



## Aged & Community Services SA & NT Inc

# Retirement Living Committee

Aged & Community Services SA & NT Inc (ACS) is the peak body representing the not-for-profit aged and community care organisations in South Australia and the Northern Territory. ACS represents 56 members who operate retirement villages in South Australia, equating to 42% of total providers in the State. As of August 2009, our members operate 5265 independent living units and 1457 resident funded units.

The ACS Housing Committee was developed to proactively address housing and retirement living issues facing older South Australians. The main purpose of the Housing Committee is to:

- Monitor and identify, key initiatives that relate to housing.
- Develop policy positions, submissions strategies and/or other initiatives on behalf of the ACS membership in regard to the key matters that are identified.
- Provide leadership, policy direction and industry intelligence in regard to issues that relate to housing for older people.



### ACS Vision for housing and community connectedness in South Australia

- *Development of a variety of affordable and suitable housing options, including adaptable and supported housing and; investment in innovation and age friendly design.*

### Housing Committee Objectives

- Ensure that the committee work is aligned with the ACS strategic plan and the committee's key initiatives, taking into account the national ACSA strategic directions.
- Ensure that the views of members are considered and represented in the work of the committee.
- Keep the ACS membership informed of the key directions, actions and outcomes of the housing committee and the industry.
- Provide guidance and direction to the ACS Board as they relate to housing.
- Identify the issues that relate to the work of other ACS committees, and ensure referral where necessary.

### Committee Members

Lyn Polley – Life Care (Chair)

Vicki Stokes – Townsend House Inc. (Deputy Chair)

Anthony Bonnici – Victor Harbor Lutheran Homes

Mario Dreosti – Brown Falconer

Alf Macolino – Lynch Myer

David Moran – Southern Cross Care

Loc Nguyen – Adelaide Bank

Susan Reid – Barossa Village

Sally Strzelecki – ACH Group Inc

Paul Thorne – ECH Inc

### Housing Committee Key Initiatives

- Create and promote affordable housing opportunities for older people.
- Highlight new and innovative housing models for older people.
- Promote effective management of retirement village living.



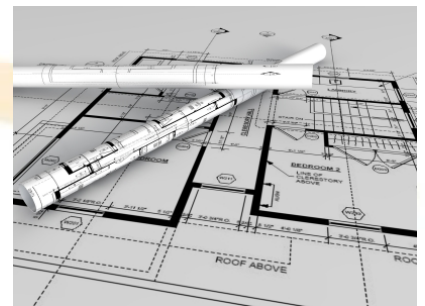
## Key Achievements

- ⇒ The Housing Committee provided industry intelligence in responding to The Greater Adelaide 30 Year Plan, a key South Australian State Government policy.
- ⇒ The Housing Committee recently collaborated with the Retirement Villages Association (RVA) to present a joint conference on 12 May 2010. The conference had more than 140 delegates in attendance.
- ⇒ The Committee's guest speaker program had invited industry leaders to share their knowledge and expertise.
- ⇒ Organising the Housing Forum and Business@Breakfast sessions to present to members up to date and relevant information on housing issues as well as the opportunity to network with key stakeholders in the industry.
- ⇒ Organised information session for members on the National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS).
- ⇒ Committee members had been invited to speak in industry events such as the SIS Retirement Expo.
- ⇒ Committee members are actively involved with the RVA Advisory Committee and the Urban Development Institute Retirement Living Committee.
- ⇒ Liaised with key industry stakeholders to advocate and influence policy and planning for affordable housing. To date the Housing Committee have had meetings and consultations with organisations such as Housing SA—Affordable Housing Innovations Unit, Planning SA, Retirement Village Residents Advocacy Service, Unity Housing.



## Ongoing Projects

- ⇒ Developing an information flyer to raise the profile and awareness of ACS Members' Independent Living Units.
- ⇒ Representing ACS at RVA meetings, ACSA national, Planning SA Round Table discussion, Older person's Forum and other committees.
- ⇒ Currently developing an ACS policy paper on the definition of affordable housing as it applies to older people.
- ⇒ The Housing Committee is currently in consultation with Local Government in discussing key policy issues and models in affordable housing.
- ⇒ Consultation with experts in architectural and environmental design in developing an appropriate green star rating to aged care buildings.
- ⇒ Organising information sessions for members to increase awareness and knowledge on environmental rating schemes, how they operate and benefits of voluntarily getting involved.
- ⇒ The Housing Committee is working with the RVA in promoting greater awareness of a national accreditation scheme for retirement villages and independent living units.



***If you want more information or to be involved with the ACS Retirement Living Committee please email us on [acs@agedcommunity.asn.au](mailto:acs@agedcommunity.asn.au) or call 8338 7111.***