



## **Housing and Urban Research Institute Western Australia**

### **May & June 2007 Newsletter**

The Housing and Urban Research Institute undertakes research and conducts consulting work for a range of potential clients which include the private and public sectors, academic institutions and NGOs regarding housing and urban issues. If you wish to discuss a piece of research regarding housing or urban and regional issues you need conducted, please contact Professor Fiona McKenzie at the Housing and Urban Research Institute of Western Australia on 9266 1087.

#### **New Australian and Urban Research Institute Melbourne Appointment**

Dr Grania Sheehan has been appointed to the position of Assistant Director, Research at AHURI Ltd. Dr Sheehan will commence work on 1 August 2007.

At present Dr Sheehan is an ARC Australian Research Fellow with a joint appointment at the University of Melbourne and Griffith University. Grania has undergraduate qualifications in public policy and psychology and a PhD in social psychology and has pursued a successful academic career in socio-legal research.

From 1997-2001 Dr Sheehan worked at the Australian Institute of Family Studies managing the 'Australian Divorce Transitions Project' and the 'Family and Marriage Research Program'. From 2002 she has held the Directorship of the 'Families, Law and Social Policy Research Unit'.

Dr Sheehan's formidable research and research management experience and skills will be a fantastic addition to our staff at AHURI Ltd.

#### **1. Potential Governance Arrangement for a Future Affordable Housing System**

Liana France, **Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI)**

National Action on Affordable Housing in Australia reflects new and more inclusive ways of thinking about and responding to the housing affordability needs of low and middle income Australians.

National Action on Affordable housing extends responsibility for addressing housing affordability beyond the existing current social housing sector to planning and local government, the private and not for profits sectors as well as a number of other government portfolios. This way of conceptualising affordable housing responses is significantly different to existing Commonwealth State Housing Agreement responses to affordability.

Consequently, in order to affect change as envisaged by National Action on Affordable Housing, new ways of organising and collaborating – new ways of governing – will be required. This discussion paper explores some governance options that could facilitate National Action on Affordable Housing.

For more information, go to:

[http://www.ahuri.edu.au/publications/download/Discussion\\_paper](http://www.ahuri.edu.au/publications/download/Discussion_paper)

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## **2. Rental Housing Provision for Lower-Income Older Australians**

Andrew Jones, Martin Bell, Cheryl Tilse and George Earl for the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, Queensland Research Centre  
April 2007

During the next two decades, the Australian community faces a major challenge to ensure the provision of good quality, affordable rental housing for lower-income, older Australians. Lower-income, non-home owners are a minority group amongst older Australians, and there has been a tendency for them to be neglected in policy debate, relative to other groups of older people.

The purpose of this research report is to scope current and emerging housing policy issues associated with this population group, and to identify policy and research questions to address their housing needs. In so doing, the project also seeks to contribute to the development of a national strategy for the housing of all older Australians.

This report has six chapters:

The introductory chapter outlines the policy context of the study, the research focus, the analytical framework, and the research methods. This is followed by two chapters that examine the 'demand' factors impinging on rental housing provision for lower-income, older Australians.

Chapter two examines the growing demand for this form of housing arising from the ageing of the population.

This is complemented in chapter three by an examination of consumer needs and preferences of various groups of older people relating to different forms of rental housing for older people.

These two chapters combined provide a basis for understanding the extent and nature of current and emerging demand for rental housing provision for this population group.

Chapters four and five focus on 'supply' factors in the social and market sectors. These two chapters examine current and likely capacity to meet anticipated demand for rental housing for older people over the next two decades.

The final chapter integrates the report's findings, examines implications for policy and research, and proposes a new approach to the governance of affordable rental housing for older Australians.

Click on the link

[http://www.ahuri.edu.au/publications/download.asp?ContentID=20170\\_fr](http://www.ahuri.edu.au/publications/download.asp?ContentID=20170_fr) to download the final report from AHURI's website

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### **3. Expressions of Interest Sought for Appointment to the Disability Council of New South Wales**

Office of the Disability Council of NSW

The Minister for Disability Services, the Hon Kristina Keneally MP, would be pleased to receive nominations for membership of the Disability Council for up to four years duration.

The Disability Council of NSW is the official adviser to the NSW Government on issues affecting people with disability and their families. The Council is also the NSW Disability Advisory Council to the Commonwealth Government.

Appointment to the Council will be made on the basis that the applicant can demonstrate:

- understanding of issues relevant to people with disability and their families;
- commitment to the human rights and social inclusion of people with disability;
- commitment to diversity and participation by people with disability from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander communities;
- effective participation within networks that enable the development and dissemination of sound advice based on community contact; and
- commitment to effective communication, consultation and feedback.

The Disability Council includes people with psychiatric, intellectual, physical disability, acquired brain injury, deaf, hearing impairment, blind, vision impairment or other disability types, as well as family members and people with particular expertise in the area of disability.

In putting forward a nomination, you should be aware that Council Members are appointed for their individual experience and expertise and not as representatives of any particular interest group or organisation.

The Disability Council highly values cultural and linguistic diversity. We strongly welcome applications from people with disability from diverse backgrounds, from Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander communities and from regional or rural NSW.

The Council usually meets monthly. Members receive attendance fees and out of pocket expenses for approved participation.

If you wish to receive an application pack or seek further information on Council Membership, please contact Dougie Herd by any of the following means:

- Telephone: (02) 9211 2866 (voice and TTY), 1800 044 848 (voice and TTY)
- Write: The Executive Officer, Level 19, 323 Castlereagh St., SYDNEY NSW 2000
- Fax: (02) 9211 2271
- email [info.disabilitycouncil@dadhc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info.disabilitycouncil@dadhc.nsw.gov.au)
- Internet <http://www.disabilitycouncil.nsw.gov.au/>

Nominations must be received **no later than Friday**, 20th July 2007

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### **4. What has Determined Longer Run Trends in Public Housing Tenants' Employment Participation 1982-2002?**

Gavin Wood, Rachel Ong and Alfred Dockery  
for the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute

In the twenty years 1982-2002 the employment participation rate of all working age persons has increased. Since 1982 there has been a particularly sharp increase in participation rates among women residing in households that are buying their home. On the other hand employment participation rates among female public housing tenants have remained low.

Among males there are small declines in the employment participation rate of homeowners and private rental tenants, but a sharp decline among male public renters over the same time period.

Click on the link

[http://www.ahuri.edu.au/publications/download/NRV1\\_Research\\_Paper\\_5](http://www.ahuri.edu.au/publications/download/NRV1_Research_Paper_5) to download the research paper

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## **5. Flexible Guidelines for the Design of Remote Indigenous Community Housing**

AHURI Positioning Paper No. 98, June 2007

by John Fien, Esther Charlesworth, Gini Lee, David Morris, Doug Baker and Tammy Grice for the Australian Housing and Urban Research

**Institute RMIT-NATSEM Research Centre**

The mathematics are defeating us now – and will continue to do so unless radical changes are enacted. Even on absurdly conservative projections, in 33 years time at current construction rates we would still be lagging unmet demand by 16 years – and probably much more than that...

*You can tick every box: health, education, training, employment, community harmony, substance abuse, violence, criminal behaviour. "With all our best efforts and despite great financial outlays, without decent housing our chances of solving these problems are likely to be largely futile."* Elliot McAdam, Minister for Housing, Local Government & Sport, Northern Territory Government.

This report is a response to the need for a flexible framework of design guidelines - a "design system" - for remote Indigenous housing.

As such, the project will provide concepts and design principles to supplement the focus on safety, health, quality control and sustainability in the National Indigenous Housing Guide and related State and Territory guidelines, with principles for the design and modification of Indigenous housing that reflect the ways in which Indigenous people use their homes and which meet the cultural and social requirements of Indigenous communities in remote Australia.

Click on the link

[http://www.ahuri.edu.au/publications/download.asp?ContentID=30354\\_pp](http://www.ahuri.edu.au/publications/download.asp?ContentID=30354_pp) to download the Positioning Paper from AHURI's website

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## **6. Invitation to Attend The National Housing Conference (NSW) 2008**

The NSW Department of Housing and the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) are delighted to extend an invitation to you to participate in the

5th National Housing Conference in Sydney from Wednesday 20 to Friday 22 February 2008.

The conference offers an exceptional opportunity for professionals working in the housing sector to meet "face-to-face" and discuss and debate the broad range of issues facing Australia's housing systems today.

This event presents an opportunity to meet and network with others in the housing sector. The 2008 National Housing Conference will attract over 1200 delegates from across Australia and overseas and provides a wonderful opportunity to meet and extend contacts.

As planning for the conference progresses, further information will be posted on this website. The opportunity to submit abstracts will open on Wednesday 13 June 2007 and online registration will open on Wednesday 1 August 2007.

In the meantime, start planning your trip to Sydney for the National Housing Conference by perusing the travel, accommodation and holiday options available.

We look forward to meeting you in Sydney.

**Mike Allen**  
Director General  
NSW Department of Housing

**Ian Winter**  
Executive Director  
AHURI

### ***Important Dates***

**Abstract Submissions Open:** June 2007

**Abstracts Due:** To be confirmed

**Notification to Presenters:** To be confirmed

**Final Papers Due:** To be confirmed

**Online Registrations Open:** Wednesday 1 August 2007

**Early Bird Registration Deadline:** Wednesday 14 November 2007

**Conference home page:** <http://www.iceaustralia.com/housing2008/index.html>

**Call for Papers (Abstracts):** <http://www.iceaustralia.com/housing2008/call.html>

**Program & Speakers:** <http://www.iceaustralia.com/housing2008/program.html>

**Conference registration:**  
<http://www.iceaustralia.com/housing2008/register.html>

**Accommodation & Travel:**  
<http://www.iceaustralia.com/housing2008/travel.html>

**Social programs & tours:**  
<http://www.iceaustralia.com/housing2008/social.html>

**Sponsorship & Exhibitors:**  
<http://www.iceaustralia.com/housing2008/sponsor.html>

**Conference venue** (The Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre):  
<http://www.iceaustralia.com/housing2008/venue.html>

**General information:** <http://www.iceaustralia.com/housing2008/general.html>

**Contact us:** <http://www.iceaustralia.com/housing2008/contact.html>