Social Change (SJSC) centre saw tenants participate in video conferences, through Chicago's Loyola University, with tenants and housing workers in Chicago. One particular tenant had initially said "Chicago! But that's full of violence and drugs. We've nothing in common." It was then pointed out to the tenant, that people in Rose Bay perhaps view the Sydney housing estate she calls home in exactly the same way – just full of violence and drugs. It was a great opportunity for tenants to see how social housing tenants in the US face the same challenges and stigma they do here in Sydney.

A series of four community organising forums, developed in partnership with a number of agencies including City of Sydney, The Factory, TAFE Outreach Ultimo, the Universities of Sydney and NSW's CDPs, were held over the year. The forums brought together tenants involved in grass roots campaigns from across the City of Sydney LGA to share their stories and experiences.

Work was undertaken to promote the Neighbourhood Advisory Boards (NABs) among the Chinese and Russian communities. I spoke at a various meetings and provided translated material explaining the NABs and how they work and the benefits to the community. I participated in cross-cultural awareness training as part of my skills development to enable this work to be more effective.

We have worked closely with the Community Housing Tenant Network and provided them with training on committee skills and the development of their constitutions. As more Housing NSW housing stock is transferred to Community Housing providers, I foresee this relationship will grow even more.

In May, Inner Sydney Regional Council conducted a Key Stakeholders meeting for tenants and workers involved in the TPRS. The training aspect of the TPRS was seen by the stakeholders to be a vital part of what the project provides. There was much discussion about the benefits of computers and the Internet in allowing tenants to be socially connected and informed. The focus for the coming year will be around the use of modern technologies, training and access.

In December, tenants and staff from Housing NSW's Central Housing Division met to document what they believed are the principles and values of tenant participation. And it is with these principles and values that we hope to meet the year ahead.



Charmaine Jones

Tenant Participation Resource Service (TPRS) Training worker

TPRS - Area of Coverage



Financial Report

- 🔍 Treasurer's Report
- 🔍 Audited Financial Report

Treasurer's Report

Inner Sydney Regional Council remains in a fairly solid financial situation at present despite an overall operating deficit for the organisation during this year. The Balance Sheet shows net assets of \$51,196, while the Profit & Loss Statement for the year shows income at \$461,497 and a deficit of \$36,119. This deficit was made up largely of one-off redundancy costs and higher than expected consultancy and printing costs.

A major part of the Board's responsibility is to take an active role in overseeing the organisation's financial situation by examining monthly financial reports and ensuring all payments are properly authorised. The Board also approves and monitors the Annual Budget, reviewing it as required.

We have updated our financial systems and reporting methods during the year in order that tracking and oversight of our funds are clearer and more easily understood. Our accounts have been transferred to the Bendigo Bank and we are now completing most financial transactions on line. These changes are already saving us both financially and in terms of staff time.

We will continue to review our financial systems and reporting on a regular basis to ensure that Regional Council's financial affairs are managed in a transparent and effective manner.

Barb Kelly
Treasurer