The Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) is a national not-for-profit independent network organisation. We fund, conduct, disseminate and coordinate high quality research on housing, homelessness and related urban issues, including research specific to Indigenous Australians. Our work informs the policies and practices of governments and industry, and stimulates debate in the broader Australian community.

AHURI is a unique venture – a professional research management company that works with a collaborative network of researchers, universities and policy and practice communities nationwide.

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 National Cities Research Program, and also support the Indigenous Housing and Homelessness Policy, Practice and Research Network and National Homelessness Research Network.

This Annual Report is for the AHURI management company, AHURI Limited.
AHURI Limited Annual Report 2012–13

Executive message 2012–13

AHURI Limited Annual Report 2012–13

AHURI continues to provide high-quality research on housing, homelessness and related urban issues – including research specific to Indigenous Australians – to assist governments and the community to address ever increasing policy and practice challenges.

Australia is entering a critical juncture in relation to housing and homelessness policy reform and debate. Policy expectations and the roles of government are shifting. For policymakers in all levels of government, providing evidence informed direction for Australia’s changing housing, homelessness and related urban concerns means having access to a relevant, high-quality research base.

Policy relevance

To this end, AHURI maintained its very high-level engagement with government ministers and senior policy officials during the year to ensure that our core research program, the National Housing Research Program, continued to meet their needs.

Managed by AHURI Limited, the National Housing Research Program is a collective enterprise of Australian federal, state and territory governments working together with AHURI’s 11 partner university research centres to deliver high-quality, policy-oriented housing research and associated activities.

Dr Ian Winter, Executive Director of AHURI, presented face to face briefings with federal, state and territory ministers, their advisors and senior government officials on 26 occasions and participated in 11 policy advisory committee meetings. He also attended meetings of COAG’s Select Council on Housing and Homelessness, the Housing and Homelessness Ministers’ Advisory Committee, the Federal Minister’s Advisory Committee on Social Housing and Housing Assistance and the Victorian Ministerial Advisory Council on Homelessness, and facilitated a Housing Chief Executive’s Roundtable convened by AHURI. This high-level engagement enabled AHURI to actively inform and contribute to national housing and homelessness reform policies and priorities throughout the year.

Recurrent funding for the National Housing Research Program has been extended to mid-2014, demonstrating the value of this cost-effective core activity to our key stakeholders.

Cost-effective investment

AHURI continued to provide a very cost-effective investment by governments in high-quality, policy-relevant research. Our agreement with our university partners meant that the 2012–13 funding from governments and universities was leveraged to be worth $12 million in research spending, approximately three times more than otherwise would be the case.

New research partners

We were pleased to welcome The University of Sydney and The University of Adelaide to our network of National Housing Research Program partner universities during the year. Their participation, together with our other partner universities, further strengthens AHURI’s ability to draw on the best research expertise in Australia. Their continued support is appreciated – as is the confidence they place in AHURI to broker and administer project grants. In addition to our national partners, AHURI maintains active partnerships with leading international universities that have complementary interests in housing, homelessness and urban research.

Strengthened research capacity

AHURI continued to support and strengthen research capacity during the year by jointly funding four new Postgraduate Scholars and one new Postdoctoral Fellow with our partner universities.

These activities will help sustain and grow Australia’s housing research capabilities into the future.
AHURI Evidence Reviews “…are a godsend for people with little time or inclination to read research papers and a really great way of focussing minds on key housing and urban issues.”

Dr Owen Donald, Chairman, National Housing Supply Council

Policy influence
During the year, research funded by AHURI influenced a number of national strategic policy directions. For example, work led by Dr Julie Lawson from the AHURI Research Centre at RMIT University looking at the use of institutional investment to increase the supply of affordable housing was presented to both the Ministerial Select Council on Housing and Homelessness and the Housing and Homelessness Ministers’ Advisory Committee. In addition, research published by AHURI influenced the reform recommendations from the Queensland Commission of Audit published in February 2013.

New initiatives
In response to the needs of AHURI key stakeholders, we instigated a number of initiatives during the year.

The Indigenous Housing and Homelessness Policy, Practice and Research Network was established following the provision of establishment funds from the Australian Government in support of their commitment to Closing the Gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

The objectives of the Network are to: effect an improved transfer of research into policy development or practice change; identify gaps in the research and share in the responsibility of investing in such research; share policy and practice experience of what works and why; and create opportunities for peer-to-peer critique of policy, practice and research.

This is an ambitious agenda but one which AHURI believes ultimately will be viewed as a ground-breaking initiative in a very complex and challenging social policy area.

Similarly, the ambitious but highly successful inaugural National Urban Policy Conference attracted key stakeholders who are currently wrestling with the challenges of urban development facing Australia.

Active, successful dissemination
In January 2013 we launched AHURI Evidence Review, a short weekly online article linking our research findings to contemporary debates, media discussions and community concerns. Aimed at those with little time, each issue connects the findings from different AHURI research projects to help the policy and practice communities, and the interested public, understand what evidence is available on a topic and what it means. This new communication mechanism supplemented our suite of research dissemination and engagement activities during the year and has proved popular with our client groups.

The public release of research reports and other material by AHURI is made possible with the continued funding we receive from the Australian Government and all state and territory governments. Actively communicating the results and policy findings of our research through AHURI’s publications, website, digital and social media and events is an essential part of achieving our mission of delivering evidence-based research of the highest quality to inform better housing and urban outcomes.

The year in review
The year in review summaries that follow in this report provide information on the research and other activities that AHURI has undertaken in the past year.

AHURI has continued to provide a very cost-effective investment for governments in its fulfilment of its mandate. Our continued achievements in building the evidence-base and our commitment to timely and accessible information dissemination to key decision-makers has provided a foundation for informed policy development in this complex and challenging area.

Our thanks
The collegiate operations of the AHURI Limited Board of Directors are greatly appreciated. They bring high-level expertise and commitment to their deliberations and their supportive guidance is valued.

We would also like to acknowledge the integrated work of a very professional and knowledgeable team of staff. Their contribution to AHURI’s achievements is highly valued and appreciated.

The role AHURI effectively and credibly plays in the housing, homelessness and urban development arena is widely acknowledged. The organisation has performed credibly against these goals. But we remain cognisant that as new issues and contexts emerge AHURI will need to maintain its leadership position in this arena by continued creativity, diversity and professionalism.
AHURI Limited is the management company that leads and manages the work of the Institute, ensuring the overall success of the Institute’s operations.

The AHURI Limited Board is responsible for ensuring 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.

During 2012–13 seven Directors resigned due to either the rotational requirements for Board members under the AHURI Limited Constitution or their departure from government or university positions: Professor Edwina Cornish, Mr Doug Craig, Mr Sean Innis (alternate Director to Ms Serena Wilson), Professor Kim Langfield-Smith, Professor Wayne McKenna, Professor Robert Norris (alternate Director to Professor Edwina Cornish) and Mr Arthur Rogers. AHURI thanks them for their valued contributions.

The Board welcomed the following new Directors: Professor Andrew Cheetham, Professor Kim Langfield-Smith, Mr Paul McBride (alternate Director to Ms Serena Wilson), Mr Arthur Rogers, Dr Campbell Thomson and Mr Peter White.
AHURI Limited Board Directors

For all of 2012–13

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Director</th>
<th>Appointed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr Rodney Fehring</td>
<td>19 March 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Jeffrey Harmer AO</td>
<td>11 December 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Michael Kerry</td>
<td>10 December 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Tania Loosley-Smith (alternate Director to Mr Grahame Searle)</td>
<td>14 December 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Grahame Searle</td>
<td>11 December 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Meredith Sussex AM</td>
<td>14 December 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Serena Wilson</td>
<td>2 September 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Ian Winter</td>
<td>4 July 2003</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Appointed during 2012–13

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Director</th>
<th>Appointed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professor Andrew Cheetham</td>
<td>15 December 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor Kim Langfield-Smith</td>
<td>10 January 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Paul McBride (alternate Director to Ms Serena Wilson)</td>
<td>10 January 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Arthur Rogers (alternate Director to Mr Douglas Craig)</td>
<td>24 May 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Arthur Rogers</td>
<td>1 August 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Campbell Thomson</td>
<td>7 June 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Peter White</td>
<td>15 December 2012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Resigned during 2012–13

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Director</th>
<th>Resigned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professor Edwina Cornish</td>
<td>9 January 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Douglas Craig</td>
<td>31 July 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Sean Innis (alternate Director to Ms Serena Wilson)</td>
<td>9 January 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor Kim Langfield-Smith</td>
<td>5 June 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor Wayne McKenna</td>
<td>14 December 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor Robert Norris (alternate Director to Professor Edwina Cornish)</td>
<td>14 December 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Arthur Rogers</td>
<td>14 December 2012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Board meetings held during 2012–13

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27 September 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 December 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 March 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 June 2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

Chair
Dr Jeffrey Harmer AO

Members
Mr Rodney Fehring
Ms Meredith Sussex AM

Meetings held during 2012–13

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23 August 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 October 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 March 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 May 2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AHURI continued to successfully deliver the National Housing Research Program during the year, ensuring the ongoing development of a high quality evidence-base and its transfer into policy development and practice.

**National Housing Research Program**

Managed by AHURI Limited, the National Housing Research Program is a collective enterprise of Australian federal, state and territory governments working together with AHURI’s 11 partner university research centres and other third parties to deliver high quality, policy-oriented housing research and associated activities.

Recurrent funding for the Program has been extended to mid-2014, demonstrating the value of this cost-effective core activity to our key stakeholders.

During 2012–13, AHURI Limited invested $2.15m for 12 new projects through the annual National Housing Research Program competitive funding round process.

In addition, AHURI’s two major multi-year projects continued – **Addressing spatial concentrations of social disadvantage** (with Professor Hal Pawson leading a team from The University of New South Wales, Swinburne University of Technology and The University of Queensland) and **Aboriginal lifeworlds, conditionality and housing outcomes** (with Professor Paul Memmott leading a team from The University of Queensland, The University of Tasmania and Curtin University). Both projects are tackling research questions that are complex and/or longitudinal in nature and each includes an integrated suite of project outputs and activities.

In addition, the National Housing Research Program continued to invest in future research capacity building activities by jointly funding four new Postgraduate Scholars and one new Postdoctoral Fellow with AHURI’s partner university research centres.

We were pleased to welcome The University of Sydney and The University of Adelaide to our network of university partners during the year. Their participation, together with the participation of our other partner universities, further strengthens AHURI’s ability to draw on the best research expertise in Australia to support the delivery of the National Housing Research Program to our key stakeholders.

To 30 June 2013 nearly 210 research projects have been completed through the Program with each addressing one or more of the following key research themes:

- economics and modelling
- health, ageing and disability
- home ownership
- homelessness and housing
- housing affordability
- Indigenous housing
- private rental
- public and community housing
- social wellbeing
- urban planning and development.

The public release of research reports and other material by AHURI is made possible with the continued funding we receive from the Australian Government and all state and territory governments.

We continued to expand our suite of research dissemination and engagement activities during the year. In addition to publishing research reports on our website and announcing new research via our weekly e-newsletter to subscribers, we held a research seminar in each Australian capital city and joined with the Queensland Government to host the 7th National Housing Conference in Brisbane.

We also launched **AHURI Evidence Review** – a short weekly online article linking our research findings to contemporary debates, media discussions and community concerns.

Aimed at those with little time, each article connects the findings from different AHURI research projects to help the policy and practice communities, and the interested public, to understand what evidence is available on a topic and what it means.

Articles published during the year addressed a diversity of themes and issues including: the projected increased demand in public housing, the use of bonds to fund affordable rental housing, how to help Australia’s ‘rough sleepers’, and how having an even spread of affordable housing improves economic growth for everyone.

Feedback to this new communication mechanism has been very positive with many commenting on how well the articles help them focus thinking on key housing and urban issues.

AHURI has continued to provide a cost-effective investment in high quality, policy relevant research for governments. Our continued achievements in building the evidence-base and our commitment to timely and accessible information dissemination to key decision-makers has provided a foundation for informed policy development in this complex and challenging area.
Research Centre summaries

On 1 July 2012, all the National Housing Research Program partner university research centres became single university research centres and were renamed.

The University of Sydney became a partner university on 4 June 2013.
The University of Adelaide became a partner university on 24 June 2013.

AHURI Research Centre
Curtin University
Director, Associate Professor Steven Rowley

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 Research Centre
Monash University
Director, Professor Shane Murray

Research projects
Processes for developing affordable and sustainable medium-density housing models for greyfield precincts
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 Scholar
Luc Borrowman Housing affordability using the residual method in the Australian context

AHURI Research Centre
RMIT University
Director, University Associate Professor Robin Goodman

Research projects
Affordable housing, urban renewal and planning: emerging practice in NSW, SA and Qld
Cost-effective methods for evaluation of Neighbourhood Renewal programs
Current labour processes and management of subcontractors: impacts on productivity in the housing construction industry
Delivering diverse and affordable infill housing development (Investigative Panel)
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
Structural drivers of homelessness 2001–11
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
Homelessness: re-shaping the policy agenda?
Enhancing affordable housing investment via a social housing guarantee
Housing affordability dynamics in Australia 2010–11

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?
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 Research Centre
Swinburne University of Technology

Until 31 January 2013 Director, Professor Terry Burke
From 1 February 2013 Director, Dr Wendy Stone

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
Social inclusion and housing: a household and local area analysis
Tall tales and true: housing stories from ABS data
Changes in the supply/demand for low-rent housing in the Australian private rental market
Sustaining private rental tenancies: targeted tenant support across life events and housing transitions
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 Research Centre
The University of Adelaide
Director, Dr Emma Baker

Postgraduate Scholars
Jasmine Palmer Policy, planning and design in Australian higher-density urban futures with particular reference to collaborative spaces, urban regeneration and spatial equality
David Bunce Community-based organisations: how can they increase the supply of affordable housing? (commenced at Flinders University, continuing at The University of Adelaide)

AHURI Research Centre
The University of New South Wales
Director, Professor Hal Pawson

Research projects
Addressing spatial concentrations of social disadvantage (Multi-year Research Project)
Downsizing amongst older Australians
Financing and institutional arrangements for the provision of affordable rental housing in Australia (Investigative Panel)
Public housing stock transfers in Australia: 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
Cost effectiveness and tenant outcomes in social housing
Social housing exits: analysing incidence, motivations and consequences

Postgraduate Scholars
Phillippa Carnemolla Enabling built environments: home modifications and waged care substitution
Jennifer Kent Barriers to active transport
Andrew Tice The role of lower value housing markets in the post-industrial city
Elizabeth Whittaker The association between homelessness and substance use in two Housing First programs in Sydney

AHURI Research Centre
The University of Queensland
Until 31 October 2012
Director, Professor Andrew Jones
From 1 November 2012
Acting Director, Dr Cameron Parsell

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
An evaluation of the nature and effectiveness of supportive housing models

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 Research Centre
The University of Sydney
Director, Associate Professor Nicole Gurran

Postgraduate Scholar
Martin Nichols Infrastructure costs associated with forms of urban development (commenced at The University of Western Sydney, continuing at The University of Sydney)

AHURI Research Centre
The University of Tasmania
Until 31 January 2013
Director, Associate Professor Keith Jacobs
From 1 February 2013
Director, Dr Daphne Habibis

Research projects
Future housing and support needs of people with dementia
New and emerging models of tenancy management in remote Aboriginal communities (Investigative Panel)

Postgraduate Scholars
Erika Altman How do effective sourcing strategies relate to organisational capacity and governance?
Kathleen Flanagan New public management and government services provision
Fiona Proudfoot The experiences of social housing practitioners providing tenancy management services to Aboriginal tenants

Postdoctoral Fellow: Dr Felicity Picken

“I would like to thank AHURI for its generous scholarship support …and endorse its efforts to support the housing research community in Australia …”
Mark Singer, PhD candidate, Swinburne Institute of Social Research
AHURI Research Centre
The University of Western Australia
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
The cost effectiveness of sustaining tenancies of formerly homeless clients with high needs

AHURI Research Centre
The University of Western Sydney
Until 3 March 2013
Director, Professor Peter Phibbs
From 4 March 2013
Director, Associate Professor Michael Darcy

Research projects
Community Land Trusts and Indigenous communities: from strategies to outcomes

Postgraduate Scholars
Tayannah Caldarella Planning for sea level rise: the socio-legal value of land and development
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
Kelly-Anne Small Improving social housing options for people with complex needs

Postdoctoral Fellow: Dr Dallas Rogers
The year in review 2012–13

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

Using existing homelessness research, including that funded through the AHURI National Housing Research Program, the National Homelessness Research Network uses events and other activities to disseminate findings and foster engagement.

Activities during the year included a well-attended event in Sydney in August 2012 held as part of Homeless Persons Week – Contemporary insights into homelessness. The event included the presentation of two new pieces of AHURI research by Dr Guy Johnson from RMIT University and Professor Paul Flatau from The University of Western Australia. Presentations and audio recordings from this event and a second event held in May 2013 are available to download from the AHURI website.

AHURI also published, under the auspices of the National Homelessness Research Network, Strategic management of policy relevant evidence to support the national reform agenda on homelessness, a discussion paper outlining the current state of research-based understanding about homelessness. The paper identified key issues warranting research to progress achievement of the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness.

Homelessness is an important issue world-wide and international networks are valuable.

The Network continued to build collaborative partnerships during the year with the European Observatory on Homelessness, the Homelessness Research Institute (USA) and the Canadian Homelessness Research Network. The benefits of these international collaborations are many-fold and include cross-country comparison and insights into programs and service initiatives.

AHURI is also a member of the International Alliance to End Homelessness, whose goal is to facilitate the systematic and productive sharing of information about what works in order to end homelessness.

In keeping with this objective of building international networks, Dr Andrew Hollows (Deputy Executive Director, AHURI) participated in Advancing the policy and practice of crisis response systems, a two-day conference hosted by the University of Pennsylvania and the National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans showcasing the latest research from Australia, Canada, Europe and the United States in advancing the policy and practice of homelessness crisis response systems.

Through these activities, AHURI is ideally placed to work with the homelessness sector to facilitate evidence-informed conversations to develop improved policy and practice, and ultimately better outcomes for the community.

“...we heard from leading thinkers in the field. It was an excellent conference. Speakers from abroad added a lot of value by providing an international perspective.”

Response from delegate to conference survey, National Urban Policy Conference, May 2013
The establishment of the National Cities Research Program by AHURI is driven by a desire to support the reform agenda of all governments seeking solutions to the fundamental economic, social and environmental challenges that face Australian cities.

As AHURI continued to work to secure ongoing funding to underpin the National Cities Research Program, the organisation partnered with the Australian Government to stage the inaugural National Urban Policy Conference (16-17 May 2013, Sydney) – an important gathering of nearly 170 political leaders, policy experts, academics and urban practitioners from across the government, private and not-for-profit sectors who came together to engage in a vibrant conversation about Australia’s urban future.

The conference delivered an 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. The level of conversation and interaction between speakers, panel members and delegates was high. International guest speakers also provided an interesting comparative perspective on local issues. Feedback from delegates after the conference was extremely positive with a large number commenting on the high quality of the event.

Following the conference, materials from the event, including a summary report and presentations from international keynote speakers, were uploaded to AHURI’s website.

In addition to hosting the National Urban Policy Conference, AHURI’s Executive Director, Dr Ian Winter, under the auspices of the National Cities Research Program, facilitated a roundtable discussion during the year for Directors-General of Planning Departments aimed at building collaboration and mutual understanding amongst participants. Following the meeting, participants expressed their appreciation at being provided with an opportunity to share information and identify potential benefits from cross-jurisdictional coordination and communication.

As we continue to support the development of national urban policy by seeking cross-government funding for the National Cities Research Program, AHURI will also continue to consult on the relative priority of research questions and to refine the focus for a national research effort to underpin effective and informed policy development and practice.

“Urbanisation is one of the most significant and complex challenges facing Australia. It requires creative, evidence-based responses from a broad range of stakeholders.”

Dr Ian Winter, National Urban Policy Conference Report, June 2013
The year in review 2012–13

Indigenous Housing and Homelessness Policy, Practice and Research Network

The Indigenous Housing and Homelessness Policy, Practice and Research Network was established during the year following the provision of establishment funds from the Australian Government’s Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, in support of their commitment to Closing the Gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

The objectives of the Network are to:

→ effect an improved transfer of research into policy development or practice change
→ identify gaps in the research and share in the responsibility of investing in such research
→ share policy and practice experience of what works and why
→ create opportunities for peer-to-peer critique of policy, practice and research.

This is an ambitious agenda but one which AHURI believes will ultimately be viewed as a groundbreaking initiative in a very complex and challenging social policy area.

Following the appointment of a Network Coordinator in August 2012, contact with over 400 Indigenous organisations across Australia has created positive interest and support for the initiative. Network meetings in Dubbo, Shepparton, Cairns and Alice Springs have been an effective approach to identifying and discussing critical local issues for Indigenous communities and have focused on key housing (social and private) and homelessness topics. These regional locations were chosen due to the unique role they play as gateways to a broader community, including some remote communities, and as a hub for Indigenous specific housing and homelessness services. Outcome reports from each meeting have been published on the AHURI website.

Activities during the year also included the development and publication of a series of information sheets on our website that examine specific housing issues and identify associated policy solutions by drawing on AHURI’s research evidence. Topics include:

---

Policy interventions need to ensure that Indigenous populations are not exposed to unreasonable risks associated with home ownership.

AHURI information sheet, Housing Indigenous Australia: Community Land Trusts, 2013

---

Staff Profile

Mr Michael Richardson
Coordinator, Indigenous Housing and Homelessness Policy, Practice and Research Network

Michael Richardson brings a diversity of experience to his role as Coordinator of AHURI’s new Indigenous Housing and Homelessness Policy, Practice and Research Network.

Michael was a Senior Human Resources Consultant at Australia Post Corporate Headquarters in Melbourne for 18 years. He was responsible for the planning, implementation and coordination of the organisation’s national diversity policies and
Indigenous Australians comprised only 2.5% of the Australian population in 2011 but accounted for 25% of homeless persons.

Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2012

By focusing on Indigenous housing and homelessness issues, the Network will aim to build high-level individual and organisational skills and capacities in order to contribute to delivering better outcomes for Indigenous Australians.

Michael also worked with the Australian Armed Forces for a number of years and ran the Salvation Army’s detox centre and homelessness shelter in Adelaide.
The year in review 2012–13

Research Synthesis Service

The Research Synthesis Service is an essential part of AHURI’s work, providing clients with accurate, timely and rigorous analysis of relevant issues.

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 effect is to make the research more accessible and give 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 to 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 the year, the Research Synthesis Service completed 15 projects 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 four months. The average time to complete a project was six weeks.

Some key projects delivered by the Service during the year include:

- case study evaluation of an innovative shared equity and linked housing procurement scheme in Western Australia
- research synthesis on support mechanisms for the private rental sector
- evaluation of the Boost youth refuge response initiative
- research synthesis on housing options for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households
- meta-analysis of Housing NSW Housing Action Plan project evaluations
- research synthesis on new evidence in homelessness research
- research synthesis and workshop facilitation on mental health and homelessness
- workshop facilitation and outcomes reports for the AHURI Indigenous Housing and Homelessness Policy, Practice and Research Network.

The Research Synthesis Service assists policy formulation by ensuring recommendations are evidence-based and by providing information in an accessible format.

Staff Profile

Dr Katie Jones
Senior Analyst, Research Synthesis Service

Katie Jones’ interest in designing evidence-based recommendations to inform policy development meant she was a perfect fit for her role as Senior Analyst in the Research Synthesis Service when she joined AHURI in 2011. Her broad experience in researching social and economic trends and in policy and program evaluation meant she had the ideal professional background and interests for the position.

Graduating from Cardiff University in 2002 with a Bachelor of Science (First
53% of survey respondents use AHURI research reports to inform development of policy; 39% use them to support an existing policy position; and 83% use them to broaden their understanding of housing issues.

Source: AHURI Research Use Survey, 2013 (respondents invited to choose one or more responses)

Growing Australia’s housing research capabilities

AHURI is proud to help develop early career researchers with a program of postgraduate and postdoctoral scholarships. One recent success story amongst many is Dr Cameron Parsell. Cameron completed a post-graduate top-up scholarship between 2007 and 2009 (Understanding the transition from homelessness to successful social housing tenancy), then became an AHURI Post Doctoral Fellow (2010–12) and is now Acting Director of the AHURI Research Centre-University of Queensland. A terrific achievement. His research focus is in the area of homelessness and interventions aimed at achieving sustainable housing and social objectives.

Class Honours) in Human Geography and Town Planning, and later a Master of Science in Social Science Research Methods, ultimately led to a PhD in Human Geography. Her PhD focused on the use of public spaces by young teenagers – an issue that is within the ambit of AHURI’s research program.

She worked with a wide variety of policy and practice stakeholders across academic, government and not-for-profit sectors in the United Kingdom, before relocating to Australia in 2011. Initially a Research Associate at Cardiff University conducting research on educational and community regeneration issues, she diversified her research focus by moving to the Learning and Skills Network in London where government policy and initiatives within the education and skills sectors meant that her high level analytical skills were well utilised.

After settling in Melbourne, Katie joined the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, where her well-honed skills in the Department’s Market Analysis Team were used to provide advice and expertise on key projects concerned with skills needs and vocational education and training.

Katie’s experience working with stakeholders across a range of sectors, together with her extensive knowledge of housing and urban planning and her proficiency in the design, implementation and analysis of qualitative and quantitative research makes her a highly valued member of the AHURI team.
Revenue

The National Housing Research Program Funding Agreement with the Australian Government and all state and territory governments is current until 30 June 2014.

Research Centre funding increased in 2012–13 due to the move to a participant fee for each university under the revised Participants Agreement and in line with inflation to maintain the real value of contributions.

Other research stream income included the National Cities Research Program, the National Homelessness Research Network and the new Indigenous Housing and Homelessness Policy, Practice and Research Network, as well as increased activity in AHURI's events program.

Summary of revenue and expenditure for the year ended 30 June 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenue</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Housing Research Program income</td>
<td>3,803,131</td>
<td>3,544,267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Synthesis Service income</td>
<td>455,132</td>
<td>286,838</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other research stream income</td>
<td>477,711</td>
<td>341,059</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest from term deposits</td>
<td>370,393</td>
<td>378,758</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest from banks</td>
<td>6,490</td>
<td>9,172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other revenue</td>
<td>1,094</td>
<td>7,611</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total revenue</strong></td>
<td>5,113,951</td>
<td>4,567,705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative and research management expenses</td>
<td>(2,576,820)</td>
<td>(2,680,126)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amounts paid or payable to AHURI Research Centres</td>
<td>(3,367,340)</td>
<td>(3,099,419)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenditure</strong></td>
<td>(5,944,160)</td>
<td>(5,779,545)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net operating surplus (deficit) for the year ended 30 June 2013</td>
<td>(830,209)</td>
<td>(1,211,840)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Position</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Ian Winter</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Anne Badenhorst</td>
<td>Research Director, Housing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Anne Collins</td>
<td>Finance Manager</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Kristina Conley</td>
<td>Conference and Events Coordinator (until 28 June 2013)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Lauren Costello</td>
<td>Director, Research Synthesis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Damien Coup</td>
<td>Digital Communications Coordinator</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Jim Davison</td>
<td>Assistant Director, Research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Kerry Fewings</td>
<td>Administrative Assistant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Tamlin Gorter</td>
<td>Research Manager</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Barbara Harman</td>
<td>Executive Assistant and Company Secretary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Karen Ho</td>
<td>Finance Assistant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Andrew Hollows</td>
<td>Deputy Executive Director</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Katie Jones</td>
<td>Senior Analyst, Research Synthesis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Jontel Kiwi Kiwi</td>
<td>Research Communications Coordinator (until 25 January 2013)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Juan Li</td>
<td>Research Communications Coordinator</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Matthew Lovering</td>
<td>Writer/Analyst (from 17 September 2012)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Michael Richardson</td>
<td>Indigenous Network Coordinator (from 20 August 2012)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Anthony Smeaton</td>
<td>Conference and Events Manager (from 18 February 2013)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Caroline Thompson</td>
<td>Communications Director</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Melanie Thomson</td>
<td>Senior Analyst, Research Synthesis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Gary Tjia</td>
<td>Accounts Assistant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Jenny Williams</td>
<td>Conference and Events Coordinator (from 3 June 2013)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This document is printed on Splendorgel which is an FSC Mix Certified paper, which ensures that all pulp is derived from well-managed forests and controlled sources. It is elemental chlorine free and is manufactured by an ISO 14001 certified mill.