



**POLICY IMPACT
STATEMENT
2022-2023**

Our impact in 2022–23

Bringing evidence to a system under pressure

The 2022-23 financial year saw a marked shift in policymaking for the Australian housing sector, as Australia re-emerged from COVID under the leadership of a freshly elected Federal government. Amid squeezed supply chains and tightened workforce capacity, relentlessly increasing interest rates, and a resumption of immigration, Australia's already undersupplied housing systems escalated into crisis.

In November 2022 the Federal Government announced a suite of measures to address Australia's housing crisis, and state and territory governments also began focusing more earnestly on addressing challenges around housing supply (both affordable supply and overall supply), home ownership, housing and rental affordability, and rental conditions.

AHURI research and commentary saw a significant increase in interest, both in the news media and at sector events, and our consulting services also saw an increase in demand. Mentions of AHURI in the news media in 2022/23 were double the previous year, and we saw visits to our website increase by more than a third. AHURI Briefs designed to build public and professional understanding on key topics drew significant traffic to our website.

Importantly, AHURI contributed to key conversations affecting policymaking. AHURI was consulted for evidence-based policy advice by representatives across the political spectrum, and made numerous submissions. We were invited to provide testimony at hearings into diverse parliamentary and senate inquiries at state and federal levels, and we supported intergovernmental policy dialogues, led roundtable exchanges, and contributed to ministerial advisory committees (such as the Housing Supply Expert Panel and the Urban Policy Forum).

We continued to play our pivotal role in bringing people together from right across our sector to facilitate sharing of diverse perspectives, offering a range of webinars and events throughout the year, including our biennial National Homelessness Conference.



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink.

Dr Michael Fotheringham
Managing Director



417,895
website
visits



1,055
media
mentions



12,475
email news
subscribers



14,565
social media
followers



1,835
event
(inc. webinar)
attendees

Policy impact focus

AHURI is the only national independent research organisation dedicated exclusively to housing, homelessness, cities and urban research. Our peer-reviewed research supports the decision-making of all levels of government, industry and educates the broader community.

In 2022-23 AHURI made key contributions:

1. National housing agenda

As the Federal Government turned its attention to addressing housing challenges at a National level, we delivered a timely research report, *Towards an Australian Housing and Homelessness Strategy: understanding national approaches in contemporary policy*. AHURI is working directly with the Department of Social Services to assist in the development of a National Housing and Homelessness Plan. We provided advice and made submissions influencing the development of the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement and the Housing Affordability Future Fund.

Managing Director Michael Fotheringham was reappointed to the Federal Government's refreshed Urban Policy Forum.



2. Housing supply and demand

Our research reports *Inquiry into population growth in Australia's smaller cities* and *Private sector involvement in social and affordable housing* were popular downloads from our website. The latter was particularly timely, published just before the Federal Government announced the National Housing Accord. Webinar and Discussion Series panel events in Melbourne and Sydney on *Private sector involvement in social and affordable housing* were well attended by diverse industry, community and policy audiences.

AHURI Managing Director Michael Fotheringham was appointed to the Housing Supply Expert Panel.



i AHURI Brief: What is the difference between social and affordable housing – and why do they matter? – **4,530 views**

i AHURI Brief: Why are there 1 million empty homes and 13 million unused bedrooms – **3,705 views**



3. Rent regulation and reform

As rental markets across Australia experienced increasing challenges, AHURI delivered two research projects: *Regulation of residential tenancies and impacts on investment* and *The impact of the pandemic on the Australian rental sector*. To facilitate sector discussion of emerging strategies for improving rental supply and regulation, we convened a one day conference *Renting in Australia – challenges and reforms*. The AHURI Brief, *Why does Australia have a rental crisis and what can be done about it?* was our highest viewed brief for the year. We provided advice and made a submission to the Victorian Parliamentary *Inquiry into the housing and rental affordability crisis in Victoria*.

i AHURI Brief: Why does Australia have a rental crisis and what can be done about it? – 17,735 views



4. Preventing Homelessness

AHURI delivered three research projects to support ongoing policy development to prevent homelessness.

AHURI Briefs also covered a range of topics to build broader understanding of homelessness, including briefs explaining specific causes and impacts of homelessness on women, young people, and survivors of domestic and family violence; *How supporting people at risk of homelessness helps reduce other costs*; and *What the 2021 Census data told us about Homelessness* upon its release in 2023.

The biennial National Homelessness Conference in Canberra brought together over 1000 domestic and international experts and practitioners.



“AHURI is well regarded and has a proven track record.

We rely on AHURI research for a credible rigorous framework to underpin our arguments for policy change.

It’s not just in the quality of the research but also in the bringing together of the sector at the conferences – there’s a fresh energy each time, a place people engage with finding solutions.”

John Engeler

CEO Shelter NSW

Research

AHURI delivered high quality peer-reviewed research on a broad agenda of urban, cities and homelessness issues.



23

research reports published



102,115

Total views of all research reports

“Collaboration is key in addressing the homelessness challenge in Australia, whether it’s with the states and territories, or the sector. Events like [National Homelessness Conference] provide a forum for people to come together and share fresh ideas on how we can tackle the issues before us, and provide opportunities for us to listen to each other.”

The Hon Julie Collins MP

“The research program over the last two years has been both relevant and contemporary for the Northern Territory, and I can see the same again in the 2023 program.”

Brent Warren

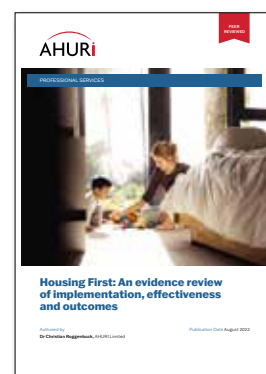
Deputy Chief Executive – Housing Operations
Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities

Professional Services

AHURI's in-house consulting service worked closely with governments, not for profits and community housing organisations to deliver better housing outcomes.

Homelessness

We evaluated NSW, Victorian, Western Australian, and South Australian government programs that responded to homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic, which were among the first large scale Housing First informed interventions to be delivered in Australia. To support further development of Housing First practice in Australia, AHURI convened a National Housing First Policy Roundtable, bringing together state, territory, and federal governments to share lessons and insights from these programs.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing

AHURI Professional Services continued to develop an evidence base for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing policy and practice. We delivered projects for Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) and the NSW Aboriginal Housing Office. Our evaluations of Housing First responses during the COVID-19 pandemic (see above) all included focussed analysis of the impact and efficacy of these programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. AHURI has formed close relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island advisors to support our work, with Paula Coghill now integrated as a regular member of our consulting team.

State government policy development

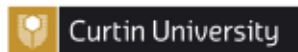
As the housing and rental crises forced greater action by state and territory governments, AHURI provided specialist expertise to support policy development, including delivering a *Housing Economics Analysis* for Infrastructure South Australia (ISA), modelling housing demand and supply for the Queensland Government, and advice on short term rental regulation for the NSW Independent Planning Commission.



Partners and supporters

AHURI thanks our University partners and event sponsors and supporters for their support in 2022/23.

University Partners



Event Sponsors



AHURI acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout our nation, and we pay our respect to Elders past and present. We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' connections to land, sea and community, and respect their cultural, spiritual and educational practices.



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