

Living without the Basics: Energy, Water and Housing Conference 2021

Wednesday, May 19th 2021 - Adelaide Convention Centre

Conference Opening - Ross Womersley (CEO) / David Panter (ECH)		9.00 (15min)
Welcome to Country		9.15 (5min)
Opening Ministerial Address by The Hon Dan van Holst Pellekaan MP		9.20 (10min)
<p>Opening Keynote: Report Launch - <i>Falling through the gaps</i></p> <p>Access to safe and affordable drinking water is a basic human right, yet there are some living in rural, regional and remote South Australia who are without access to safely managed drinking water. While there are challenges and difficulties in providing drinking water services to some areas, particularly small remote Aboriginal communities, this situation is simply unacceptable in a place as prosperous as South Australia.</p> <p>This session will launch the SACOSS-Commissioned report - <i>Falling through the gaps</i> - which presents some practical solutions for improving drinking water services for regional and remote communities in South Australia.</p> <p>Rachel Barratt, Associate Director, Aither</p> <p>Panel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Rathman AM PSM • Dan Jordan, Department of Environment and Water <p>Facilitator: Ross Womersley, SACOSS</p>		9.30 (40min)
Parallel Sessions		10.10
<p>Session 1: Water Security in Regional and Remote Communities</p> <p>This session will build on the keynote session and deep dive into the “Falling through the Gaps” report. It will give delegates the opportunity to test the findings and recommendations, as well as workshop other opportunities for improving access to safe and affordable drinking water in South Australia.</p> <p>Facilitator: Rebecca Law, SACOSS</p>	<p>Session 2: The State of Rental Housing in South Australia</p> <p>South Australia, like other states, is currently experiencing a critical shortage of affordable rentals. This session aims to provide a complete picture of what is going on, based on analysis of the Report on Government Services (ROGS) Housing data.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belinda Hallsworth, SA Housing Authority • Dr. Alice Clark, Shelter SA • Prof. Chris Leishman, University of South Australia <p>Facilitator: Dr Greg Ogle, SACOSS</p>	(45min)

Morning Tea		10.55
Parallel Sessions		11.15
<p>Session 3: Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards for Housing</p> <p>The session on minimum energy efficiency standards for housing will discuss the need for thermal and energy efficiency for renters in public and social housing. Many rental and public housing properties in Australia are cold in winter and too hot in summer. This can exacerbate disadvantage, impact health, and increase costs for people who need to use more energy to keep their homes at a comfortable temperature.</p> <p>Recent research conducted by SACOSS on access to energy efficiency programs such as the Retailer Energy Productivity Scheme in SA will also be discussed.</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joel Dignam, Better Renting • Dr. Lyrian Daniel, University of Adelaide • Rob Murray-Leach, Energy Efficiency Council <p>Facilitator: Maureen Boyle, SACOSS</p>	<p>Session 4: Tenants as Water Customers</p> <p>South Australia is the only state in Australia where the costs of water supply are charged to the tenant as the default position. This is one of the many inequities faced by tenants, when it comes to access, affordability, and transparency of the costs of water services. As tenants are not the direct customer of water retailers, they have limited access to hardship supports and dispute resolution processes. The session will unpack some of the key issues and challenges faced by tenants and explore opportunities for reform.</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Sonia Masciantonio and David Coombe, SA Water • Mark Henley, Uniting Communities • Barbara Johns, South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (SACAT) <p>Facilitator: Rebecca Law, SACOSS</p>	(45min)
concluding Keynote and Wrap Up		12.00
<p>Professor Emma Baker, from the Australian Housing and Urban Research Centre, will offer closing comments based on insights gained from the conference. Emma is Professor of Housing Research at the University of Adelaide where she leads the Housing and Healthy Cities Research Group and is Director of the Stretton Institute's 'Building a City for the Future' research program.</p>		(30-45min)
Lunch		12.45