

Research Agenda

National Housing Research Program

Research Agenda 2015

**Australian Housing and Urban
Research Institute**

CONTENTS

1	PURPOSE	1
2	POLICY DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH MODEL	2
2.1	Evidence-Based Policy Inquiry structure.....	2
3	EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY INQUIRY TOPICS 2015	5
EPI1	Housing needs and direct housing assistance to 2025	6
EPI2	A contemporary housing supply strategy for state housing authorities	8
EPI3	The affordable housing industry and large scale national stock transfer	10
EPI4	Housing policies, labour force participation and economic growth	12
EPI5	Private rental assistance.....	14
EPI6	The impact of funding mix in responding to homelessness	16
4	RESEARCH APPROACHES	18
4.1	Indigenous Housing Research.....	18
4.2	International Research Collaboration	18
4.3	Data sources	19
4.4	Research methods and engagement	19
4.5	Dissemination	21
4.6	Publications	21
5	NATIONAL HOUSING RESEARCH PROGRAM FUNDING ROUND 2015	22
5.1	National Housing Research Program application process.....	22
6	MORE INFORMATION	23
6.1	AHURI Research Centre Directors	23

1 PURPOSE

The AHURI [National Housing Research Program](#) (NHRP) Funding Round 2015 introduces the Policy Development Research Model. The NHRP Research Agenda 2015 offers exciting opportunities for the conduct of independent and original housing and homelessness research in Australia. It supports the development of the AHURI evidence-base of practical, applied research which contributes to policy development and adds new knowledge to housing studies and related disciplines. A feature of this model is that it focuses research endeavour on a small number of collaborative Evidence-Based Policy Inquiries. This will enable AHURI to actively contribute to current and emerging national housing reform priorities.

The NHRP Research Agenda 2015 consists of six Evidence-Based Policy Inquiry topics identified as priorities for housing policy in Australia. This provides guidance as to topics which require original and innovative research to inform policy development. The Evidence-Based Policy Inquiry topics have been developed by AHURI Limited in consultation with the [AHURI Limited Board](#), government housing Chief Executives and the [AHURI Housing Research Panel](#).

Section 2 of this document describes the Policy Development Research Model and the structure of an Evidence-Based Policy Inquiry. Section 3 describes the six Evidence-Based Policy Inquiry topics and lists relevant current and completed AHURI research. Research proposals need to build upon the research already completed. The [AHURI research catalogue 2000–14](#) provides a summary of all AHURI funded projects by theme.

Researchers are strongly encouraged to make use of existing data sets when appropriate, including data collected by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, the Australian Bureau of Statistics, longitudinal data sets such as the Housing, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia survey and administrative data sets held by the Department of Social Services. A list of potential data sources is available on the [AHURI website](#).

The NHRP seeks applications for research capacity building and will award one Postgraduate Top-up Scholarship per university and one Postdoctoral Fellowship, based on merit, in the NHRP Funding Round 2015.

The *Research Agenda 2015* should be read in conjunction with the *NHRP Funding guidelines for applicants*, *Funding guidelines for Postdoctoral Fellowships*, and the *Ethical principles and guidelines for Indigenous research*. Applicants should use the templates provided on the [AHURI website](#).

2 POLICY DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH MODEL

The Policy Development Research Model is the next stage in the evolution of AHURI's practices which facilitate engagement between the research and policy communities. The concept of *policy development research* can be contrasted with the concept of *policy relevant research*, which has typified the AHURI National Housing Research Program to date.

Policy development research integrates the traditionally separate processes of evidence building and policy development into one set of practices. The Policy Development Research Model demands a high degree of collaboration within and between the policy and research communities. The defining feature of the Policy Development Research Model is a small number of Evidence-Based Policy Inquiries combining an Inquiry Program and Inquiry Panel with a suite of independent, original research projects leading to the advancement of knowledge to address a policy issue.

2.1 Evidence-Based Policy Inquiry structure

An Evidence-Based Policy Inquiry (henceforth Inquiry) combines an Inquiry Program and an Inquiry Panel (conducted by the Inquiry leadership team) with a suite of one or more independent, original research projects.

Inquiry leadership team

The Inquiry leadership team consists of an Inquiry leader and the project leaders of each supporting research project. The Inquiry leadership team develops the Inquiry program which encompasses the research design, the conduct of the Inquiry Panel, the production of the Inquiry Paper and Inquiry Final Report and the overall project management of the Inquiry. The Inquiry leadership team is also responsible for ensuring the integration of all research and engagement activities across the Inquiry (see Figure 1).

Inquiry Panel

Engagement with the policy community and practitioners is central to AHURI's aim of providing new, independent and original research to inform policy development. Supported by the Inquiry leadership team, the Inquiry Panel comprises a mix of research, policy and practice expertise from the university, government and non-government sectors—as appropriate to the policy issue. The Inquiry Panel meets as many times as appropriate over the course of the Inquiry; this is determined by the Inquiry leadership team in consultation with AHURI.

The Inquiry Panel's role is to draw together evidence, the outcomes of the research, and policy and practice expertise to address the policy issue and to make particular recommendations for policy development and/or practice innovation. This discussion is informed by the research conducted through the supporting research projects. (further information on the conduct of the Inquiry Panel is found in Section 4.4). The outcomes from the Inquiry Panel's deliberations will be discussed in the inquiry Final Report which is authored by the inquiry leadership team (See Figure 1).

Inquiry Program

The Inquiry Program is developed and implemented by the Inquiry leadership team. The Inquiry Program encompasses the research design, the conduct of the Inquiry Panel, the production of the first and final Inquiry Reports, and the overall project management of the Inquiry. The Inquiry Program outlines the scope of the Inquiry and sets out the conceptual framework, methods and approach to conduct original research on the Inquiry topic. This includes the development of overarching research questions(s) for the Inquiry which will in turn guide the supporting research activities.

The Inquiry Program sets out how all research and engagement activities will be integrated across the Inquiry (see Figure 2).

Supporting research projects

An Inquiry will include one or more supporting research projects. The leader of each supporting research project will be a member of the Inquiry leadership team. The research projects will entail the scoping and conduct of independent original research to support the Inquiry. The projects will use a wide variety of research methods and vary in scale from primary data collection and analysis to discrete secondary data analysis to syntheses of existing evidence. Innovative mixed method and multi-disciplinary research is encouraged. The research projects will inform the Inquiry Panel process and contribute to the policy development recommendations of the Inquiry. Research projects will produce AHURI Reports and/or background/discussion papers that will be published over the course of the Inquiry (see Figure 2).

Inquiry outputs

The Inquiry research outputs will be authored by the research project team or Inquiry leadership team. The Inquiry leadership team produces the initial Inquiry Paper, which scopes the Inquiry and describes the research approach, and the final Inquiry Report which presents the overall findings and recommendations of the Inquiry. While the final Inquiry Report will reflect issues discussed through the Inquiry Panel process, the Inquiry Report is independently authored by the research team who develop the key findings and policy recommendations, not the wider membership of the Inquiry Panel. The outputs of the supporting research projects will also be published over the course of the Inquiry. AHURI encourages innovation in the publishable outputs that result from research projects (see Figure 2).

Other outputs including discussion papers, critical perspective papers, and background papers for the Inquiry Panel may also be produced, and be published as is appropriate.

Figure 1: Inquiry key personnel structure

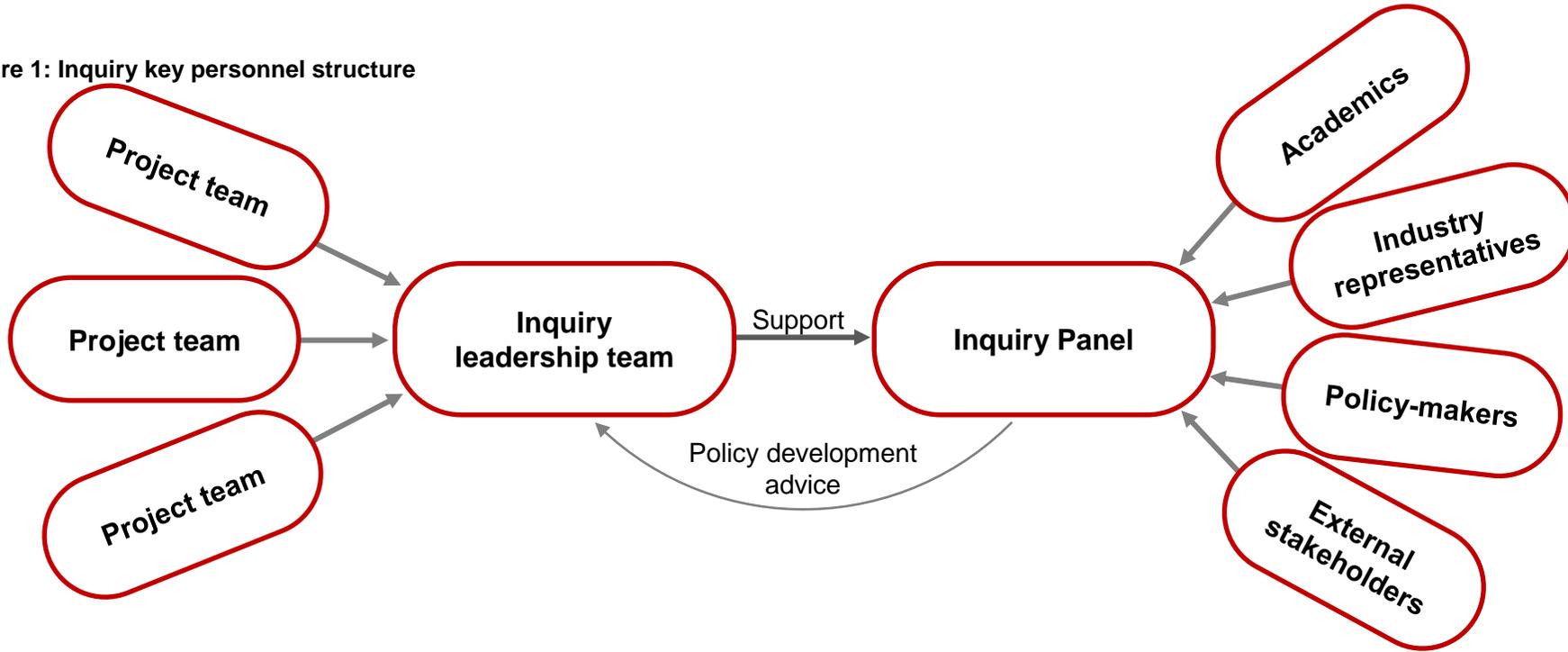
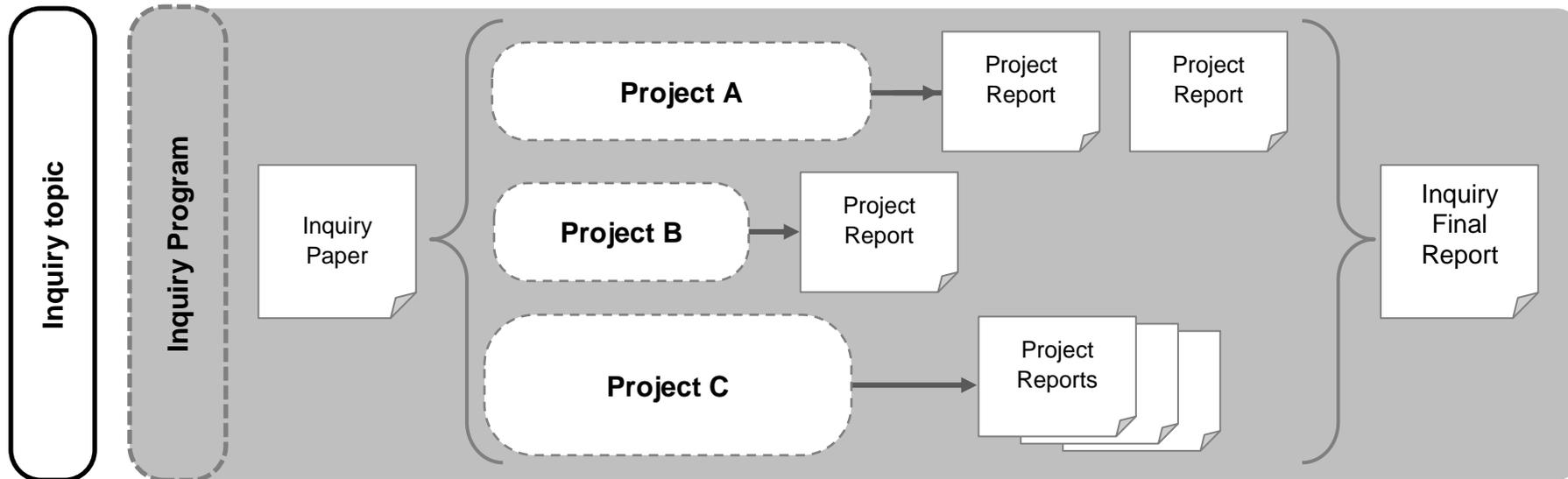


Figure 2: Inquiry structure and outputs



3 EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY INQUIRY TOPICS 2015

The Evidence-Based Policy Inquiry topics for 2015 have been developed based on a symposium with Housing Chief Executives, finalised in consultation with key stakeholders and the AHURI Housing Research Panel and approved by the AHURI Limited Board. In the NHRP Funding Round 2015, six Inquiries will run in parallel—each focussed on one pressing policy issue, as listed below:

- EPI1** Housing needs and direct housing assistance to 2025
- EPI2** A contemporary housing supply strategy for state housing authorities
- EPI3** The affordable housing industry and large scale national stock transfer
- EPI4** Housing policies, labour force participation and economic growth
- EPI5** Private rental assistance
- EPI6** The impact of funding mix in responding to homelessness

EPI1 Housing needs and direct housing assistance to 2025

Policy issue: How can direct housing assistance be most effectively allocated across the housing system to meet housing needs to 2025?

Population growth and ageing are likely to affect the scale and scope of housing needs in decades to come. In addition to this, structural affordability problems may increase the number of households seeking housing assistance, including—but not limited to—rent assistance and public housing.

There is a need to consider the range of housing goods (such as, affordability, security of occupancy, good dwelling standards and amenity) that will be required to meet future housing needs. This will provide a basis on which to examine the depth of subsidy required and the means by which subsidy is to be provided. This includes examining the funding arrangements for housing assistance—the funding architecture—and the roles of the Australian Government, state, territory and local governments.

Housing assistance in Australia has historically been aligned with particular forms of housing tenure (e.g. rent assistance and the first home buyer's grant); each tenure form has provided a defined, indivisible 'bundle of housing goods'. The research will investigate whether efficiencies might be achieved through better aligning housing assistance with housing needs, for example, by de-coupling housing assistance from tenure form.

To address the policy issue identified above, researchers will need to develop appropriate conceptual frameworks, methods and research to consider the following:

- The scale and nature of housing needs for the whole population and for different population groups and cohorts, to 2025.
- The different types of housing goods that are required to meet the different types of identified housing needs.
- The costs of responding to such differentiated housing needs under current forms of housing assistance.
- Policy and program mechanisms that have been used internationally to successfully meet different housing need scenarios and how these mechanisms might operate in the Australian context.
- Changes to the structure of housing assistance provision that would facilitate more effectively meeting housing needs in 2025.

Current AHURI research

- 53039** Australian demographic trends and their implications for housing subsidies (PP available first quarter 2015, FR available first quarter 2016)
- 53021** Housing affordability dynamics in Australia: new insights from the last decade (FR 1 available third quarter 2014, FR 2 available first quarter 2015)
- 51018** Changes in the supply/demand for low-rent housing in the Australian private rental market, 2006-2011 (FR 1 available third quarter 2014, FR 2 available first quarter 2015)
- 73034** The relationship between intergenerational transfers, housing and economic outcomes (PP available first quarter 2015, FR available third quarter 2015)
- 51002** Tall tales and true: housing stories from ABS data (FRs available third quarter 2014)
- 53001** Wellbeing outcomes of low-income renters: a multilevel analysis of area effects (PP available, FR available third quarter 2014)
- 21024** An evaluation of the nature and effectiveness of supportive housing models (PP available, FR available fourth quarter 2014)

Recently completed AHURI research (since 2011)

- 50683** Changes in the private rental system and the effects of long-term private rental (2013)
- 30637** A socially sustainable housing system (Investigative Panel) (2011)

Other relevant AHURI research

- 40503** Housing implications of social, spatial and structural change (2010)
- 70575** Lessons of Defence Housing Australia for affordable housing provision (2010)
- 40402** 21st century housing careers and Australia's housing future (2009)
- 60314** The Australian housing system and intergenerational sustainability (2008)
- 30359** Operating deficits and public housing: policy options for reversing the trend: 2005/06 update (2007)
- 30352** Financial impact of changing public housing client profiles (2007)
- 20170** Rental housing provision for lower-income older Australians (2007)
- 30205** Baseline small area projections of the demand for housing assistance (2006)
- 50226** Rental systems in Australia (2006)
- 30147** The regional impact of rent assistance (2004)
- 60098** A distributional analysis of the impact of indirect housing assistance (2003)
- 80088** A microsimulation model of the Australian housing market with applications to Commonwealth and State policy initiatives (2003)
- 10014** Medium and long-term projections of housing needs in Australia (2003)
- 30096** Risk management and efficient housing assistance provision: a new methodology (2003)
- 50049** Demand subsidies for Private Renters: A Comparative Review (2002)
- 60064** A spatial analysis of trends in housing markets and changing patterns of household structure and income (2002)

EPI2 A contemporary housing supply strategy for state housing authorities

Policy issue: How can the existing resources of state and territory housing authorities generate new housing supply for key client groups?

The undersupply of affordable housing means that the housing needs of low-income households frequently go unmet. There is a need to investigate the opportunities to redirect or refocus existing resources of state housing authorities (including assets, organisational capabilities, and policy and program mechanisms) to drive net new supply. This may involve housing authorities working in partnership with the private sector, not-for-profit companies and local government.

Refocussing of existing resources might involve options such as active asset management strategies (including place making responses), sale and lease-back of existing stock, models such as that of Defence Housing Australia, the Community Land Trust and the Affordable Housing Finance Corporation models. This is likely to require an understanding of land and stock values and locations to be able to determine which areas have sufficient value to enable cost-effective redevelopment to higher housing densities.

There may also be opportunities in cross-government and cross-sectoral collaboration to deliver housing at a lower cost. For example, there may be a multiplier effect in collaborating with the National Disability Insurance Agency in the delivery of new housing. There may be other opportunities to tie new policies to increased supply.

To address the policy issue identified above, researchers will need to develop appropriate conceptual frameworks, methods and research to consider the following:

- Local and international experience in housing authorities driving net new affordable housing supply, and the contextual conditions that have contributed to successful outcomes.
- The conditions needed to facilitate the transfer of overseas practice to the varying housing and governmental contexts and organisational capacities in Australia.
- Values of the land and stock assets of SHAs and when and how might these be most effectively used to drive net new supply of affordable housing at a neighbourhood level.
- How stock transfer might create opportunities and risks for SHAs' ability to use their assets to generate new supply.

Current AHURI research

- 81043** Subsidising the supply of affordable rental housing: an international comparison (FR available fourth quarter 2015)
- 52012** Processes for developing affordable and sustainable medium-density housing models for greyfield precincts (PP available, FR available third quarter 2014)
- 72031** The opportunity of residential property investment vehicles in enhancing affordable rental housing supply (PP available fourth quarter 2014, FR available second quarter 2015)
- 72010** Community land trusts and Indigenous communities: from strategies to outcomes (FR available third quarter 2014)

Recently completed AHURI research (since 2011)

- 53019** Enhancing affordable rental housing investment via a financial social housing guarantee (2014)
- 81009** The financing of residential development in Australia (2014)
- 71016** Financing and institutional arrangements for the provision of affordable rental housing in Australia (Investigative Panel) (2013)
- 71008** Public housing stock transfers: past, present and prospective (2013)
- 70639** Community land trusts and Indigenous housing outcomes (2012)
- 30670** Cost-effective methods for evaluation of neighbourhood renewal programs (2012)
- 80649** Delivering diverse and affordable infill housing development (Investigative Panel) (2012)
- 30652** Housing supply bonds: a suitable instrument to channel investment toward affordable housing in Australia? (2012)
- 50593** Towards a new development model for housing regeneration in greyfield precincts (Investigative Panel) (2011)
- 70588** Partnership working in the design and delivery of housing policy (2011)

Other relevant AHURI research

- 70394** Innovative financing for home ownership (2009)

EPI3 The affordable housing industry and large scale national stock transfer

Policy issue: What is the capacity of the affordable housing industry to respond to large scale stock transfers across Australia in the next five years?

Provision of affordable housing requires many players, including developers, builders, financiers, asset maintenance and community development agencies, as well as property owners and managers. Housing policy research to date has not focussed on the development of a broader industry structure for the delivery of affordable housing. However, the structure of the affordable housing industry, and the wider range of stakeholders, may impact the capacity of community housing providers to respond to large scale stock transfers.

Across Australia, public housing transfers involved 21 279 dwellings between 1995 and 2012. Further transfers in Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania are expected to transfer over 10 000 more dwellings to not-for-profit housing providers.

There is a need to understand the elements of an affordable housing industry structure, including the availability of finance capital, development of intermediaries, capacity for 'alliance-based' purchasing of key services that are required to respond to the transfer of public housing. The pace of title or management transfer and the role of government in this process also need consideration.

Research in this area will give consideration to how to achieve the 'right' balance between developing a sustainable industry and meeting the housing needs of low income and vulnerable households.

To address the policy issue identified above, researchers will need to develop appropriate conceptual frameworks, methods and research to consider the following:

- Conceptual definition and empirical mapping of the size, functions and capabilities of the Australian affordable housing industry with regard to its current and future capacity to respond to large scale, stock transfers across Australia.
- Local and international affordable housing industry structures and the conditions that underpin successful housing industry development.
- The affordable housing industry structure that Australia is moving toward in the context of stock transfer, how far the industry has progressed toward this structure, and opportunities to shift toward alternative industry structures.
- The future role of state and territory governments and the Australian Government in the industry (e.g. coordination, regulation, subsidy) including consideration of the likely immediate and recurrent costs to governments of stock transfer (e.g. ongoing maintenance costs, increase in CRA).

Current AHURI research

71025 Cost effectiveness and tenant outcomes in social housing (PP available fourth quarter 2014, FR available third quarter 2015)

Recently completed AHURI research (since 2011)

71006 Understanding decision making in the not-for-profit housing sector: longitudinal and comparative components (2014)

71008 Public housing stock transfers: past, present and prospective (2013)

70689 Understanding leadership, strategy and organisational dynamics in the not-for-profit housing sector (2013)

70617 How sustainable are Australia's contemporary affordable housing projects? (2012)

70588 Partnership working in the design and delivery of housing policy (2011)

Other relevant AHURI research

50366 Good practices for managing Australia's public housing assets (2010)

40561 What future for public housing? A critical analysis (2010)

30206 Financing affordable housing: a critical comparative review of the United Kingdom and Australia (2004)

EPI4 Housing policies, labour force participation and economic growth

Policy issue: How might a range of housing policy mechanisms be implemented to support labour force participation and engender economic growth?

A housing system and housing industry that supports and promotes economic growth brings an economic and social dividend and strengthens the rationale for government investment in housing. This research will contribute to re-thinking housing policy and housing assistance from the perspective of broader economic outcomes.

This includes understanding the impact of housing policies and programs on labour mobility (e.g. stamp duty, rent assistance); labour force participation decisions (e.g. income-based rent setting); multiplier effects of new housing construction on the housing industry and the broader economy (e.g. some shared equity schemes); and wealth and consumption effects.

To address the policy issue identified above, researchers will need to develop appropriate conceptual frameworks, methods and research to consider the following:

- The impacts of housing policy on labour mobility and how housing circumstances drive labour market decisions of individuals across tenures.
- Local and international examples of housing policy mechanisms that demonstrably increase labour force participation and support economic growth, and analysis of their transferability to the Australian context.
- Local and international examples of housing policy mechanisms that influence the housing construction industry and support economic growth, and analysis of their transferability to the Australian context.
- The conditions in Australian government and industry structures needed to implement mechanisms that have demonstrated effectiveness overseas, and identification of the changes required.

Current AHURI research

- 30674** The housing security consequences of underemployment (PP available, FR available third quarter 2014)
- 53035** Making connections: housing, productivity and economic development (FR available first quarter 2015)
- 71032** Housing affordability, central city economic productivity and the lower income labour market (FR available third quarter 2015)
- 73034** The relationship between intergenerational transfers, housing and economic outcomes (PP available first quarter 2015, FR available third quarter 2015)
- 73038** Housing markets, economic productivity and risk: international evidence and policy implications for Australia (FR available second quarter 2015)
- 73041** House prices, mortgage debt and labour supply: evidence from Australian households (PP available second quarter 2015, FR available fourth quarter 2015)

Recently completed AHURI research (since 2011)

- 70695** Moving home: the role of housing policy in responding to and promoting mobility (Essay) (2012)
- 80647** Modelling the impacts of the Henry Review tax recommendations on housing supply and affordability (2012)

Other relevant AHURI research

- 50515** Public housing and employment: challenges and strategies (2010)
- 50297** Improving access to social housing: common housing registers and other potential reforms (2007)
- 30205** Baseline small area projections of the demand for housing assistance (2006)
- 60279** Housing affordability, occupation and location in Australian cities and regions (2006)
- 30233** Affordable housing and employment opportunity: is there a spatial mismatch? (2005)
- 60008** Housing assistance and non-shelter outcomes (2005)
- 60203** An analysis of the determinants of the labour market activities of housing assistance recipients (2004)
- 70073** Housing costs, housing assistance and work disincentives: attitudes to work and employment decisions (2004)
- 80038** A comparison of the locational advantages and disadvantages for low and moderate income home-buyers compared to those for public and private renters (2003)
- 80188** Systematic review of housing assistance and non-shelter outcomes (2003)

EPI5 Private rental assistance

Policy issue: How can governments work with a range of interested organisations in the private rental market to deliver greater social good outcomes for private renters?

Australia's private rental market is the only tenure accommodating an increasing proportion of households. However, Australia's private rental market has high levels of involuntary mobility and weak regulations governing tenants' rights to remain.

There is a need to investigate how governments can support low income private rental tenants, or work with interested organisations in the private rental market to secure a greater range of housing goods. Subsidised rent, physical upgrades to properties and private rental brokerage may be used to support secure, appropriate and affordable housing, and to sustain tenancies.

To address the policy issue identified above, researchers will need to develop appropriate conceptual frameworks, methods and research to consider the following:

- Existing evaluations of private rental support programs.
- Innovative approaches to providing assistance to private renters internationally and examine the transferability of these programs to Australia.
- The forms of assistance required by vulnerable groups of people in the private rental market to meet their differentiated needs.
- How housing assistance could be reformed to more efficiently meet the differentiated housing needs of low income private renters.

Current AHURI research

- 31036** The role of private rental support programs in the housing outcomes of vulnerable Australians (PP available fourth quarter 2014, FR available third quarter 2015)
- 41023** New and emerging models of tenancy management service delivery to remote Indigenous communities (Research Paper available, FR available third quarter 2014)
- 51020** Sustaining private rental tenancies: targeted tenant support across life events and housing transitions (FR 1 available fourth quarter 2014, FR 2 available first quarter 2015)
- 53001** Wellbeing outcomes of low-income renters: a multilevel analysis of area effects (PP available, FR available third quarter 2014)
- 71026** Social housing exits: analysing incidence, motivations and consequences (FR available third quarter 2014)
- 82028** The cost effectiveness of sustaining tenancies of formerly homeless clients with high needs (FR 1 available first quarter 2015, FR 2 available second quarter 2015)

Recent AHURI research (from 2011)

- 50597** Residual incomes in Australia: analysis and implications (2011)
- 50565** Secure occupancy in rental housing: a comparative analysis (2011)

Other relevant AHURI research

- 30563** Other countries' policy initiatives to meet the housing needs of asset-poor older persons: implications for Australia (2010)
- 80372** Sustaining high risk Indigenous tenancies (2009)
- 50361** Housing insecurity (2008)
- 30315** The implications of loss of a partner for older private renters (2008)
- 40194** A review of private rental support programmes and their effectiveness in assisting tenants on low incomes (2005)
- 50142** Entering rental housing (2004)
- 50107** Analysis of expenditure patterns and levels of household indebtedness of public and private rental households, 1975 to 1999 (2003)

EPI6 The impact of funding mix in responding to homelessness

Policy issue: How does the mix of government and non-government direct and indirect funding in the homelessness service system influence service provision and outcomes?

The relationships between the mix of government and non-government funding, the structure and nature of the homelessness service delivery response and outcomes for homeless people are not well understood. While the public-private mix in education and primary healthcare are well understood, this has not been a focus in complex case management fields such as homelessness.

A large proportion of Australian Government and state and territory funding goes to specialist homelessness services delivered by the non-government sector. The non-government sector also receives funding from various other sources including philanthropy, and from government funding targeting related social problems, such as domestic violence, drug and alcohol, and mental health.

There is a need to understand the effects of different funding arrangements among the government, non-government and philanthropic sectors through comparing service delivery in Australia and internationally. Changes to the resourcing and structure of homelessness service provision may present opportunities to improve service and client outcomes.

To address the policy issue identified above, researchers will need to develop appropriate conceptual frameworks, methods and research to consider the following:

- How Australia compares with other countries in respect to the mix of government and non-government funding of the homelessness service system.
- The impact of the funding mix on the nature, structure and types of services offered across prevention, early intervention, and crisis responses for different groups of homeless people in Australia and internationally.
- The impact of the funding mix on the structure of specialist and/or mainstream homelessness responses.
- The implications of the relationships between funding mix and service structures for the outcomes of people who are at risk of, or are experiencing, homelessness.

Current AHURI research

- 21024** An evaluation of the nature and effectiveness of models of supportive housing (PP available, FR available fourth quarter 2014)
- 53033** Rooming house futures: governing for growth, fairness and transparency (FR available second quarter 2015)

Recently completed AHURI research (since 2011)

- 82013** Homelessness and services and system integration (2013)
- 80516** Intergenerational homelessness and the use of homelessness services (2013)
- 82014** The cost of homelessness and the net cost of homelessness programs: a national study (2013)
- 50682** 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 (2013)
- 30655** Homelessness and Housing First: issues for Australian policy and practice (Essay) (2012)
- 50602** Homelessness prevention for women and children who have experienced domestic and family violence: innovations in policy and practice (2012)
- 20607** The role of assertive outreach in addressing primary homelessness (2012)

4 RESEARCH APPROACHES

4.1 Indigenous Housing Research

Indigenous housing research is a strategic priority of AHURI. It is expected that research proposals will incorporate the Indigenous aspect of any topic, and will be budgeted accordingly. Applications that do not include an Indigenous component should specify why the research precludes it.

4.1.1 *Ethics of Indigenous research*

All research must adhere to appropriate principles and protocols as specified in the NHRP Guidelines for applicants. Research that includes a focus on Indigenous housing issues must adhere to appropriate research ethics as specified in [*Ethical principles and guidelines for Indigenous research*](#). These principles and protocols apply to all stages of the research—including development of the proposals, assessment of the proposals, conduct of the research, and dissemination of the research findings. An important element is the need for consultation with Indigenous people at key stages throughout the research process.

4.2 International Research Collaboration

[International collaboration](#) is an integral feature of the activities of AHURI, and it is a growing feature of the National Housing Research Program. Housing researchers are encouraged to explore prospective collaborative and comparative research activities with international partners. Research applications through the NHRP Funding Round 2015 will be considered favourably where international collaboration relevant to the proposed research topic is included.

International collaboration should aim to meet the following objectives:

- Leveraging NHRP funding by securing additional resources (cash and in-kind) by international partners.
- Adding quality to research through international comparative analysis by experts in other countries.
- Building research capacity by creating international exchange and professional development opportunities.
- Building the profile of AHURI as an institute of international standing.
- Enabling AHURI to present and participate in international research events.
- Supporting AHURI events programs by encouraging international experts to visit Australia.

International links

There are opportunities to establish links with the following international research organisations to collaborate on housing and homelessness research.

[OTB Delft in the Netherlands](#) and AHURI share a common interest in housing and urban research, policy development and evaluation. Each institute provides a strategic platform in their respective nations and regions—Western Europe and Australasia—and aim to further the internationalisation of their research expertise.

The [Joseph Rowntree Foundation in the United Kingdom](#) (JRF) has established a Housing Market Taskforce which is focusing on what longer term measures, including policy approaches, might promote a more stable housing market cycle.

The [Centre for Housing Policy at York University](#) (CHP) is one of Europe's leading centres for housing and social policy research. Their researchers have expertise

across the full range of housing issues, and skills from analysis of large scale data sets to interviewing vulnerable people.

The [College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences at City University of Hong Kong](#) (CLASS) has a focus on language, culture, communications, society, government, public administration, social policy and human service intervention. This partnership will include collaborating on an international comparative analysis examining young people's housing careers.

The [Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy](#) is a joint research center of the New York University School of Law and the New York University Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service. The Center has an extensive housing research program on issues including: metropolitan house prices and economic productivity, downsizing by older households, the capacity of not-for-profit housing developers/providers, and the issue of evictions and homelessness.

The [Wellesley Institute](#) is a Toronto-based non-profit and non-partisan research and policy institute. It focuses on developing research, policy and community mobilisation to advance population health. The Institute has a particular interest in issues of affordable housing supply (including the prospective role of institutional investment) and the dynamics of homelessness.

The [Homeless Hub \(Canadian Homelessness Research Network\)](#) at York University, Toronto, is dedicated to ending homelessness by improving the impact homelessness research has on policy and practice. The Hub supports the work of regional networks across Canada as well as clusters focused on topical issues (street youth, income and employment, justice issues, Aboriginal homelessness, women and homelessness).

4.3 Data sources

Researchers are strongly encouraged to make use of existing data sets when appropriate, including data collected by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, the Australian Bureau of Statistics and longitudinal data sets such as the Journeys Home: Longitudinal Study of Factors Affecting Housing Stability and the Housing, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia survey. The Department of Social Services also holds administrative data sets that can be made available to researchers. A list of potential data sources is available on the [AHURI website](#).

4.4 Research methods and engagement

The concept of policy development research demands a high degree of collaboration within and between the policy and research communities; the traditionally separate processes of evidence building and policy development are integrated into one set of practices. The research projects conducted within each of the Evidence-Based Policy Inquiries will develop research questions and an approach that generates new, independent and original research to address the policy issue. The Inquiry Panel is the primary form of engagement in an Inquiry and it will draw on the outcomes of research to inform policy development.

Inquiry Panel

The Inquiry Panel in each Evidence-Based Policy Inquiry is designed to bring about direct engagement between senior policy-makers and experts from the research and policy communities, and practitioners from industry and the community sectors. The Inquiry Panel must have clear Terms of Reference to frame the discussion and ensure the objectives of the meetings are clear. They also require a facilitator and a note taker. Inquiry Panel meetings will be supported by background papers drawing on the research projects conducted within the Evidence-Based Policy Inquiry. Inquiry Panel members may also be involved in other engagement activities conducted within research projects.

Research projects

Research Projects conducted with an Evidence-Based Policy Inquiry may vary in scale and range from discrete analysis of secondary data to primary data collection. AHURI supports the use of a wide range of innovative research methods, provided they are appropriate to the research question and data source chosen. In specifying the proposed research methods, researchers should show a clear appreciation for data sources, methodology (see Table 1), and measurement models. Research that utilises innovative or mixed methods is encouraged. For example, a Research Project might involve quantitative analysis of longitudinal data and qualitative analysis of housing and household biographies to gain a stronger understanding of what is happening over time. Alternatively, researchers might devise a data set capable of generating both qualitative and quantitative analysis.

Table 1: A matrix of methods

		Approaches		
		Quantitative	Qualitative	Mixed methods
Data resources	Literature and data review methodologies	Systematic or structured review	Snowballing (key works/ bundling/ scoping) and meta-analysis	Limited examples as yet, but wide scope
	Scenario building	Modelling	Expert (and lay) deliberation of alternative futures	Straightforward combination
	Interventions and experiments	Variant of randomised control trial using 'natural' experiments	Case study comparisons	A variety of experimental designs and participatory methods
	Original analyses of cross-sectional data	Secondary use of existing survey resources; new household surveys (whole instruments or new questions)	Semi-structured and open-ended interviews, focus groups, group interviews, home and neighbourhood tours, ethnographic studies	New data resource? A combined qualitative database (individual projects, plus core, perhaps drawn in a sift from a major survey)
	Original analyses of longitudinal data	Panel/ cohort survey analysis	House biographies Housing pathways	

Source: Smith 2009 *AHURI Research Agenda: looking forward*

Research projects may also incorporate engagement strategies which are specific to the project. There are a number of strategies currently used to ensure the engagement of policy, practitioner and industry representatives throughout the conduct of research. These engagement strategies offer policy, practitioner and industry representatives the opportunity to provide feedback about the research, but also provide opportunities for researchers to be brought up to date about recent policy developments or potentially to arrange further collaborations. Existing strategies include User Group meetings via teleconference at key stages of the research process and Policy Development Workshops which enable face to face engagement to explore and refine emerging research findings and policy recommendations. The

engagement strategy should be tailored to the research project. AHURI will provide support in conducting meetings and identifying participants.

4.5 Dissemination

The Policy Development Research Model seeks to more closely integrate engagement with the policy and practice communities and dissemination of AHURI research. Active engagement between researchers, policy-makers and practitioners is central to the policy relevance of AHURI funded research.

Research dissemination is coordinated by AHURI National Office and includes a range of activities including:

The AHURI national event series

AHURI organises a number of events across Australia throughout the year—each of which draws out the policy and practice implications of AHURI funded research. Researchers involved with AHURI funded research may be asked to participate in these events. The audience at these events comprises a range of interested parties including policy-makers responsible for social welfare policy.

The National Housing Conference

The biennial National Housing Conference is convened by AHURI and is the single largest cross-sectorial event in Australasia for the social and affordable housing sectors. It provides a platform for sharing, debating, celebrating and promoting ideas in affordable housing research, policy and practice.

Eight National Housing Conferences have been held previously with the ninth to be held in partnership with the WA Department of Housing from Wednesday 28 October to Friday 30 October 2015.

As with the AHURI event series, researchers involved with AHURI funded research may be asked to participate in a National Housing Conference. Any researchers taking part in a National Housing Conference will have their flights and accommodation provided if required.

Other Activities

In some cases rather than a seminar or conference presentation project leaders or team members may participate in roundtables or workshops where their research is presented to a targeted group for discussion.

4.6 Publications

AHURI Research Reports

AHURI's [Positioning Papers](#) and [Final Reports](#) are double blind peer reviewed by two members of the [AHURI Editorial Board](#) and published on the AHURI website in the Positioning Paper journal series or the Final Report journal series. Researchers retain the intellectual property from the research and are strongly encouraged to on-publish in other academic journals but AHURI Limited holds the copyright to the AHURI Research Reports.

5 NATIONAL HOUSING RESEARCH PROGRAM FUNDING ROUND 2015

The annual NHRP Funding Round opens with the publication of the NHRP *Research Agenda 2015* which calls for research funding applications.

The annual NHRP Funding Round capacity building component consists of one Postdoctoral Fellowship for 2015. A Top-up Scholarship for post-graduate students is also available to each AHURI Research Centre, and there is an annual postgraduate symposium.

	Opening	Closing
NHRP Funding Round	Monday 2 June 2014	Friday 29 August 2014 12 noon AEST
Postdoctoral Fellowship	Monday 2 June 2014	Friday 29 August 2014 12 noon AEST
Top-up Scholarship	Monday 2 June 2014	Tuesday 31 March 2015

5.1 National Housing Research Program application process

The Research Agenda 2015 should be read in conjunction with the [NHRP Guidelines for applicants](#), Funding guidelines for [Postdoctoral Fellowships](#), and the [Ethical principles and guidelines for Indigenous research](#) available on the AHURI website. An AHURI Research Centre Director must submit the Inquiry applications from their centre using the AHURI Application Compliance Form which has been completed and signed by the Inquiry leader. This form is also available on the AHURI website.

The selection process for funding through the National Housing Research Program is competitive and based on the absolute merit of the application. Each application is independently assessed on key selection criteria by four members of the [AHURI Housing Research Panel](#). Advice is provided by the AHURI Housing Research Panel to the AHURI Limited Board for funding approval. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by **23 December 2014**.

6 MORE INFORMATION

6.1 AHURI Research Centre Directors

Applications for funding through the annual AHURI National Housing Research Program Funding Round are invited from participant researchers through the AHURI Research Centres. The participating universities in the AHURI housing research network now operate as stand-alone single Research Centres.

For further information about applying for the research funding, please contact the AHURI National Office (03 9660 2300 or research@ahuri.edu.au) or contact the relevant Research Centre Director:

AHURI Research Centre—Curtin University

[Associate Professor Steven Rowley](#)

AHURI Research Centre—RMIT University

[Associate Professor Robin Goodman](#)

AHURI Research Centre—Swinburne University of Technology

[Dr Wendy Stone](#)

AHURI Research Centre—University of Adelaide

[Dr Emma Baker](#)

AHURI Research Centre—University of New South Wales

[Professor Hal Pawson](#)

AHURI Research Centre—University of Sydney

[Associate Professor Nicole Gurrán](#)

AHURI Research Centre—University of Tasmania

[Associate Professor Daphne Habibis](#)

AHURI Research Centre—University of Western Australia

[Professor Paul Flatau](#)

AHURI Research Centre—University of Western Sydney

[Associate Professor Michael Darcy](#)

For contact details for each of these Research Centre Directors, please go to http://www.ahuri.edu.au/about/research_centres/.

AHURI Research Centres

AHURI Research Centre—Curtin University

AHURI Research Centre—RMIT University

AHURI Research Centre—Swinburne University of Technology

AHURI Research Centre—University of Adelaide

AHURI Research Centre—University of New South Wales

AHURI Research Centre—University of Sydney

AHURI Research Centre—University of Tasmania

AHURI Research Centre—University of Western Australia

AHURI Research Centre—University of Western Sydney

Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute

Level 1, 114 Flinders Street, Melbourne Victoria 3000

T +61 3 9660 2300

E information@ahuri.edu.au W www.ahuri.edu.au