



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

**February-March 2008**

### **Australian and Urban Research Institute Research 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.

#### **Integration and social housing in Australia: challenges and options**

Australian and Urban Research Institute, Melbourne. (Positioning Paper, No. 102)

The aim of this study is to examine the themes of policy and service integration in the provision of social housing in Australia. In particular it seeks to identify the factors driving policy interest in this issue and stakeholder views about integration issues, challenges, opportunities and risks. The study takes a critical approach to identifying whether and in which circumstances greater integration may be beneficial. This approach aims to identify some options and priorities that may contribute to greater policy coherence and service coordination while also preserving and promoting diversity, flexibility, choice and responsiveness in social housing.

**Project:** Social housing diversity and integration

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#### **Home Life, Work and Housing Decisions: A Qualitative Analysis**

Australian and Urban Research Institute, Melbourne. (Research Paper: NRV1).

In this report, the researchers present the findings of qualitative research which investigates the linkages between government housing assistance and economic participation in Australia.

'Housing assistance' refers to government policy settings, regulatory regimes and programs which are intended to assist people to access and remain in affordable, adequate and appropriate housing. In particular, we focus on demand subsidies for private renters (Rent Assistance) and supply subsidy programs such as public and community rental housing.

'Economic participation' is a multi-dimensional concept that includes labour force participation (full-time or part-time employment and unemployment), participation in education or training programs (full-time or part-time), and participation in unpaid, voluntary work of various types.

[http://www.ahuri.edu.au/publications/download.asp?ContentID=nrv1\\_research\\_paper\\_7](http://www.ahuri.edu.au/publications/download.asp?ContentID=nrv1_research_paper_7)

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### **The Impact of Housing Costs on Financial Disadvantage: A Small Area Analysis**

Australian and Urban Research Institute, Melbourne. (Research and Policy Bulletin: Issue 93)

There are substantial regional differences in the impact of housing costs on financial disadvantage across Australia. The strongest impact of housing costs is found in clusters of outer suburban areas and in key rural and regional areas.

[http://www.ahuri.edu.au/publications/download/rap\\_issue\\_96](http://www.ahuri.edu.au/publications/download/rap_issue_96)

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### **How can Demanding Behaviour in Public Housing be Managed Effectively?**

Australian and Urban Research Institute, Melbourne. (Research and Policy Bulletin Issue 94)

Changes in the profile of public housing tenants in recent decades have seen a growth in the number of tenants with complex needs and demanding behaviours. By adopting practices of systematic and close support of tenants state housing authorities can assist tenants to change their behaviour and sustain their tenancies.

[http://www.ahuri.edu.au/publications/download/rap\\_issue\\_94](http://www.ahuri.edu.au/publications/download/rap_issue_94)

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### **Submarkets In Public Sector Housing**

Australian and Urban Research Institute, Melbourne. (Positioning Paper: No. 101)

In broad terms, the project aims to assess the concept of 'housing submarket' in relation to its potential policy relevance for the public housing sector. Internationally, the concept of submarkets has been much used in the analysis of private sector market dynamics, and the literature on it is voluminous. This research project hopes to extend the policy horizon of public housing by evaluating the relevance of adapting the concept to the sector.

[http://www.ahuri.edu.au/publications/download/50347\\_pp](http://www.ahuri.edu.au/publications/download/50347_pp)

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### **Australian Indigenous Housing Research: A Review and Audit**

Australian and Urban Research Institute, Melbourne. (Research and Policy Bulletin: Issue 95)

The evidence base available to support policy reform in Indigenous housing is considerable. A multi-disciplinary field of study has, since the 1970s, established knowledge of housing design, housing management, the occupation and use of housing, home ownership, and housing and well-being.

[http://www.ahuri.edu.au/publications/download/rap\\_issue\\_95](http://www.ahuri.edu.au/publications/download/rap_issue_95)

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### **Rental Housing for Lower-Income Older Australians**

Australian and Urban Research Institute, Melbourne. (Research and Policy Bulletin: Issue No. 96)

The number of people aged 65 years or over in low-income rental households will more than double by 2026. The social housing system, at its current growth rate, will not meet their needs. \

[http://www.ahuri.edu.au/publications/download/rap\\_issue\\_96](http://www.ahuri.edu.au/publications/download/rap_issue_96)

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### **Research Paper, Experiencing the housing affordability problem: blocked aspirations, trade-offs and financial hardships**

This paper seeks to address how both renters and recent purchasers experience, identify and negotiate housing affordability in their everyday lives, through focusing upon the experience of, and impact of, housing affordability concerns at the household level. The paper reveals the hardships that are experienced, and the compromises and trade-offs that are made to cope with these hardships. It also reveals how poor housing affordability affects expectations and perceptions of home purchase (in the case of renters), and how some recent purchasers find themselves on the margins of financial stress.

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### **Audio Briefing, No. 02: Housing assistance and employment**

Audio Document, 5.83 MB

Because housing is expensive assisting low-income households with their housing costs is also expensive. In welfare systems where resources are inevitably constrained arguments for sustaining or increasing levels of housing assistance can be bolstered if it can be demonstrated that such spending is an investment, not only in housing, but also in better health, education or employment outcomes.

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### **Audio Briefing, No. 01: Public housing rent policy in Australia and overseas**

Audio Document, 6.92 MB

The research for this briefing was completed for AHURI by Sean McNelis and Professor Terry Burke. It presents the first comprehensive and comparative review of public housing rent policies in Australia and seven overseas countries, New Zealand, the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, Sweden and the Netherlands.

**Project:** Rental systems in Australia

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**Research Paper, Sustaining fair shares: the Australian housing system and intergenerational sustainability**

This report is Research Paper 11 for National Research Venture 3, Housing affordability for lower-income Australians and is also published as the Final Report for Project 60314. This report examines the intergenerational sustainability of Australia's system of housing assistance over the next 40 years - the same time period covered by the Intergenerational Reports - under assumptions consistent with those made in those reports. At the same time, it broadens the IGRs' examination of sustainability (limited to fiscal sustainability for the Australian government) by looking more broadly at the intergenerational sustainability of Australia's housing system.

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**Integration and Social Housing in Australia: Challenges and Options**

Australian and Urban Research Institute, Melbourne. (Positioning Paper)

The aim of this study is to examine the themes of policy and service integration in the provision of social housing in Australia. In particular it seeks to identify the factors driving policy interest in this issue and stakeholder views about integration issues, challenges, opportunities and risks. The study takes a critical approach to identifying whether and in which circumstances greater integration may be beneficial. This approach aims to identify some options and priorities that may contribute to greater policy coherence and service coordination while also preserving and promoting diversity, flexibility, choice and responsiveness in social housing.

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**Home life, work and housing decisions: a qualitative analysis**

Australian and Urban Research Institute, Melbourne. (Research Paper)

In this report, the authors present the findings of qualitative research which investigates the linkages between government housing assistance and economic participation in Australia. 'Housing assistance' refers to government policy settings, regulatory regimes and programs which are intended to assist people to access and remain in affordable, adequate and appropriate housing. In particular, they focus on demand subsidies for private renters (Rent Assistance) and supply subsidy programs such as public and community rental housing. 'Economic participation' is a multi-dimensional concept that includes labour force participation (full-time or part-time employment and unemployment),

participation in education or training programs (full-time or part-time), and participation in unpaid, voluntary work of various types.

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### **The Housing Careers of Indigenous Urban Households**

(Final Report)

The setting of Indigenous social life in the towns and cities of Western Australia is the family community. The family community is an assemblage of kinsfolk who cooperate over time and distance economically, socially and politically. Housing is an integral feature of the economy of the family community in that the homes that belong to kinsfolk, whether rental or owned, constitute a resource open to use by the membership of the family community. People live primarily at one place, but may be welcomed as residents at one another's homes for reasons originating in the need to maintain kin associations, or through lack of any available housing alternatives. The idea of being a part of a family community is among the most strongly held elements of Indigenous identity. The provision of housing to kinsfolk is one expression of this identity. The housing careers of Indigenous people will therefore be differentiated from those of non-Indigenous Australians by the ongoing involvement of kinsfolk in each other's housing careers, often as co-residents at varying times and for varying periods of time.

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### **Home Life, Work and Housing Decisions: A Qualitative Analysis**

*(AHURI Research Paper)*

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### **The Impact of Home Maintenance and Modification Services on Health, Community Care and Housing Outcomes in Later Life**

AHURI Positioning Paper

The aim of this research project is to provide an analytical framework and research foundation for understanding the impact of home maintenance and modification (HMM) services on health, community care and housing outcomes in later life, and for developing more effective public policies relating to provision of these services.

The project is predicated on a concern that the potential of HMM services is yet to be realised and that this is an under-researched area of policy and service provision. The first two stages of the study, reported in this paper, include an international literature review and a review of the Australian service system.

The Positioning Paper also includes a review of the Australian ageing policy context. Based on these reviews, the Positioning Paper presents an analytical framework for research and policy development relating to HMM services in Australia, summarised in Figure 1.

The remainder of the project includes two studies, the first a more critical analysis of the service system and its links to ageing policy, the second a qualitative study of the experiences of consumers of HMM services.

For more information, go to:

[http://www.ahuri.edu.au/publications/download.asp?ContentID=20335\\_pp](http://www.ahuri.edu.au/publications/download.asp?ContentID=20335_pp)

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### **Child Support and Housing Outcomes**

Australian and Urban Research Institute, Melbourne. (Research and Policy Bulletin: Final Report, No. 113:)

This research describes the relationship between the payment and receipt of child support and housing outcomes. The focus is informed by diversifying family forms and household structures, which have implications for parenting, financial arrangements and the housing needs and outcomes of Parents Apart and their children. While these patterns are recognised as important social changes and policy challenges, they are relatively under-researched. This study seeks to discover how the payment and receipt of child support, along with the receipt of government income and housing assistance, affects the housing outcomes of Parents Apart (both resident and non-resident parents).

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