

Newsletter

December 2006

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Helping Australian seniors to find retirement housing

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To remove your name from our mailing list please send us an email with *unsubscribe* in the subject line.

Welcome to the Housing for Seniors Newsletter

Housing for Seniors would like to welcome you to our first newsletter. The aim of the newsletter is to present the latest retirement housing information and other news to all our clients and visitors to the Housing for Seniors website.

There is wealth of information on seniors housing in Australia and we hope to cover a wide range of topics of interest to seniors and their relatives.

The Housing for Seniors Newsletter welcomes contributions from Government, retirement housing providers and community groups who would like to present useful information on seniors housing. Article inclusion is at the discretion of the editor. Please send items for consideration to The Editor at admin@housingforseniors.com.au.

State & Territory Finalists for Senior Australian of the Year Awards 2007 Announced

State and Territory finalists for the Australian of the Year Awards 2007 were announced on 9 November 2006 and include people who have been nominated for their humanitarian work, community commitments, animal welfare advocacy, philanthropic efforts, women's advocacy, sporting endeavours, indigenous community support, environmental work and volunteering efforts.

State and Territory finalists include community achievers such as Stasia Dobrowski (ACT) for her work supporting the homeless, international aid leader Phoebe Williams (NSW), volunteer Mary Ehn (NT), humanitarian Norma McRae (QLD), community stalwart Roy Stubberfield (SA), grandparenting advocate Narelle Patterson (TAS), special Olympics supporter Aaron Hewitt (WA) and charity busker Joss Tonkin (WA).

State and Territory Award recipients for each category as well as the Regional and Metropolitan Local Heroes of the Year will be announced at ceremonies in each capital city throughout November and early December. Recipients in each category then become national finalists for the Australian of the Year Awards to be announced on the lawns of Parliament House in Canberra on 25 January 2007.

For more information go to www.australianoftheyear.gov.au.

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Government News

New public transport concessions for Victorian Seniors

The Victorian Government has announced a number of changes to the way Victorian Seniors Card holders can use public transport. This includes greater access to Concession fares on V/Line train and coach services, the introduction of a Seniors Sunday Pass giving free travel on metropolitan trains, trams and buses and some regional city buses on Sundays and the issuing of two Off-Peak Travel Vouchers. The changes came into effect from Sunday 27 August 2006. For further information contact Metlink on 131 638 or go to [Seniors Sunday Pass](#).

SA Government announces Seniors Grants

The South Australian Government has announced that applications are now open for the 2006-07 *Positive Ageing Development Grants* and *Grants for Seniors*. Applications are open to community organisations, such as seniors clubs and volunteer and self-help groups. Applications close on 1 December 2006.

The *Positive Ageing Development Grants*, totalling \$200,000, provide groups with funding for up to a year and are worth up to \$25,000 each. The *Grants for Seniors*, also available to community organisations, are one-off grants of up to \$2500, which can go towards practical items, supporting activities such as recreation, fitness and education. For more information contact Office for the Ageing on (08) 8207 0605 or go to [Seniors Grants](#).

New laws in NSW to notify residents about pesticide use

From 1 February 2007 it will be compulsory to notify people when pesticides are used in the common areas of multiple occupancy residential complexes.

The changes are based on the principle that people have a basic right to know when part of their place of residence is treated with pesticides. Notifying people about pesticide use means they can make informed decisions, for example, residents might choose to avoid a common area that has been recently treated. If they are aware that a pesticide application is about to take place, they can choose to close their windows or take in their washing.

Notifying residents about pesticide use before it happens does not mean that they can prevent the use of pesticides in the area. The aim of notification is to allow people to choose to reduce their exposure to pesticides if they wish. For more information the Environment Line on 131 555 or go to [NSW EPA](#).

Retirement Industry News

Retirement Village Association's Annual National Conference on 21-23 November 2006

The AdvantAge 06 conference will be held at the Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre & Conrad Jupiters Hotel Broadbeach, Queensland. Speakers at the conference include:

- Mr Peter Inge, Director of The Zig Inge Group for the last 15 years.
- Catherine De Vrye, best-selling author and former Australian Executive Woman of the Year
- Robert Gottlieb, writer and commentator on business and investment in Australia.
- Narelle Lee, AMP Lifestyle Investment Fund.
- Peter Blasina, one of Australia's foremost commentators on technology developments.
- Lachlan Wolfers specialist in taxation issues for the property industry and National Chairman of the Taxation Institute of Australia's GST and Indirect Tax Committee.
- Arthur Koumoukelis, partner at Gadens Lawyers.

For more information go to [AdvantAge 06](#).



Housing for Seniors would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

WIN a magazine subscription

All current members on our mailing list will automatically go in the draw to win a 12 month subscription to a magazine from the Magshop. The winner will be announced in the next edition of the Housing for Seniors Newsletter in early 2007.

Feedback

We welcome your thoughts and suggestions. Email us at

admin@housingforseniors.com.au

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