

Metro Community

Housing -

Newsletter – Spring Edition 2012



Metro's AGM will be held at the meeting room at Leichhardt Library in the Italian Forum, at 5.30pm on Wednesday 7th November.

Dress for Success Sydney – a free service for disadvantaged women

Dress for Success Sydney (DfS Sydney) is a not-for-profit organisation which helps economically disadvantaged women by providing appropriate professional attire for job interviews and commencement of work.

Clothing may include everything from a suit to underwear, shoes, handbag and jewellery. If required, DfS are able to organise free haircuts and new eye glasses. Further clothing can be provided once a client is employed. DfS can also provide clothing for things such as a court appearance, funeral or special meeting.

DfS Sydney also offers workshops and mentoring services to assist with the job search process and to provide support for dealing with challenges in the workplace.

For more information:

DfS Sydney website at
www.dressforsuccess.org/sydney,

Email: info@dfssydney Phone: 1800 733 456

132 Marrickville Rd - a short 10 minute walk from Sydenham station.

Home Energy Save Scheme (HESS)

HESS can help by offering low income households experiencing difficulty meeting and paying for their energy needs with:

- information about easy and affordable ways to use less energy in the home;
- one-on-one budgeting assistance;
- information on whether you are getting the right rebates and assistance;
- help to understand your energy bills and the energy market;
- advice, advocacy and support;
- links to other services that may be able to assist you; and
- help to access the No Interest Loans Scheme (NILS) to purchase energy efficient appliances.

All aspects of this service are free.

To make contact with a HESS worker you can call 1800 001 007

Metro would like to announce the winners of the \$100 voucher since our last newsletter. Remember to be eligible for the monthly draw your rent must be over 2 weeks in advance.

Congratulations to: James Aitkens, Naomi Bisasa, Muhieddine Ali El Khatib, Tomeka Monro-Mallett, Clint Robertson, David Macmillan, Craig Pilcher. ☺

WATER USAGE POLICY -

In Accordance with the Community Housing Water and transparent guidelines for Metro has a new policy for



Ministerial Guidelines for Charging and to ensure clear all Metro Housing tenants, charging tenants for their

water usage. This policy will be sent out to all tenants before it takes effect. This new policy will allow tenants the options of either paying their bill in its entirety or to make fortnightly payments. Also properties with a single water meter for multiple dwellings will now be charged 4% of their income to cover the costs of their water usage. This will all be explained in more detail when the policy is mailed out later in the month.



LEASEHOLD PROPERTIES – DO YOU KNOW YOUR MAINTENANCE EMERGENCY

CONTACTS? All tenants in leasehold properties must have a copy of their emergency contacts handy; this is located on your lease. It should be kept somewhere close so that it is easily accessible in case of an emergency. Note that the emergency after hours contact number on our phone message is for tenants in Capital properties only. If you do not have a copy of your lease or are unsure if you are in a capital property or leasehold, call the office and we will supply you with your emergency contact numbers. The emergency after hours contact will not perform work on leasehold properties so please ensure you have your emergency contacts readily available in case of an emergency.

Inner West Neighbour Aid has started a new program. The basic premise of the project is to match senior pets in people and people living with disabilities. reason or another have ended up their twilight years, and as such need a in. These animals are more 'seasoned' kitten and would make better people with higher needs. This program for financially disadvantaged clients as support to help new partnerships also provide volunteers to help with dog walking and grooming.



shelters with senior Pets that for one without a home in new home to retire than a new puppy or companions for will offer a subsidy well as ongoing blossom! We can

Australian and International studies show that owning a pet has enormous health and wellbeing benefits, pet owners are less likely to suffer from depression and loneliness. Having a companion animal is a chance to nurture and care for somebody, and adopting or fostering a pet in need of a home is an excellent opportunity to contribute to the community. For more information please contact IWNA on 97995099 or email at roman@iwna.com.au.

The NSW Government will be doing an inspection of selected social housing homes to collect information about the condition of the properties.

No maintenance will be undertaken at the time of the inspection.

This inspection will be done by independent trained Inspectors; they do not work for the Department of Housing or Metro Housing so they will not be able to answer any tenant enquiries.

All inspectors will carry photo identification, so make sure you ask to see this before allowing them to enter your home.

The inspections should take about an hour and you should be informed by letter about 1 week before the inspection date.

If you need more information or you have any questions regarding the maintenance inspections, please contact Housing NSW on 1300 468 746 (free call if made from a land line