



## Renting in Adelaide – challenges and reforms

### Speakers

**The Hon Nat Cook MP**  
Minister for Human Services (SA)



Nat Cook and husband Neil have lived in the same home in Woodcroft for close to 30 years and she is a lifetime local of the southern suburbs.

After losing their son Sam to a violent and unprovoked one-punch assault in 2008, Nat and Neil formed the Sammy D Foundation to educate youth about the consequences of violence. They hope that no other family would go through what theirs has.

Prior to being elected to the South Australian Parliament in 2014, Nat worked for nearly 30 years as a Registered Nurse, including as an After-Hours Hospital Coordinator, Retrieval, Intensive-Care Nurse and more.

Nat is honoured to hold the title of Associate Professor with the School of Nursing and Midwifery University of South Australia.

Nat is an active member of the local community and a dedicated Mum.

**Heather Holst**  
Commissioner for Residential Tenancies (VIC)



Heather worked for many years in homelessness and affordable housing before being appointed Victoria's first Commissioner for Residential Tenancies in 2018. The Commissioner role was introduced to give stronger representation to Victorian renters and residents of rooming houses, caravan parks and specialist disability accommodation. Heather is also a member of the independent panel reviewing the regulation of social and affordable housing for the Minister for Housing and the Assistant Treasurer in Victoria. She previously served as Deputy CEO of Launch Housing, with the Victorian government in homelessness policy and in various other not for profit organisations across Melbourne and regional Victoria. She designed and operated a range of housing projects, support programs and rough sleeping solutions. She created HomeGround Real Estate in Melbourne and expanded its operation to Sydney and Canberra.

**Professor Emma Baker**  
Director, Australian Centre for Housing  
Research, University of Adelaide



Professor Emma Baker is the Director of the Australian Centre for Housing Research at the University of Adelaide. She is also Deputy Director of the newly established NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence for Healthy Housing. Her research examines the cumulative effects of housing, environmental, locational and socioeconomic vulnerabilities, with a particular focus on utilising large longitudinal, administrative datasets to create knowledge that responds to real policy problems. Recent academic and policy publications include commissioned policy background papers for the planning and housing strategies, a big data analysis of long run housing trajectories in Australia, and a series of analyses of the effects of housing on individual health.

**Jennifer Beveridge**  
CEO, Tenants Victoria



Jennifer has been CEO of Tenants Victoria since June 2019. With bushfires and the pandemic as a backdrop, the two and half years since has seen a public health and socio-political environment which has simultaneously delayed and propelled changes at the specialist Victoria tenancy CLC.

A collaborative not-for-profit leader, her experience spanning management and service delivery roles in housing, health, youth and community development over 25 years has been centred on the needs and aspirations of people in the community receiving those services. Driven by social justice values, Jennifer's operational skills are complemented by a solid grasp of public policy requirements, astute for stakeholder engagement and successful advocacy experience. Many of her most satisfying work outcomes have been achieved at times when public policy and funding constraints required bold decision making.

Before she joined Tenants Victoria, Jennifer was CEO at Eating Disorders Victoria. She has also worked at Jesuit Social Services, Merri Health and lectured at La Trobe University. Jennifer has a Bachelor of Applied Science (Speech Pathology), and two master's degrees – a Master of Strategic Foresight and an MBA. She is also a Churchill Fellow (2016).

**Geoff Slack**  
Chair, Community Housing Council of  
Australia



Geoff Slack is an experienced executive and social and affordable housing policy professional who has held senior roles in the government, non-government and corporate sectors. Geoff is currently CEO of YourPlace Housing, an organisation that provides housing to people with disability in the greater Adelaide region. Geoff is also the Chair of the Community Housing Council of South Australia, the peak body for non-government community housing providers in SA.

**Dr Chris Martin**  
Senior Research Fellow, City Futures  
Research Centre, UNSW



Dr Chris Martin is an expert in rental housing, with special expertise in tenancy law, social housing, marginal tenures, affordable housing policy, and the intersection of housing, government and social control. He has qualifications in economics, law and criminology.

Chris's recent research for AHURI includes the project 'Exiting Prison with Complex Needs: the role of housing assistance' (2021). He is currently leading the AHURI project 'Towards an Australian Housing and Homelessness Strategy: understanding national approaches in contemporary policy'.

Prior to joining City Futures in 2015, Chris was the Senior Policy Officer of the Tenants' Union of NSW, and is a past chair of Shelter NSW.

**Emma Slape**  
Board Member, REISA



Emma has worked in real estate for nearly two decades, firstly as the General Manager of the Real Estate Institute and now as the Chief Executive of Turner Real Estate. Turner Real Estate is SA's largest property management agencies, managing nearly 4000 properties throughout Adelaide.

Emma has always had a passion for data and understanding what factors are driving the property market. This includes actively participating in public debate to explore what the housing needs of the future will be and how we can provide quality and safe housing to every part of the local community.

**Kris Daff**  
Managing Director, Assemble



With over 20 years of experience, Kris Daff is a highly innovative leader in Australia's property development and real estate market.

As Managing Director of Assemble, Kris has transformed the business into an occupant-centric, affordable Build to Rent development and community management company and has led the acquisition of a portfolio of projects with a combined end value of over \$3.0b comprising 5,000 apartments and over 100,000sqm of non-residential programming.

Kris is committed to continued research and innovation in the property sector and shares his experience in alternative housing models as a way of improving affordability. He supports several not-for-profit housing initiatives such as Homes for Homes and Housing Hive by the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation.

**Sean Hogan**  
Senior Development Manager, ISPT



Sean has over 30 years' experience in all aspects of the property industry, including acquisition, design, planning, marketing, sales, financing, and delivery of many major projects. He has worked around Australia, in Asia and North America. Sean has been actively involved in the industry, serving on various committees of the Property Council of Australia and UDIA over the past 16 years, and through formal and informal mentoring of young property professionals.

Sean has been directly involved in the acquisition of projects as well as in the creation of joint ventures facilitating the acquisition and development of several large-scale residential and mixed-use buildings/precincts. He also contributes to the strategic analysis of potential projects to ensure maximum benefit can be achieved at completion. Sean is recognised as a creative and lateral thinker who can envision the ultimate development potential of projects. He has advocated for reforms which would create a structure for institutional grade investment in social and crisis accommodation. He has also been reviewing Build to Rent opportunities in Australia since 2014.

**Dan McLennan**  
Co-CEO, Local



Dan is the Co-CEO of Local, an Australian Build-to Rent platform which will seek to empower Australians to live a sustainable and socially conscious lifestyle. In particular, Local will seek to provide quality, sustainable rental communities which incorporate social, affordable and specialist disability accommodation alongside mainstream market rental product.

Dan has over 20 years' experience in the Australian real estate industry with an exceptional track record in creating, structuring, funding, and delivering some of the country's most iconic buildings, including:

- Liberty Place, Sydney
- Swanston Square Apartments, Melbourne;
- The W Hotel, Darling Harbour; and
- The 2018 Commonwealth Games Village, Gold Coast

In addition to his previous roles as a development executive, adviser and corporate lawyer, Dan was the founding Chief Executive Officer of Summer Housing Ltd, a national not for profit NDIS housing provider. In this role, Dan raised over \$350M in institutional social infrastructure funding to fully fund the acquisition of over 400 apartments for people with disability across Australia.