



**POLICY IMPACT
STATEMENT
2020-2021**

INTRODUCTION

AHURI is the only national independent research organisation dedicated exclusively to housing, homelessness, cities and related urban research.

AHURI influences policy development across housing, homelessness, cities and urban issues by collaborating with a national network of university partners to deliver policy relevant peer-reviewed research that supports the decision making of all levels of government, industry and educates the broader community.

The impact of our research and analysis is measured through engagement across our key channels, along with direct engagement with the policy community. We examine:

1. Website engagement
2. Media mentions and social media engagement
3. Attendance at conferences, events and webinars
4. Subscriptions to direct email campaigns
5. Case studies of policy impact

This Policy Impact Statement provides a summary across these key measures and provides an overview of performance and achievements of published research, events and policy development activities for the 2020-2021 Financial Year.

Our Government Partners



Australian Government



ACT
Government



Queensland
Government



NORTHERN
TERRITORY
GOVERNMENT



Tasmanian
Government



Supported by
Government of
South Australia



NSW



VICTORIA



Department of
Communities

AHURI 2020-2021 HIGHLIGHTS



WEBSITE
VISITS

409,185



RESEARCH
REPORT VIEWS

77,571



MEDIA
MENTIONS

415



POLICY ISSUES ANALYSES AND
AHURI BRIEFS PUBLISHED

37



DELEGATES AT VIRTUAL
CONFERENCES

962



WEBINAR
ATTENDEES

2,140



AHURI NEWS SUBSCRIBERS

8,159



SOCIAL MEDIA
FOLLOWERS

10,174



NEWS ITEMS
PUBLISHED

39

Our Research Partners



UNSW
SYDNEY



RMIT
UNIVERSITY



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY



THE UNIVERSITY
of ADELAIDE



UNIVERSITY of
TASMANIA



Curtin University



University of
South Australia



MONASH
University

RESEARCH

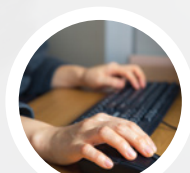
Research on strategic policy issues

AHURI's flagship National Housing Research Program and developing National Cities Research Program delivered a momentous 25 peer reviewed research reports in this financial year, including the eight fast-tracked reports from the COVID-19 Research Agenda. Some of our highlights included:

- Strategic planning, 'city deals' and affordable housing
- 'A pathway to where?' Inquiry into understanding and reimagining social housing pathways
- Warm, cool and energy-affordable housing policy solutions for low-income renters
- Ending homelessness in Australia: A redesigned homelessness service system
- Urban productivity and affordable rental housing supply in Australian cities and regions

'I welcome AHURI's contribution to the national housing and homelessness policy agenda over the last two decades. The world class research conducted by AHURI has been invaluable in helping Victoria improve its policy and service response and most importantly, improving outcomes for people in need of housing assistance.'

Hon Richard Wynne MP
 Victorian Minister for Housing



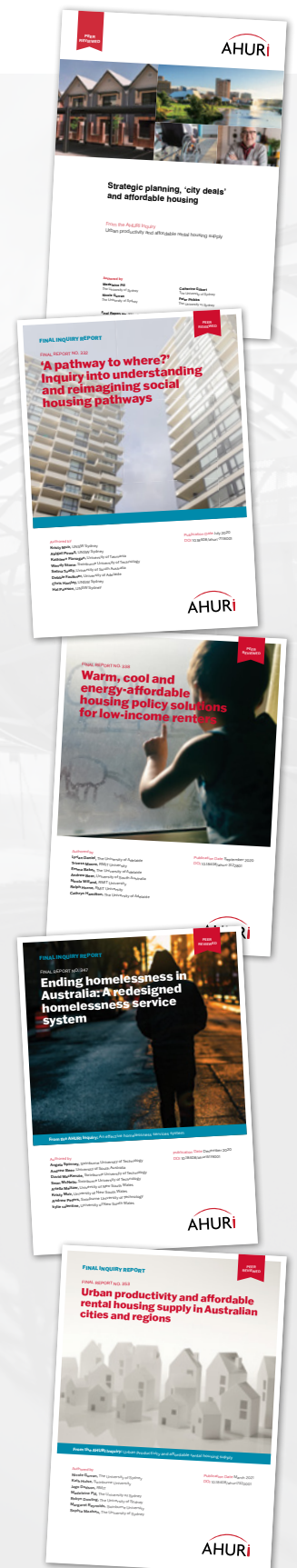
RESEARCH REPORTS
PUBLISHED

25



RESEARCH
REPORT VIEWS

77,571



COVID-19 Research Agenda

In late 2020, AHURI delivered eight reports from a special COVID-19 funding round in order to support the best possible decision making by governments in relation to homelessness, housing assistance and housing markets during the pandemic. Some of the topics covered were:

- *Renting in the time of COVID-19: understanding the impacts*
- *The lived experience of COVID-19: housing and household resilience*
- *Supporting Australia's housing system: modelling pandemic policy responses*

The reports were supported by a dedicated COVID-19 Research Hub on the AHURI website featuring in depth policy analysis, and the release of *Rental Insights: A COVID-19 Collection* – a bespoke publication featuring insights from 20 of Australia's leading academics and thinkers.

AHURI continues to track the impacts of the pandemic through ongoing research projects as Australia and the world continues economic recovery.

'In particular, in the face of COVID-19, AHURI's responsive approach to a new research agenda has helped us make sense of the impacts across the housing spectrum. AHURI's COVID-19 Research Hub is an effective tool for navigating research on the issues of today, like homelessness, social and affordable housing, renting, and homeownership.'

Hon Michelle Pavey MP

NSW Minister for Water, Property and Housing



COVID-19 NEWS ITEMS
AND BRIEFS PUBLISHED

36



COVID-19 RESEARCH
REPORTS PUBLISHED

8



COVID-HUB
WEBSITE VIEWS

14,908

EVENTS

National Homelessness Conference 2020 1-2 December

The National Homelessness Conference 2020 was held virtually for the first time under the theme, *'The year that changed homelessness'*. 67 speakers from Australian and abroad examined the homelessness impacts from the unprecedented coronavirus pandemic as well as the catastrophic climate disasters of 2019/2020. The program also covered the ongoing homelessness system reform issues, and examples of best practice before and during the pandemic.

The virtual experience opened the conference up to a broader audience with an 18% increase in delegates numbers from the previous iteration in 2018 and lessons learned will ensure a 'hybrid' online and in-person experience is offered at future events.

DELEGATES

962

SPEAKERS

67

SESSIONS

28

Research Webinar Series

Introduced in early 2020, AHURI's Research Webinar Series was consolidated as a popular forum for audiences to engage with the latest research findings. Delivering more than one webinar each month, the forum supported a 20-minute presentation by the lead author of a newly published piece of AHURI research, followed by response from an industry representative. Additionally, each webinar included a facilitated panel discussion and opportunity for audience members to submit questions to presenters via the webinar platform for an interactive experience.

WEBINARS

14

ATTENDEES

2,140

SATISFACTION RATE

4.25/5

'AHURI is to be congratulated on the influence the Institute provides within the housing and homelessness sector and across the broader community. I would also like to further commend AHURI on the way the Institute reacted to the COVID-19 pandemic in Australia.'

Hon Michelle Lensink MLC
SA Minister for Human Services

Major Conference Partners



POLICY

International Policy Exchange

In September 2020, AHURI collaborated with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to assemble an international housing policy exchange in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Focusing on the impact of COVID-19 in each country including measures to contain the spread, economic responses and social welfare responses, this online policy roundtable was an important international knowledge exchange for evidence building in commencing global recovery discussions.

Together with the Australian and U.S. delegations, participating nations included Austria, Canada, England, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Scotland and Spain to share evidence based and policy-oriented research to help countries emerge from the pandemic. The findings of the Policy Exchange were presented through a special AHURI Brief series on COVID-19 Research Hub.

Launching the National Cities Research Program

In July AHURI fully activated its urban research by launching the National Cities Research program – to provide Australian cities research with the same coordinated focus and connection to the policy community that it currently brings to housing and homelessness research.

The Cities Research Program is underpinned by 12 key themes—nine that are prominent in Australian cities and urban policy, and a further three emerging themes that are relevant to a future cities policy agenda.

Supported by a new Cities hub on the AHURI website, two inaugural projects were published:

- *Local government co-ordination: metropolitan governance in twenty-first century Australia*
- *New housing supply, population growth and access to social infrastructure*

Professional Services

AHURI's Professional Services team continued to provide tailored research solutions for clients across government, private and community sectors, playing an important role in supporting policy development for a number of significant clients.

In the 2020-2021 year, highlights included:

- *The role of housing insecurity and homelessness in suicidal behaviour: a review of the evidence* for National Suicide Prevention Taskforce
- *Enhancing the Design Quality of Purpose-Built Student Accommodation* for the City of Melbourne.
- *Informing the Social Infrastructure sector plan* for Infrastructure Australia





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