

## **New regulations under the YOUTH & COMMUNITY SERVICES act (1973)**

The Youth and Community Services (YACS) legislation is the act of NSW parliament that Licensed Residential Centres (known as licensed boarding houses) are governed by which enacted and overseen by NSW Ageing Disability & Homecare.

NNC and many other agencies and bodies have been lobbying for an up date of the legislation for many many years as the legislation is very weak and viewed as not meeting the needs of the vulnerable people that reside in this type of accommodation. In the past few months new regulations were consulted on and adopted by parliament that sits within the YACS act. These regulations are around the greater requirements of LRC managers and owners to ensure the safety and well being of the residents. Some of the regulations are around physical space (ie each residents is to have a locked cabinet in their room, cleanliness of linen) meals and access to food/drinks outside structured meal times and one that is thought to have an enormous impact is that managers/owners can no longer manage or assist residents in managing their finances. This regulation has the opportunity to make significant differences to the lives and self- determination of each and every LRC resident. It also has the risk of making the current financial management situation worst. Time will tell and this is an area that many ALI services can be of assistance to residents if that is what residents want.

NNC along with many other agencies and interested parties responded to the consultation of these regulations. In the near future these submissions will be made public on the ADHC web site and the NNC submission is here on our web site for reading. Please take the time to see what NNC commented on and what areas we thought to be important, challenging and/or required further development.