

INNER SYDNEY REGIONAL COUNCIL e-NEWS

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Looking Forward Looking Back Mental Health Forum

Looking Forward Looking Back is a collaborative forum being organised by the Inner City Mental Health Recovery Working Party to promote consumer and carer participation across the Inner City. Keynote speakers, panel discussions and workshops will provide information on how various approaches are being used

The forum will be held at Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre on **Friday 11th June** and **Saturday 12th June**. For more information about the forum, please email Douglas Holmes on djholmes@stvincents.com.au or call Char Jones on 0432 597 279.

National Volunteer Week

National Volunteer Week celebrates the rich diversity that is our volunteering sector. National Volunteer week runs from the 10th-16th May and is the perfect opportunity to say thank you to all those people who support many initiatives in the local area.

The office of Peter Primrose, the NSW Minister for Volunteering is keen to know what's going on in your area. The Minister is eager to recognise and congratulate our volunteers and he is keen to participate in these important events as we promote volunteering across the state. So please let his office know if there are any opportunities in your local area that would benefit from the Minister's involvement. You can contact Lauren Usher by phoning 02 9228 3673 or emailing Lauren.Usher@primrose.minister.nsw.gov.au

Free over-the-phone hearing check

Australian Hearing is launching Telscreen, the most advanced over-the-phone hearing check in the world. Now your phone can tell you how good your hearing is, free of charge, anytime, from anywhere in Australia. The service is multi-language

Customers need to ring **1800 826 500** and follow the instructions. Customers must be over 18 years of age. The service is **not** available from a mobile phone. More information is available on www.hearing.com.au.

Fridge BuyBack

Fridge Buyback is a residential energy savings program that actually pays you to help save the environment and reduce your power bills by giving up your old second fridge.

Old fridges are one of the biggest energy users in the home, consuming up to three times the energy of new fridges. Fridge Buyback provides regular collection runs to selected areas of Metropolitan Sydney, The Illawarra, The Shoalhaven, The Central Coast and The Blue Mountains. To participate in the program, your fridge must be a working second fridge that has been in regular use, is 250 litres or more in size (8.83 cubic feet) and at least 10 years old.

Fridge Buyback provides residents with **free collections** by professional removalists and a **\$35 rebate*** if the removal of the fridge involves 6 steps or less. The fridge is collected for free if there are between 7 or 20 steps but no rebate is available. A fee will apply only if the property has more than 20 steps. The fridges collected are professionally degassed and the metals recycled.

Fridge Buyback is supported by the NSW Government's [Climate Change Fund](#) and local Councils. The program has already collected over 15,000 fridges and aims to collect more than 22,000 by 2011, reducing NSW's greenhouse gas emissions by over 180,000 tonnes. Opportunities to expand Fridge Buyback to NSW regional towns are being explored.

Northcott Housing Estate's 50th Anniversary

The Northcott Housing Estate in Surry Hills turns 50 in December. The Surry Hills Public Tenants Association (SHPTA) has been given a grant from the City of Sydney to compile a book on the history of the area, the building and its tenants.

If you lived or worked in the area, are an ex-tenant or know some who is, SHPTA would love to hear from you. Please contact Alison George on alison.george2@three.com.au or phone 0423 643 240.

Funding for Domestic and Family Violence Projects

As part of the NSW Government's improved approach to tackling domestic and family violence more than \$2 million in new funding is available each year to support non-Government organisations' projects to prevent or minimise the impact of domestic and family violence. At least \$900,000 of this funding is provided to projects that target Aboriginal communities.

The NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet is now calling for expressions of interest from non-Government organisations for one-off funding for domestic and family violence projects in 2009/10.

Priority will be given to projects that focus on prevention and early intervention of domestic and family violence and that target areas of high need.

Application forms and guidelines of the Domestic and Family Violence Grants Program can be found at www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/vpcu

Earth Hour 2010

Don't forget to join in Earth Hour 2010 on Saturday. Turn off your lights for an hour on Saturday March 27th at 8.30pm. This is an opportunity to reduce your environmental footprint.