



**POLICY IMPACT
STATEMENT
2023-2024**



Our impact in 2023–24



Housing and homelessness remained high on the agenda for all jurisdictions in Australia in 2023-24, as cost of living pressures, ongoing housing supply constraints, and mortgage rate pressure and rent rises impacted on a growing number of Australians.

Homelessness services and social housing registers continued to report increased demand, and observed a growing new demographic – working people who never imagined they could experience housing insecurity.

AHURI was in high demand for evidence-informed media commentary across a wide range of issues, and governments eagerly anticipated a number of timely AHURI reports published this year. As governments looked to address decades of underinvestment in social housing, AHURI research was a key source of credible and balanced policy insights.

AHURI's engagement by the Queensland government resulted in landmark modelling of future housing demand across the state, and has underpinned the State's plans for future infrastructure and development.

Our work on issues relating to housing and homelessness for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people saw an increase in demand by our Professional Services team.

The National Housing Conference held in Brisbane in late 2023 attracted a record number of delegates from right across the housing sector, and received significant media coverage for the leading practice, emerging evidence, international perspectives and policy reforms showcased.

We continue our partnerships with the Federal, State and Territory governments housing and homelessness sectors and the researchers and institutions working to improve the lives of Australians.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink.

Dr Michael Fotheringham
Managing Director

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.

Policy impact highlights

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.

Impact snapshot



19

Reports published



7

AHURI Briefs



2,023

Average views of each report



3,844

Media mentions



14,851

Social media followers



47,019

Average monthly visits to AHURI website

Events engagement

Conferences

National Housing Conference 2023

Circular economy housing 2024

Webinars

Supporting first home buyers

Adapting to climate change



2,276

Webinar and conference delegates



1,613

On Demand views of webinar and conference recordings

“The speakers were excellent, knowledgeable and able to communicate complex theories, principles, and practices with ease and understanding.”

– Circular economy housing conference attendee

“Being in the room with so many passionate and knowledgeable people was really invigorating.”

– National Housing Conference 2023 attendee

Research

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

National Housing Research Program highlights

Circular economy housing

Building on the delivery of the AHURI Inquiry: *Informing a strategy for circular economy housing in Australia* in mid 2023, AHURI convened a one-day conference and further promoted the findings via an AHURI Brief and in the media. This report provided an important perspective on how circular economy principles relate to residential housing, and what this means for residential planning and construction in Australia. Conference recordings remain available to view On Demand.

“Read this report ... It’s cutting edge and it’s really starting to help us think about how we can, not just improve our materials efficiency, but also reduce costs.”

– Lisa Mclean, CEO, Circular Australia



1
day
conference

25 years of Private Rental Affordability analysis

As private rental shortages worsened and rents rose rapidly, AHURI released the seventh in a long term sequence of reports based on Census data. The report, *Affordable private rental supply and demand: short-term disruption (2016–2021) and longer-term structural change (1996–2021)*, showed affordability of rental homes has continued steadily eroding since the series began 25 years ago. This latest report using 2021 Census data found that more households with high incomes are renting — worsening the shortage of affordable private rental homes for very low income households. The report was quoted heavily in the media and a webinar was well attended with excellent feedback.



2,011
most viewed
report

85
media
mentions

Financing first home ownership

AHURI's Inquiry, *Financing first home ownership: opportunities and challenges*, delivered important insights on how government policy can sometimes exacerbate the challenge faced by first homebuyers to finance a first home. It identified trends in first homebuyer behaviours and provided key areas of focus for future policy to avoid further pitfalls. The evidence supported the benefits of shared equity programs such as South Australia's Home Start or the proposed federal Help to Buy program. AHURI further promoted the findings via a webinar, and the inquiry has continued to be referenced by media and policy makers throughout the year.



70
media
mentions

Social housing system

Three projects published as part of the AHURI Inquiry into supporting pathways in a social housing system (Final Inquiry to be published in 2024/25) were timely and provided valuable insights just as a number of State and Territory governments announced plans for boosting and renewing social housing stocks.

AHURI's Professional Services team provided further bespoke consultancy to governments in Victoria and Queensland building on this research.



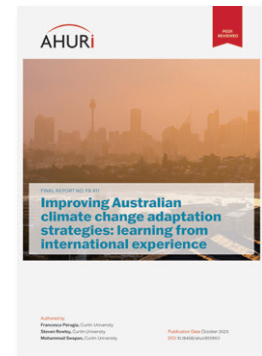
National Cities Research Program

AHURI's self-funded investment in a National Cities Research Program delivered its fourth report in 2023-24.

Improving Australian climate change adaptation strategies: learning from international experience

Australia was the lowest performer in a 2019 assessment of climate change adaptation plans for 54 countries. Interrogating international case studies, the research found greater coordination is required between Australia's different levels of government in order to deliver comprehensive and integrated climate change adaptation strategies in Australian cities and towns.

AHURI promoted discussion of the research via a very popular webinar, which continues to attract a high number of views On Demand.



713
webinar
views

Policy advice

Senate Inquiry into the worsening rental crisis in Australia

In August 2023, AHURI provided an influential submission to the Senate Inquiry into "the worsening rental crisis in Australia". The submission and testimony by AHURI's Managing Director were heavily cited in the Inquiry report, including all dissenting chapters.

Committees

AHURI representatives sit on over 18 ministerial, government and public sector advisory bodies providing direct policy advice to Federal, state and territory Ministers, agencies, and sector leadership bodies. This includes the Urban Policy Forum (Federal Minister for Cities), Housing Supply Expert Panel (Queensland Minister for Housing), and the Ministerial Homelessness Reform Advisory Group (Victorian Minister for Housing and Homelessness).



Professional Services

AHURI's in-house consulting service worked closely with governments and the not-for-profit and community sectors to provide tailored research services.

Program evaluation

This year, AHURI Professional Services concluded evaluations of the 'From Homelessness to a Home' and 'Homes for Families' programs, for the Victorian government, and entered the final phase of the 'Together Home' program evaluation for the New South Wales government. These evaluations were of the flagship homelessness responses that emerged from the COVID pandemic and were all informed by Housing First principles.

An evaluation was completed for Western Australian Communities, of Boorloo Bidee Mia, a response to rough sleeping in the Perth CBD, where housing and supports are provided by Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.

An evaluation of the Victorian government's shared equity program, the Victorian Housing Fund, for the Department of Treasury and Finance was undertaken in partnership with Grosvenor.

Q Shelter, CHIA Queensland and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland engaged the team to evaluate the Queensland government funded Community Housing Futures program, designed to build the capacity of the state's community housing sector.

Policy evidence and advisory services

AHURI Professional Services draws upon the AHURI evidence base and research capability to support policy reform and strategy development for governments and other clients. In this year the team completed a Market Stewardship and Shaping project for the Aboriginal Housing Office in New South Wales and provided evidence to inform the strategic review of the homelessness systems in both New South Wales and Queensland.

Modelling housing systems

A major project for 2023-24 was the design and delivery of an econometric microsimulation model of the rental housing system in Queensland, for the Queensland government. This tool will monitor rental affordability and assist with planning for the delivery of social housing. The model informed the setting of social housing targets in Homes for Queenslanders.

Expert input to audit and review processes

Other research services provided by AHURI supported a review of the functions of Homes England by the UK government, and audit work carried out by the ACT Audit Office.

Key publications

- Together Home Program Evaluation
- Ethically Conscious Housing Initiatives



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Event partners





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