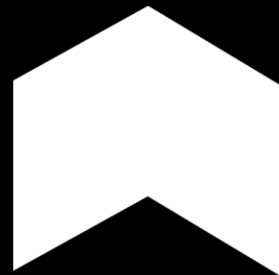


Improving health outcomes through housing?



Emma Baker

National Housing Conference 2022

Housing and health:

An evidence base of bits and pieces

Over crowding, high density housing  Communicable disease (e.g. TB), mental health

Exposure to toxins, allergens, smoke  Cancers, respiratory diseases

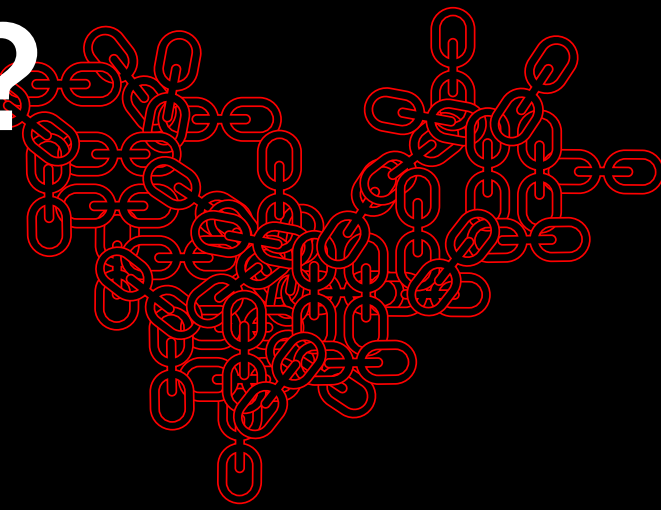
Poor dwelling condition  Injury and accidents

Damp, cold dwellings  Respiratory disease

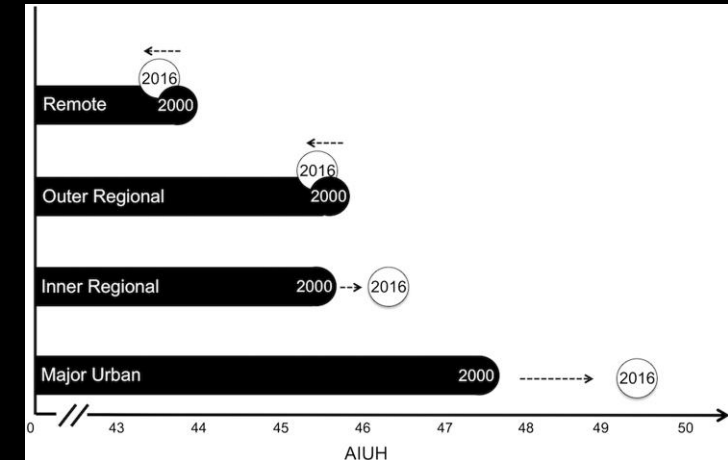
Unaffordable / poorly located housing  Poor mental health and anxiety

Insulation and warmer houses  Self-assessed health, GP visits

What do we know?



1. Its all about the bundle
2. Housing affordability is an ‘apex’ driver of health
3. Health effects are highly dependent on initial health
4. There is a distinct pattern of unhealthy housing in Australia – and clear ‘*at risk*’ groups
5. Housing conditions are often overlooked ... and much of the evidence is flaky



Baker, E., Lester, L., Beer, A., & Bentley, R. (2019). An Australian geography of unhealthy housing. *Geographical Research*, 57(1), 40-51.



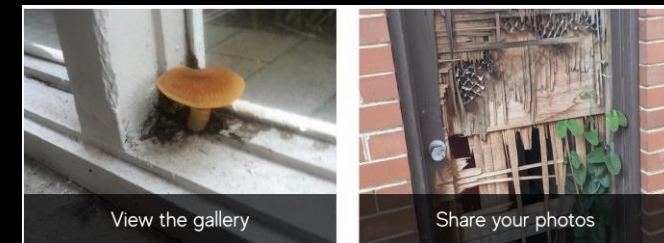
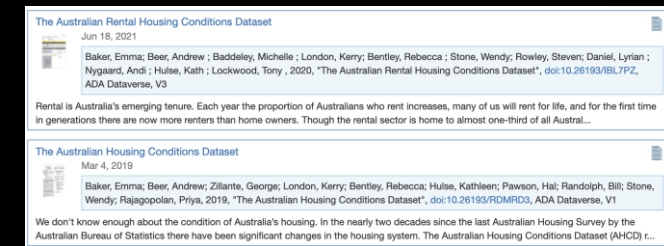
Building (an accessible) research infrastructure

1. The Australian Housing Conditions Infrastructure

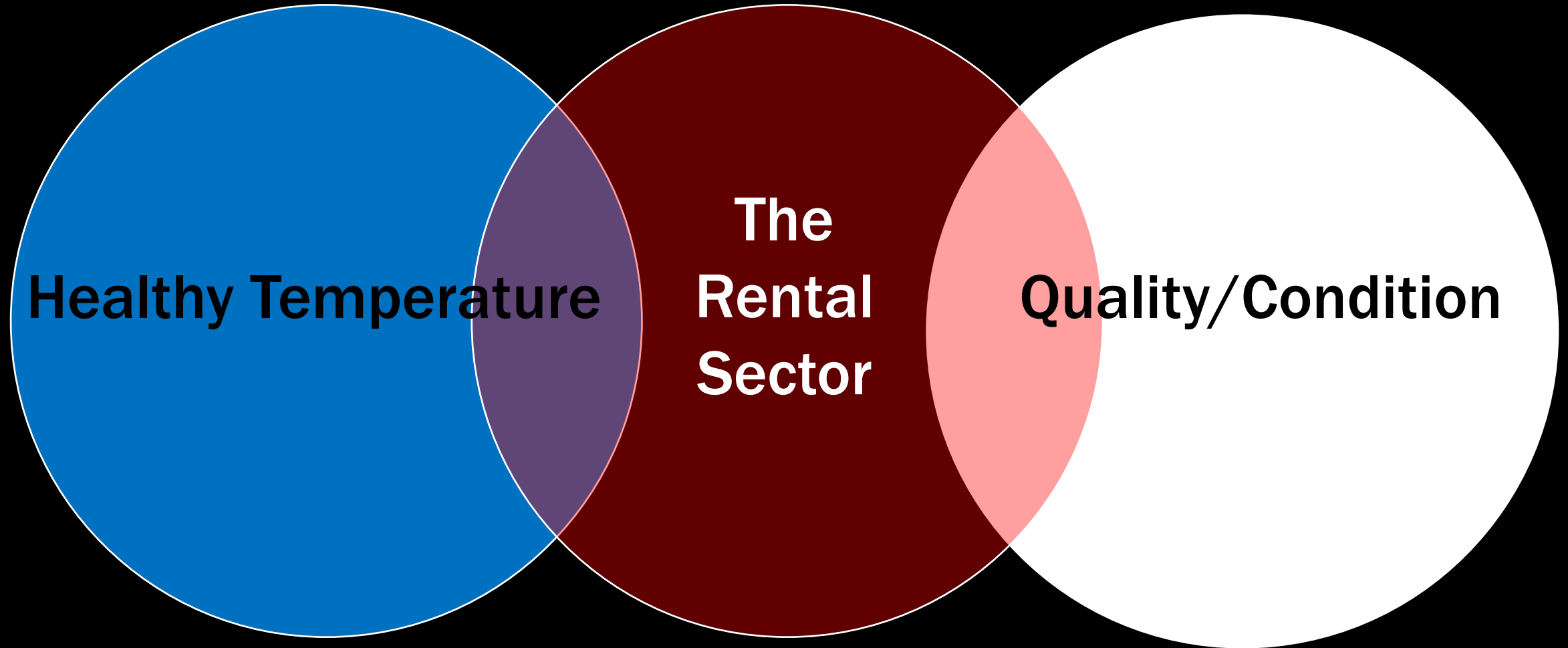
2. The Australian Rental Housing Conditions Dataset

3. The Citizen Science photo repository

4. The Australian Housing Monitor

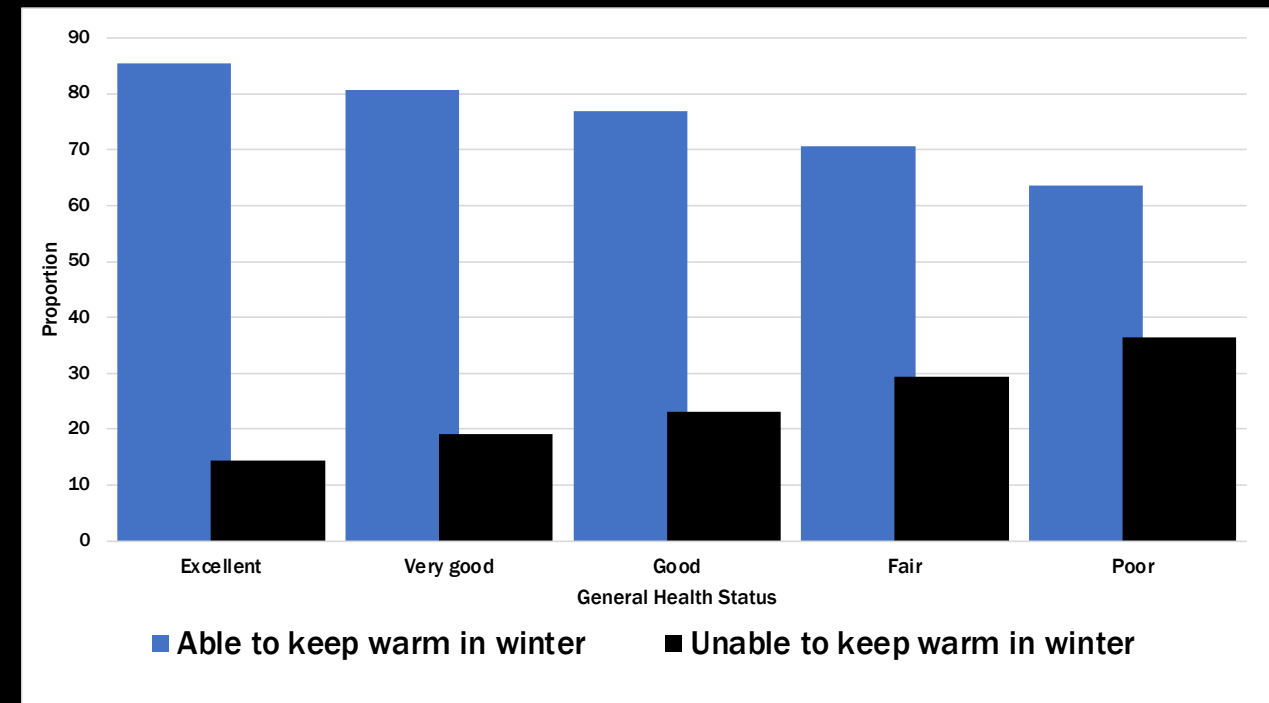
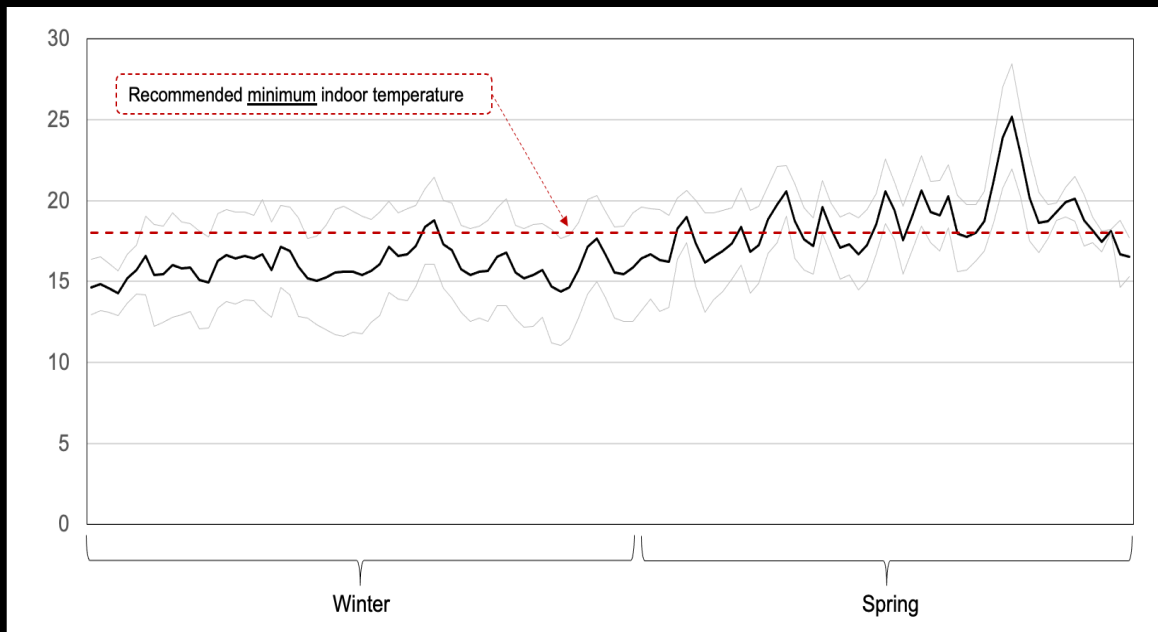
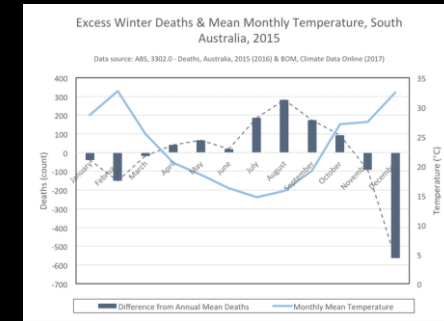


Priorities for action?



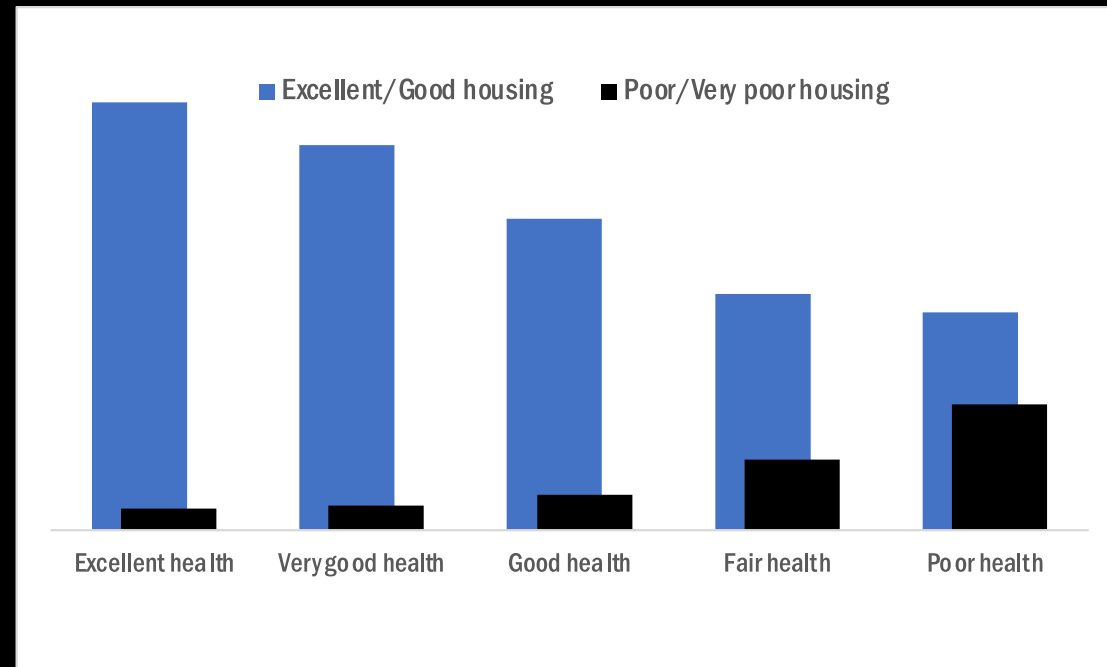
Cold housing, a quiet killer?

- WHO guidelines - indoor temperature below 18 °C is unhealthy
- Morbidity and mortality
- Blood pressure, cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease, COPD, Mental health pathway
- Indirect effects, e.g. via mould



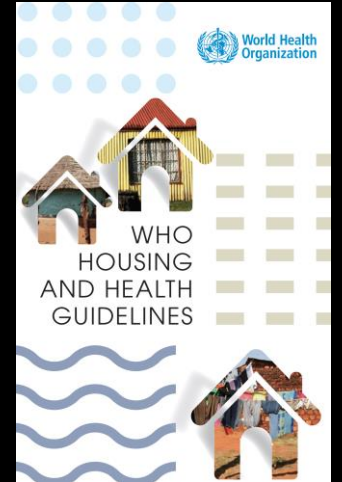
Daniel, L., Baker, E., & Williamson, T. (2019). Cold housing in mild-climate countries: A study of indoor environmental quality and comfort preferences in homes, Adelaide, Australia. *Building and Environment*, 151, 207-218.

Quality and Conditions

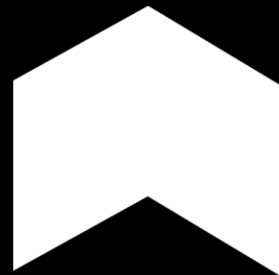


Challenges and opportunities

1. COVID-19 made good housing more of a shared problem
2. Renting is in a process of 'mainstreaming'
3. The World Health Organisation has set the bar for nations to follow
4. We need more big, good quality shared data



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