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About AHURI

The Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) is a national not-for-profit independent network organisation that funds, conducts, disseminates and tailors high quality research on housing, homelessness and cities. Our work informs the policies and practices of governments, industry and the community sector, and stimulates debate in the broader Australian community.

About AHURI

AHURI is a unique venture; a professional research management company that works with a collaborative network of researchers, universities and the policy and practice communities nation-wide.

AHURI’s funding is received from three sources: government grants from the Australian Government and all state and territory governments, contributions from the Institute’s university partners and third parties.

Our mission
To deliver high quality, policy-relevant evidence for better housing and urban outcomes.

Our strategic goals
→ To strengthen policy relevance
→ To ensure high quality research
→ To improve research accessibility
→ To foster dynamic collaboration
→ To support and strengthen research capability
→ To sustain and build AHURI’s management and governance performance.

AHURI Limited
AHURI Limited is a small not-for-profit management company based in Melbourne that leads and manages the work of the Institute.

Our staff and Board of Directors are experts in research, research management, research synthesis, knowledge transfer and research dissemination, including event design and organisation, and evidence informed facilitation.

We manage the National Housing Research Program and the National Cities Research Program, and also support the National Homelessness Research Network.

This report is for AHURI Limited.
Executive message 2011–12

Australia’s ever changing housing and urban concerns demand constant attention from policy-makers in government. Finding appropriate solutions is much more difficult without a relevant, high quality, evidence-base, which is why AHURI’s work is so important. Drawing from an extensive knowledge base of housing, homelessness and cities research, AHURI is a key contributor in the creation of policy solutions.

At AHURI we are proud that this important work continued to have a positive and profound influence on all levels of government and the housing sector during the year.

For governments, AHURI continued to provide a very cost effective investment in high quality, policy relevant research. AHURI’s agreement with our university partners meant the 2011–12 funding from governments and universities was leveraged to be worth $12 million in research spending, three times more than otherwise would be the case. Much of the research was focussed on the National Housing Research Program, and was directly relevant to the National Affordable Housing Agreement and associated reform program.

Developing excellent, value-for-money research is only part of our role; all research must be relevant for users. AHURI research influences national housing reform policies such as the National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA), is used by senior policy officials from the Housing and Homelessness Policy Research Working Group (HHPRWG) and Housing Ministers’ Advisory Committee, and has informed Parliamentary enquires (both federal and state) and the Productivity Commission.

AHURI continued to engage at a very high level with government ministers and senior policy officials, making sure the work of the National Housing Research Program is meeting their needs. Dr Ian Winter, Executive Director of AHURI, presented 16 face-to-face briefings with federal, state and territory housing ministers, as well as other government ministers and their advisors. He also attended meetings of the Housing Ministers’ Advisory Committee (HMAC), the Federal Minister’s Advisory Committee on Social Housing and Housing Assistance, the Prime Minister’s Council on Homelessness, the Victorian Ministerial Advisory Council on Homelessness and spoke at the Federal Government Tax Forum.

AHURI also facilitated four policy roundtables for senior government housing and planning officials, creating a knowledgeable space to discuss important policy issues and concerns.

Similarly, during 2011–12, AHURI continued to build and develop strong relationships with the nine universities in the AHURI Housing Network, and was pleased to welcome the University of Western Australia as a participant. Through AHURI, this nationwide partnership of ‘world standard’ universities brings the best research expertise in the country to help develop better policy.

‘… what there needs to be is a continuation of this discussion on a national level,’

Hon Kevin Andrews MP, Shadow Federal Minister for Families, Housing and Human Services speaking at the Beyond the current NAHA conference, October 2011.

‘Don’t underestimate the significance of being … at events like this with really good data to back it up,’

Professor David Hayward, Dean, School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning, RMIT University speaking at the Beyond the current NAHA conference, October 2011.

Mr Rodney Fehring
Chairman

Dr Ian Winter
Executive Director
For universities, being part of the network offers advantages such as extra funding opportunities; however, another important benefit is that AHURI’s active and ongoing engagement with government and other policy-makers means research findings are made readily available for strategic planning anywhere across Australia. In addition, AHURI supports top-up scholarships and postdoctoral students at these institutions.

AHURI has maintained partnerships with leading international research organisations that have complementary interests in housing and urban research and their contribution to policy development. We have important relationships with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (UK), the University of York (UK) and Delft University of Technology (The Netherlands). During the year we increased our number of international collaborators, and were very pleased to welcome the University of Hong Kong and City University of Hong Kong as research partners.

Closer to home, AHURI’s Research Synthesis Service maintained its tradition of responding quickly to clients’ requests for synthesis of existing research on topics of interest. The Service’s accurate, timely and rigorous analysis makes research very accessible, and gives clients confidence that their decisions will be based on the best available evidence.

Actively communicating the results and policy findings of research through publications, our website, seminars and conferences to key players in the policy development and practice arenas is an essential part of AHURI’s mission.

During 2011–12 AHURI published eight peer-reviewed Positioning Papers, 21 peer-reviewed Final Reports and 14 Research and Policy Bulletins. In addition, AHURI managed a growing number of important events to disseminate research including ten Housing Research Seminars held in all capital cities; the Improving housing affordability through tax reform: Australia and the UK forum co-hosted with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (UK) in Sydney; the Beyond the current NAHA conference held in Melbourne in October 2011; and the inaugural Homelessness Network Conference in April 2012.

The Beyond the current NAHA conference was a landmark event for AHURI, bringing together senior political, policy and practice voices on affordable housing in Australia. It covered a diverse range of high quality perspectives from politicians, Indigenous leaders, senior public servants, leading innovators from the not-for-profit sector and astute academic commentators.

An increasingly important part of AHURI’s communications strategy is our website and e-updates, which are attracting increasing audience numbers. Video, audio and other media generated from our events are added to the website regularly.

An interesting, but pleasing, side note is that the ‘AHURI Model’ has earned a strong reputation and is being recognised as the benchmark model for high quality, policy relevant research. Recently, AHURI has provided advice to local and international organisations seeking to emulate the ‘Model’ in the fields of education, domestic violence, bushfire management and Indigenous health.

In closing, we wish to thank all our AHURI staff for their dedication during the year. Their skill and commitment make it possible for us to meet and exceed our strategic objectives.

Our goal remains to help policy-makers and practitioners provide better housing and urban outcomes, and AHURI remains committed to the generation, interpretation and dissemination of the evidence required to make these sound decisions.
AHURI Limited is the management company that leads and manages the work of the Institute, ensuring the overall success of the company’s operations.

The AHURI Limited Board is ultimately responsible for making sure that AHURI Limited is governed in an effective and ethical manner and in accordance with its legal obligations. It is committed to the highest standards of corporate governance and the promotion of transparency in its operations.

The AHURI Limited Board determines the strategic direction of the company and supports the goals set out in the AHURI Limited Strategic Plan. The Board operates under the AHURI Limited Corporate Governance Charter, the AHURI Limited Constitution and Corporations Law.

The AHURI Limited Board is responsible for:

- establishing and determining the powers and functions of the committees of the Board, including the Audit, Finance and Risk Management Committee
- determining the strategic direction of the company
- determining policies governing the operations of the company
- ensuring statutory compliance
- ensuring compliance with the terms and conditions of the Institute’s Funding Agreement and Participants Agreement for the National Housing Research Program
- ensuring sound financial operations and solvency
- approving an annual budget and monitoring financial performance
- identifying significant risks and reviewing how these are managed
- monitoring the adequacy, appropriateness and operation of internal controls
- tracking all major policy issues and quality assurance in respect to research outputs
- ensuring compliance with all matters as prescribed by law, including, but not limited to, occupational health and safety and the environment
- appointing the Executive Director and undertaking his or her performance reviews
- appointing the Company Secretary.

Board Directors are required to disclose any potential conflict of interest. Where a potential conflict exists a Director must abstain from voting on the matter and may also be required to abstain from deliberation on the matter.

The Board has delegated specific authorities to the Audit, Finance and Risk Management Committee as outlined below.

During 2011–12 five Directors resigned due to either the rotational requirements of the AHURI Limited Constitution or the fact that they have left their government or university positions: Ms Margaret Crawford, Mr John Mortimore, Professor Deborah Terry, Mr Philip Fagan-Schmidt, Professor Graeme Wright and three alternate Directors: Professor Mark Western, Mr Andrew Tongue and Ms Liza Carroll. AHURI thanks them for their valued contributions.

The Board welcomed the following new Directors: Mr Douglas Craig, Dr Jeffrey Harmer AO, Professor Edwina Cornish, Professor Wayne McKenna, Mr Grahame Searle, and alternate Directors: Ms Tania Loosley-Smith, Professor Robert Norris, Mr Sean Innis and Mr Arthur Rogers.
AHURI Limited Annual Report 2011–12

AHURI Limited Board Directors (for all of 2011–12)

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<tr>
<th>Director</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Rodney Fehring</td>
<td>19 March 2008</td>
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<td>Dr Ian Winter</td>
<td>4 July 2003</td>
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<td>Mr Michael Kerry</td>
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<td>Ms Meredith Sussex AM</td>
<td>14 December 2010</td>
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<td>Ms Serena Wilson</td>
<td>2 September 2009</td>
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AHURI Limited Board Directors (appointed during 2011–12)

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<th>Director</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Douglas Craig</td>
<td>7 November 2011</td>
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<td>Dr Jeffrey Harmer AO</td>
<td>11 December 2011</td>
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<td>Professor Edwina Cornish</td>
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<td>Professor Wayne McKenna</td>
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<td>Mr Grahame Searle</td>
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<td>Ms Tania Loosley-Smith (alternate)</td>
<td>14 December 2011</td>
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<td>(alternate Director to Mr Grahame Searle)</td>
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<td>Professor Robert Norris</td>
<td>24 January 2012</td>
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<td>(alternate Director to Professor Edwina Cornish)</td>
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<td>Mr Sean Innis (alternate)</td>
<td>22 March 2012</td>
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<td>(alternate Director to Ms Serena Wilson)</td>
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<td>Mr Arthur Rogers (alternate)</td>
<td>24 May 2012</td>
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<td>(alternate Director to Mr Douglas Craig)</td>
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AHURI Limited Board Directors (resigned during 2011–12)

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<tr>
<th>Director</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Margaret Crawford</td>
<td>14 October 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr John Mortimore</td>
<td>10 December 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor Deborah Terry</td>
<td>10 December 2011</td>
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<td>Mr Philip Fagan-Schmidt</td>
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<td>Professor Graeme Wright</td>
<td>10 December 2011</td>
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<td>Professor Mark Western</td>
<td>10 December 2011</td>
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<td>(alternate Director to Professor Deborah Terry)</td>
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<td>Mr Andrew Tongue</td>
<td>12 September 2011</td>
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<td>(alternate Director to Ms Serena Wilson)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Liza Carroll</td>
<td>22 March 2012</td>
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<td>(alternate Director to Ms Serena Wilson)</td>
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Board meetings held during the year

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<td>19 September 2011</td>
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<td>9 December 2011</td>
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<td>29 March 2012</td>
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<td>7 June 2012</td>
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Audit, Finance and Risk Management Committee

The Audit, Finance and Risk Management Committee acts as an advisory body to the Board ensuring that the principles of good corporate governance are implemented and maintained. The Committee assists the Board in fulfilling its corporate governance responsibilities, and is responsible for overseeing the company’s risk management and internal control systems, accounting policies and practices, internal and external audit functions and financial reporting.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Chair</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Jeffrey Harmer AO</td>
<td>Mr Rodney Fehring</td>
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<td>Ms Meredith Sussex AM</td>
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Meetings held during the year

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<td>25 August 2011</td>
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<td>3 November 2011</td>
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ACTIVE FACE TO FACE COMMUNICATION

In 2011 the AHURI Board increased investment in communicating research evidence into policy development and practice change. As a result, during 2011–12 AHURI hosted two national conferences, four roundtables for senior government officials, ten National Housing Research Program Seminars and four other seminars. Audience surveys revealed that 83% found these events ‘useful’ or ‘very useful’.

This high level of satisfaction is indicative of the positive way key stakeholders value AHURI research and consider the evidence-base in policy deliberations.
The year in review 2011–12

National Housing Research Program

The National Housing Research Program is AHURI’s premiere activity, delivering high quality, policy-oriented housing research and associated events.

Brokered and managed by AHURI, the National Housing Research Program is a collective enterprise of the Australian federal, state and territory governments working together with nine partner universities and other third parties.

Research initiated through the program is highly relevant to policymakers and practitioners, and aims to deliver better housing market outcomes, create effective and efficient housing assistance programs and build viable communities.

This cost-effective program has grown to become an essential, comprehensive evidence-base for all working in the fields of housing policy and practice, including those from all levels of government. AHURI is very pleased to announce that all funding parties have agreed to extend the National Housing Research Program for a further two years until June 2014.

The influence of the research program can be seen in the response to AHURI papers such as Housing Supply Bonds—a suitable instrument to channel investment towards affordable housing in Australia?, which was published in May 2012. The findings from the research were discussed with the Housing and Homelessness Policy and Research Working Group, a standing committee of the Housing Ministers Advisory Committee, and other key government and industry stakeholders.

During 2011–12 AHURI Limited allocated around $3.75 million to the program, initiating 16 new research projects, with a further 21 projects continuing from previous years. Of particular note are the two important Multi-Year Research Projects approved during the year by the AHURI Limited Board. Multi-Year Research Projects (MYRP) tackle research questions that are complex or take a long time to unfold. They are collaborative, combining the expertise of a number of AHURI Research Centres and partners in government, industry and the community sector.

The AHURI Research Centres at University of Queensland, Swinburne University, Monash University, University of NSW and University of Western Sydney are working together on the MYRP, Addressing spatial concentrations of social disadvantage, focusing on the role of housing policies and programs in meeting the challenges presented by spatial concentrations of disadvantage. A policy, practice and literature review has already been completed, while in March 2012 an AHURI Housing Research Seminar was held in Canberra to outline the project’s research agenda.

In an exciting collaboration with the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) and the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR), the AHURI Queensland Research Centre has developed the MYRP, Aboriginal lifeworlds, conditionality and housing outcomes. The study is a timely contribution to national policy debates concerned with reducing Indigenous disadvantage and improving housing outcomes. A key feature of the MYRP is its active engagement with both the Indigenous and policy communities and dissemination of findings to Indigenous community organisations and government housing personnel at the regional, state and national levels. An overview of the MYRP was presented at the AHURI Housing Research Seminar in Adelaide in March 2012.

Each AHURI research project covers one or more of the following ten themes:

- Economics and modelling
- Health, ageing and disabilities
- Home ownership
- Private rental
- Public and community housing
- Indigenous housing
- Housing affordability
- Homelessness and housing
- Social wellbeing
- Urban planning and development

All research developed by the National Housing Research Program is available publicly from the AHURI website at no cost. AHURI also disseminated findings from the Program in email newsletters and at a series of ten Housing Research Seminars held in capital cities around Australia. The seminars connect policy-makers with the rigorous and robust evidence-base to assist the development of good policy. More than half of those attending found the seminars to be ‘very helpful’.

In addition, the National Housing Research Program continued to invest in future research capacity building activities by jointly sponsoring 25 Postgraduate Scholars and four Postdoctoral Fellows with AHURI’s Research Centres. These sponsorships encourage students who are beginning their careers in Australian housing and urban research, and provide continuous professional development opportunities that sustain and grow Australia’s housing and urban research capacity.
Research Centre summaries

The University of Western Australia became a partner university to the AHURI Housing Network on 1 August 2011.

Flinders University and Murdoch University ceased being partner universities to the AHURI Housing Network on 23 August 2011 and 31 December 2011 respectively.

AHURI Queensland Research Centre
Director Professor Andrew Jones

Research projects
- Aboriginal lifeworlds, conditionality and housing outcomes (Multi-Year Research Project)
- Bridging the divide: the experiences of low-income households excluded from the private rental sector in Australia
- Overcrowding for Indigenous households in non-remote areas
- Preventing first time homelessness amongst older Australians

Postgraduate Scholars
Julie Conway Addressing concentrations of social disadvantage in South-east Queensland
Mithila Karmaker Housing pathways of Bangladeshi new immigrants to Australia: experiences and barriers
Melanie Spallek Interrelationships between housing transitions, fertility and levels of wellbeing

Postdoctoral Fellow: Dr Cameron Parsell

AHURI RMIT Research Centre
Director Associate Professor Robin Goodman

Research projects
- Current labour processes and management of subcontractors: impacts on productivity in the housing construction industry
- Evaluating housing and health outcomes at Lakewood
- Marginal rental housing and marginal renters: a typology for policy
- Resident third party objections and appeals against planning applications: implications for medium density and social housing
- The edges of home ownership
- The housing security consequences of underemployment
- Understanding the patterns, characteristics and trends in the housing sector labour force in Australia
- Wellbeing outcomes of low-income renters: a multilevel analysis of area effects

Postdoctoral Scholars
Naomi Bailey Breaking the cycle: the role of housing and support in resolving chronic homelessness
Kristen Bell Accessibility measures in planning practice
Bronwyn Meyrick Housing affordability versus environmental sustainability: what’s the right thing to do?
Alice Stoakes Making up and breaking up: an assessment of marriage and cohabitation, and its impact on wealth outcomes
Cael Leskovec Strategic spatial planning in the context of environmental uncertainty: a comparative study of Melbourne and Milan and its implications for Australian planning

Postdoctoral Fellow: Dr Sharon Parkinson

AHURI Southern Research Centre
Director Associate Professor Keith Jacobs

This Research Centre contains Flinders University (exited 23 August 2011) and University of Tasmania.

Postgraduate Scholars
Erika Altman How do effective sourcing strategies relate to organisational capacity and governance?
David Bunce Community-based organisations: how can they increase the supply of affordable housing? (commenced at Flinders University, continuing at University of Adelaide)
Kathleen Flanagan New public management and government services provision

Postdoctoral Fellow: Dr Felicity Picken

AHURI Swinburne-Monash Research Centre

Until 31 December 2011
Director Professor Terry Burke
Deputy Director Professor Shane Murray

From 1 January 2012
Director Professor Shane Murray
Deputy Director Professor Terry Burke

Research projects
- Changes in the private rental system and the effects of long-term private rental
- Changing spatial distribution of lower-income housing: understanding and responding to transport disadvantage
- Homelessness prevention for women and children who have experienced domestic and family violence: innovations in policy and practice
- Processes for developing affordable and sustainable medium-density housing models for greyfield precincts

Postgraduate Scholars
Naomi Bailey Breaking the cycle: the role of housing and support in resolving chronic homelessness
Kristen Bell Accessibility measures in planning practice
Bronwyn Meyrick Housing affordability versus environmental sustainability: what’s the right thing to do?
Alice Stoakes Making up and breaking up: an assessment of marriage and cohabitation, and its impact on wealth outcomes
Cael Leskovec Strategic spatial planning in the context of environmental uncertainty: a comparative study of Melbourne and Milan and its implications for Australian planning

Postdoctoral Fellow: Dr Sharon Parkinson
• Social inclusion and housing: a household and local area analysis
• Tall tales and true: housing stories from ABS data
• The role of informal community resources in supporting independent housing for young people recovering from mental illness: a guide for housing policy-makers and practitioners

Postgraduate Scholars
Sarah Greenlees Spatial disadvantage over time: are areas locked into spatial disadvantage?
Mark Singer Resilience in a social housing system
Vivien Streeter Retrospective longitudinal study of housing and urban regeneration and social inclusion outcomes of the redevelopment of Bowden Brompton
Richard Williams A study of front-line workers and public housing tenants implementing social policies together

AHURI Western Australia Research Centre
Until 31 December
Acting Director Dr Kaylene Zaretsky
Deputy Director Associate Professor Steven Rowley

From 1 January 2012
Director Associate Professor Steven Rowley

This Research Centre contains Murdoch University and Curtin University.

Research projects
• Housing and children’s development and wellbeing: evidence from Australian data
• Housing equity withdrawal: uses and risks of alternative options for older Australians
• The financing of residential development in Australia

Postgraduate Scholars
Colin Beattie ‘Decarbonising’ urban development
Samantha Hall Greening the built environment: design and performance assessment for green buildings

AHURI UNSW-UWS Research Centre
Until 31 December 2011
Director Professor Peter Phibbs
Deputy Director Dr Simon Pinnegar

From 1 January 2012
Director Professor Hal Pawson
Deputy Director Professor Peter Phibbs

This Research Centre contains University of NSW and University of Western Sydney.

Research projects
• Addressing spatial concentrations of social disadvantage (Multi-Year Research Project)
• Community Land Trusts and Indigenous communities: from strategies to outcomes
• Downsizing amongst older Australians
• Financing and institutional arrangements for the provision of affordable rental housing in Australia (Investigative Panel)
• Public housing stock transfers past, present and prospective
• The role of community housing in meeting the housing and support needs of homeless people
• Understanding and addressing local opposition to affordable housing projects
• Understanding decision making in the not-for-profit housing sector: longitudinal and comparative components
• Understanding leadership, strategy and organisational dynamics in the not-for-profit housing sector

Postgraduate Scholars
Tayanah Caldarella Planning for sea level rise: the socio-legal value of land and development
Phillippa Carnemolla Enabling built environments: home modifications and waged acre substitution
Jennifer Kent Barriers to active transport
Martin Nichols Infrastructure costs associated with forms of urban development
Kelly-Anne Small Improving social housing options for people with complex needs
Andrew Tice The role of lower value housing markets in the post-industrial city
Nicole Moore The engagement of Indigenous epistemology and institutions in policy making: a case study of Aboriginal housing policy in NSW and the implications for an Aboriginal housing research agenda
Gordon Bijen Housing estate of mind: exploring the impact of public housing renewal upon community life

Postdoctoral Fellow: Dr Dallas Rogers

AHURI University of Western Australia Research Centre
Director Winthrop Professor Paul Flatau

Research projects
Refugees, housing and social inclusion in Australia
The cost of homelessness and the net benefit of homelessness programs: a national study
Homelessness and services and system integration
National Homelessness Research Network

The National Homelessness Research Network facilitates evidence-informed conversation between researchers, policy-makers and practitioners to develop real solutions to homelessness.

Rather than commissioning or publishing research, the Network draws on existing homelessness research, including that funded through the AHURI National Housing Research Program, and organises events to disseminate this research and engage with policy-makers and practitioners.

There are three elements underpinning the Network:

› to coordinate discussion between researchers, policy-makers and practitioners
› to draw on the expertise of these communities to critique the quality of available research
› to test the application of this research for policy and practice

The Network’s work during 2011-12 culminated in the inaugural Homelessness Research Conference, which was co-hosted by AHURI Limited and RMIT University in Melbourne on 19 and 20 April 2012. Over 200 delegates attended, hearing from many leading Australian and international researchers.

Dr Ian Winter, Executive Director of AHURI Limited, co-opened the conference, emphasising the significance of knowledge transfer and policy relevant research in attending to homelessness. Government policy-makers and eminent local and international researchers gave keynote presentations on important topics such as the role of the Australian Government in addressing homelessness; how policy is affecting homelessness in the United States; and the European Housing First approach to homelessness.

The conference was a significant event for the National Homelessness Research Network and an important step in continuing the development of homelessness research capacity nationally. It was an ideal setting for participants to further their understandings, exchange ideas and develop professional networks. AHURI plans to hold a further Homelessness Research Conference in 2014.

Identifying and critiquing high-quality local and international research is vital for policy-makers and practitioners. AHURI and the National Homelessness Research Network are ideally placed to develop a rigorous and relevant evidence-base that builds constructive engagement, improves policy and practice, and produces better outcomes for the community.

A significant event for the National Homelessness Research Network in 2011–12 was the inaugural Homelessness Research Conference co-hosted in Melbourne in April by AHURI and RMIT University.

It not only provided delegates with an opportunity to hear from many leading Australian and international researchers, including Professor Dennis Culhane from the US and Dr Volker Busch-Geertsema from Germany, but it was also a timely opportunity to inform national policy and practice discussions to help shape the future direction of homelessness research in Australia.
The National Cities Research Program was given an important boost in March 2012 when the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, announced the Australian Government will partner with AHURI to organise a conference series about cities.

Featuring the theme of Economic productivity and the city, the first National Urban Policy Conference (NUPC) will be held in May 2013, with further conferences scheduled for 2015 and 2017. The events are aimed at key decision-makers and stakeholders in the government and private sectors, including those working in the areas of infrastructure, transport, resources, logistics, planning and housing. Planning is already underway at AHURI for the 2013 conference, which will develop and sustain evidence-based discussion on issues such as urban growth and renewal, infrastructure funding, energy use, economically productive cities, housing affordability, and freight, commuter and passenger transport. These are all real and pressing political, policy and practice issues that will benefit from thought leadership, credible research and informed debate.

AHURI’s influence in the development of national policy continued when the National Cities Research Program partnered with the COAG Reform Council and the National Transport Commission to facilitate a COAG Reform Council workshop (COAG’s objectives for cities-how are we faring?) and also helped shape a second workshop. These workshops informed the findings of a select panel which reported to COAG. In addition, AHURI’s Executive Director, Dr Ian Winter, under the auspices of the National Cities Research Program, facilitated two roundtables for Directors-General. The participants were very enthusiastic about the outcomes and expressed strong interest in the roundtables continuing in the future.

The National Cities Research Program supported the SOAC (State of Australian Cities) Conference held in Melbourne in December 2011, and continues to support two on-going research projects: Metropolitan planning governance in relation to affordable housing supply (Investigative Panel) funded by Australand and the Residential Development Council and Review of economic evaluation methods for city shaping projects funded by the Victorian Department of Planning and Community Development. Both research projects will deliver their Final Reports in 2012–13.

AHURI’s National Cities Research Program recognises the need for integrated solutions that will produce high-quality outcomes across housing, land supply, urban infrastructure and economic development, and that such solutions are critical to the future development of our cities. AHURI continues to work to secure ongoing funding to expand the Program.
The Research Synthesis Service responds quickly to requests from clients for synthesis of existing research on their topic of interest, and then delivers outputs targeted for specified users. Its success is based on providing clients with solutions, giving them confidence that their decisions are based on the best available evidence. It makes the research more accessible and gives clients the resources for innovation and problem-solving.

The Service has a growing role in evidence-based facilitation. It runs workshops and facilitation services, helping turn research evidence into workable policy solutions and engaging stakeholders in candid and robust reflection on findings and implications. The Service also independently evaluates and assesses the outcomes and effectiveness of interventions at the project or program level and links these to national and international evidence.

During 2011–12, the Research Synthesis Service completed eight projects valued at $286,838 for a diverse range of clients from across Australia, including federal and state government housing departments. The shortest project took just two weeks to complete, the longest two months; however, the usual time to complete a project was six weeks.

Some key projects delivered by the Service include syntheses of the most effective policy and programs for homelessness; planning mechanisms to increase supply of affordable housing; and reform options to improve housing affordability. The work of the Service has been instrumental in making cases to housing ministers and providing information to them in an accessible and comprehensible form. It has assisted policy formulation by ensuring recommendations are based on evidence.

The feedback from clients has been extremely positive:

- ‘a useful and cost effective way of accessing state-of-the-art knowledge’
- ‘an efficient and effective service to review the evidence on a specific topic’
- ‘helpful to know that all relevant research has been captured and brought succinctly together – so we can form a policy position informed by relevant information’.

Although most projects are confidential, some do produce reports that are publicly available. For example, a report into ways to measure the effectiveness of homelessness services was completed in 2011 and published on the AHURI website (www.ahuri.edu.au/publications/projects/psyn043). The report also included a brochure, Making a difference: an outcomes model to guide Australia’s response to homelessness, that is of immediate and practical value for practitioners working in the area.

Responses from Research Synthesis Service client survey 2011–12
Revenue
The three year National Housing Research Program Funding Agreement with the Australian Government and all state and territory governments, which commenced on 1 July 2009, has been extended for a further two years at an increased level of funding. Payments are spread unevenly over the period.

Research Centre funding has increased due to the move to a single participant fee for each university under the revised Participants Agreement and in line with inflation to maintain the real value of contributions.

The Research Synthesis Service has continued its activities in 2011–12 with an increased focus on the evaluation service.

Other research stream income includes the National Cities Research Program and the National Homelessness Research Network.

Increased activity in AHURI’s events program has contributed to income in all other streams.

Expenditure
The National Housing Research Program expenditure varies from year to year due to the timing of the commissioning of research activities. An increased level of activity is anticipated in the next financial year.

Summary of revenue and expenditure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Housing Research Program</td>
<td>3,544,267</td>
<td>3,778,082</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Synthesis income</td>
<td>286,838</td>
<td>418,926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other research stream income</td>
<td>341,059</td>
<td>134,891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest from term deposits</td>
<td>378,758</td>
<td>397,199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest from banks</td>
<td>9,172</td>
<td>10,184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other revenue</td>
<td>7,611</td>
<td>29,249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total revenue</strong></td>
<td>4,567,705</td>
<td>4,768,531</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administrative and research management expenses</td>
<td>(2,680,126)</td>
<td>(2,177,592)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amounts paid or payable to AHURI Research Centres</td>
<td>(3,099,419)</td>
<td>(2,559,289)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenditure</strong></td>
<td>(5,779,545)</td>
<td>(4,736,881)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Net operating surplus (deficit) for the year ended 30 June 2012 | (1,211,840) | 31,650
Dr Anne Badenhorst  Research Director, Housing
Ms Anne Collins  Finance Manager
Ms Kristina Conley  Conference and Events Coordinator (from 28 September 2011)
Dr Lauren Costello  Director, Research Synthesis (appointed on 2 February 2012, previously Senior Analyst, Research Synthesis)
Mr Damien Coup  Digital Communications Coordinator
Mr Jim Davison  Assistant Director, Research
Ms Kerry Fewings  Administrative Assistant
Ms Tamlin Gorter  Research Manager
Dr Hellene Gronda  Director, Research Synthesis (until 13 January 2012)
Ms Barbara Harman  Executive Assistant and Company Secretary
Ms Karen Ho  Finance Assistant
Dr Andrew Hollows  Deputy Executive Director
Dr Katie Jones  Research Synthesis Senior Analyst (from 10 October 2011)
Ms Juan Li  Research Communications Coordinator
Ms Caroline Thompson  Communications Director
Dr Melanie Thomson  Research Synthesis Senior Analyst (appointed on 16 April 2012, previously Assistant Research Manager)
Mr Gary Tjia  Accounts Assistant (from 25 August 2011)
Dr Vicki Anne-Ware  Research Synthesis Senior Analyst (until 14 July 2011)
Dr Ian Winter  Executive Director