

Understanding social and economic disadvantage in public housing

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We know that housing is a critical foundation of a person's life

Enables **support services** to be provided more effectively for people who need them

Provides **safety** for people such as victims of family violence

Supports **successful transition out of services** such as children leaving care, or people leaving justice settings

Offers **stability** for people to put down roots, address challenges and improve their circumstances



Supports social and economic **prosperity**

Homes that are clean, accessible and thermally efficient support **physical health**

Helps people access and retain **employment**

Is critical for prevention of and recovery from **mental illness**

Helps build a sense of **community connection and inclusion**

Provides a stable base to access and undertake **education and training**

Reform is not just about growth in social housing

It's also about understanding people's social and economic circumstances, starting in public housing.

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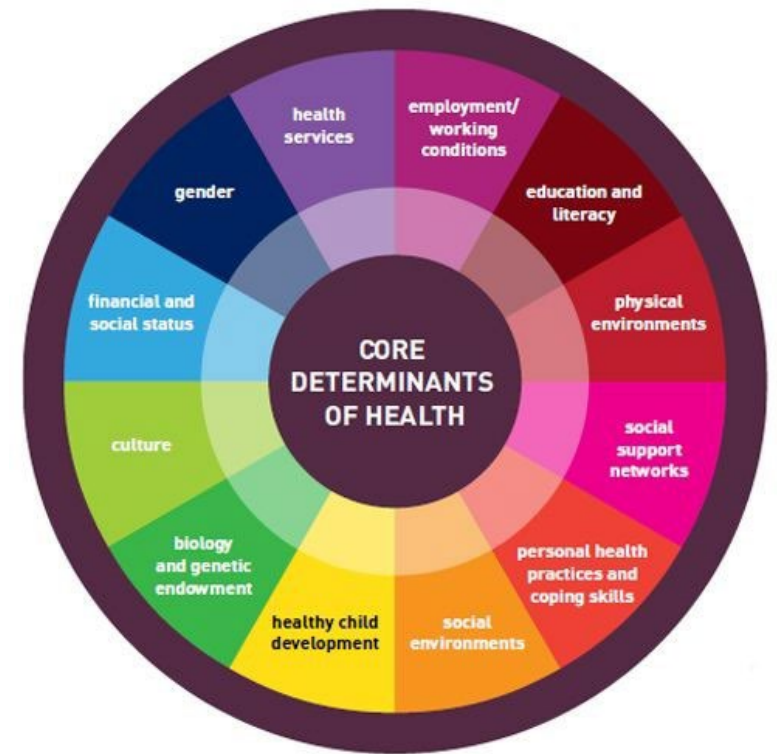
Key questions drive our approach:

1. What are the social and economic consequences of housing the most disadvantaged, often in large estates as well as disparate communities?
2. Once people have access to public housing, what is happening to their broader non-housing outcomes?
3. What tools can we use to understand the strengths and challenges of these communities relative

Three decades of economic growth has had little effect on poverty rates

- People at highest risk of experiencing deeper or multiple forms of disadvantage include public housing renters
- Public housing communities are resilient, but some are being left behind
- We've embraced the Scottish Government's definition in our analysis:

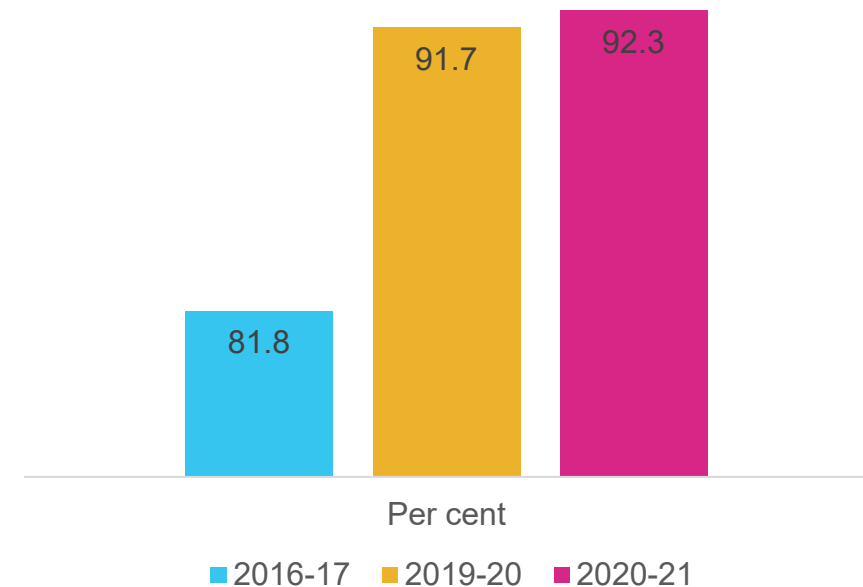
“A person or community is disadvantaged when they are experiencing less favourable social and economic circumstances than others in the same society”



Targeting those most in need has implications

- Concentrations of disadvantage have compounding and intergenerational effects
- Social landlords need to maximise tenants' welfare
- Homes Victoria committed to better understanding circumstances as our core business
- Need to enable better long-term outcomes for people

Proportion of new allocations to households in greatest need, VIC
(Report on Government Services 2022)

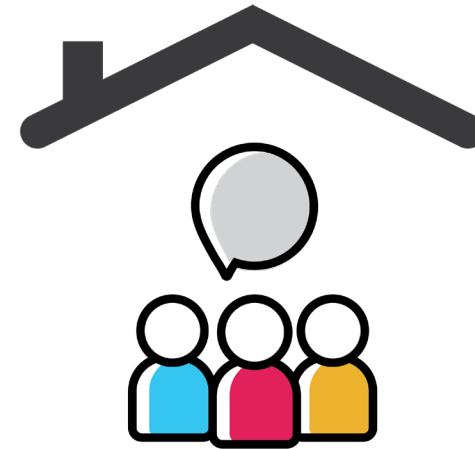


Beginning the journey – two new evidence platforms



Socioeconomic linked data report (SELDR)

Victoria's largest linked data set to understand how almost 115,000 public housing residents interact and experience Housing, Education, Justice, Health and Community Services



Victorian Public Housing Resident Survey

The largest single jurisdictional survey on the lived experience of more than 3,500 people living in public housing

Socioeconomic linked data report

SELDR



What is SELDR?

An interactive data report, that outlines

114,700

public housing residents and five years of state wide, local government area and suburb data



School attendance and NAPLAN



Housing



Victims and perpetrators of crime



Maternal and child health



Child protection and family violence

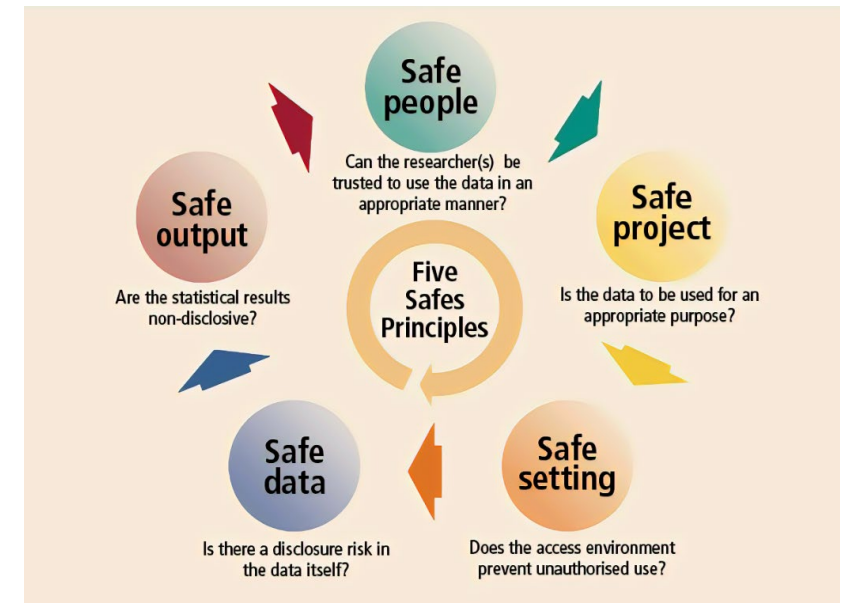


Employment and study

How did we develop SELDR?

Protections, privacy and refinement

- Protecting people's privacy is paramount – only non-identifiable data is reported
- Permission for the project required cross-agency agreement
- The [Five Safes Framework](#) – people, project, settings, data, outputs
- A multi-disciplinary team – data linkage, data analysts, visualisers and policy
- Accuracy of analysis is pivotal to success
- Unlocking the complexity of linked data



What does SELDR tell us?



Socioeconomic disadvantage starts early in young children



Young adults have high unemployment rates, but others sustain work and further study



Offender rates are the same as state figures, victimisation rates are higher



Residents experience poorer health outcomes compared to state figures



Disadvantage and disengagement accelerates through school years, but also high achievers



Unemployment rates at prime working age are high, although others are working



Residents are accessing crisis support services at rates higher than state figures



Regional communities are experiencing socioeconomic disadvantage at higher rates than metropolitan communities

Victorian Public Housing Resident Survey

2020 results



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The scale and content of the Public Housing Resident Survey

The survey started with 1,850 residents in 2019 and grew to 3,506 residents in 2020 (5% of our adult public housing renters). In 2022, we expect to hear from about 4,000 residents.

We ask residents about:



their **home attributes**, **our public housing services** and if they feel they **have a say** in decisions about their housing



how **safe they feel** in their homes and local area, and their **experiences or witnessing of crime**



their **health**, smoking status and **life satisfaction**



how **connected** residents felt to their **community** and their satisfactions with personal relationships and their **future**



who they can get help from in an emergency, **digital inclusion** and **financial and food security**

What we heard from residents in 2020



Inappropriate neighbours was one of the biggest dislikes residents had about their home – 43% of residents had experienced noise from their neighbours that had them concerned about their welfare



Nearly one in five young people are not confident about their future security



Nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of residents said they feel safe in their home, however $\frac{1}{4}$ didn't feel safe walking in their local area alone after dark



Close to two thirds of residents rate their health as fair to poor, and a third of residents are not happy with their health



29% of residents state they smoke daily, and in some regional areas this increases to over half of all residents surveyed



85% of residents welcome cultural diversity on their estate, however 20% of residents stated they don't feel part of the community



$\frac{1}{2}$ of residents stated they could not raise \$2,000 in an emergency – this was reported by 67% of Aboriginal residents



31% of residents had run out of food in the last 12 months and couldn't afford to buy more

Quotes from residents

What do you like about your home?

- “ I like the backyard for our kids
- “ Good location and the bills are affordable
- “ I am comfortable and I feel like its mine. I just feel like I have somewhere for the rest of my life. I am happy in my little home.

What do you dislike about your home?

- “ When I ring up and ask for maintenance to be done on my house it takes a long time to do it.
- “ Very small for my family and not good for my health and my kids health
- “ Unsafe, too many drug dealers, violence and yelling at night

Questions and answers



Thank you!

Keep in touch with us



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