



Social Justice Fortnightly Bulletin

16 August 2016

The Social Justice Bulletin informs Society members and staff about social justice activities in NSW and the latest news in our priority advocacy areas - housing & homelessness, asylum seekers & refugees, energy affordability.

Social Justice in Action

Affordable Housing Forum at the NSW Parliament House

You can still watch the highlights from the Sydney Archdiocese's 2016 affordable housing forum at the NSW Parliament House online at <https://vimeo.com/174633958>

Coming up

Anti-Poverty Week - 16-22 October 2016

Anti-Poverty Week is a week where all Australians are encouraged to organise or take part in an activity aiming to highlight or overcome issues of poverty and hardship here in Australia or overseas. It is sponsored by the St Vincent de Paul Society, the Australian Red Cross, the Brotherhood of St Laurence and UNSW. Check out the full calendar of activities on Anti-Poverty Week's website at <http://www.antipovertyweek.org.au/>

Training Opportunity - Homelessness, Legal Issues & Advocacy Workshop on 7 Sept. in Penrith

The Penrith Homelessness Interagency in partnership with Legal Aid are offering free training to staff of local community and volunteer organisations to increase understanding of effective advocacy strategies to address homelessness. This workshop will be delivered by Andrew Langley, Senior Civil Solicitor from Legal Aid and will focus on strategies to support the individual in addition to outlining best practice approach to systemic advocacy.

Date & Time: Wednesday 7 September, 10am -12.30pm

Venue: Nepean Room, Penrith City Council

Please contact Vesna, Penrith City Council on 4732 7771 to register

Rosalie Rendu Lecture - date announced - 20 October 2016

This year, the Rosalie Rendu lecture will focus on understanding the changing face of poverty and will explore how a growing number of older women are experiencing homelessness. Invitations will be sent out soon.

News review

The past fortnight was marked by Homelessness Week (first week of August) and shocking revelations about the scale of abuse of children in Australian offshore detention as the Guardian publishes 2,000 leaked reports.

Housing & Homelessness

The cold wind that blows on the homeless chills us all

A very eloquent reflection by Andrew Hamilton on the kind of society we are and want. 'What must change in us is our tolerance of an economic and political ideology that assumes it is all right for the humanity of the vulnerable and ill to be neglected in order to protect the entitlements of the wealthy. The cold winds that blow unchecked under the bridges where the homeless sleep have their source in an arctic economic world that puts profit over people.' Read the full article on Eureka Street at <http://bit.ly/2aX6yyE>

Rise in the number of older homeless women

Older women are the fastest growing demographic among Australia's homeless population, and they're falling through the cracks because of a lack of women's shelters. Listen to this short ABC radio program to hear more about this issue <http://ab.co/2aXu6ku>

The Baird government's housing failure that gets worse by the day

This article echoes frustrations about the NSW Government's lack of leadership on affordable housing - 'There's a good argument the biggest failure of this state government over the past 5½ years has been its refusal to implement any sort of meaningful policy on affordable housing.' Read the full story on the SMH website at <http://bit.ly/2aMjQv3>

Festival of Urbanism: Patrick Fensham on affordability and value capture

Great article explaining how building more houses has NOT brought prices down. We need targeted government interventions - value-capture and inclusionary zoning - to deliver affordable housing. Read more at <http://bit.ly/2aGQbAo>

Affordable housing shortage in inner Sydney leaves workers sleeping rough

More academics and community housing providers adding their voice to the call for all new developments to include affordable housing. Read more at <http://bit.ly/2aHi7KK>

People Seeking Asylum & Refugees

The Nauru Files

When will the Australian Government end this horrific offshore detention regime? 2,000 leaked reports reveal scale of abuse of children in Australian offshore detention [Warning: the article contains distressing accounts of abuse]. Read more on the Guardian's website at <http://bit.ly/2b4scPU>

The Olympics' Refugee Nation

Learn more about this incredible team of athletes competing at the Rio Olympics under a new flag at <http://bit.ly/2aXTRRi>

Your Bulletin, Your Stories

If you would like to share ideas for content for the Bulletin or wish to join the 'Vinnies NSW: Raising a Voice for Social Justice' Facebook group, please contact:

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