

Our commitment to including the voice of Lived Experience

As convener of the National Housing Conference and the Australian Homelessness Conference, AHURI plays a key role in bringing together multiple perspectives to address the issues that affect Australia's housing and homelessness sectors. This includes the perspectives of people who have experienced homelessness or other challenges in accessing appropriate housing for their individual needs.

Inclusion

We work to ensure Lived Experience (LE) perspectives are included in our conference programs in the following ways:

- A. We aim to include lived experience advocates on our Program Advisory Committees or Working Groups, which advise on the development of our conference program.
- B. We aim to include LE voices as speakers at our conferences where appropriate, and we actively encourage this from the abstract process through to our program planning.
- C. Where sponsor funding is available, we work with peak organisations to promote and offer places for people with lived experience to attend our conferences as sponsored delegates.

Payment for LE participation

We recognise that people formally contributing an LE perspective should be compensated for their work. The [AHURI Policy for Lived Experience Participation Payment](#) outlines what kinds of LE participation should be compensated, and by whom (in some cases this is the responsibility of an organisation other than AHURI). It also provides further detail for how we compensate LE contributions.

Addressing financial barriers to participation

We recognise that people with LE may face financial barriers to participation. We address this in the following ways:

People with LE who wish to attend an AHURI conference as delegates

- A. As part of our sponsorship prospectus, we actively seek funding for sponsored delegate places. When this sponsorship is funded, a limited number of eligible delegates are provided with free registration, and where required, support with travel and accommodation to attend the conference. This enables eligible people to access the conference and the opportunities it provides for professional development, learning and networking. For further information view the terms and conditions for sponsored delegates.
- B. A concessional conference registration fee is available for anyone who meets concession requirements and/or who are involved in contributing their LE to work in the housing or homelessness sector.

People contributing as a LE speaker at an AHURI conference

- C. Where a speaker has been nominated via the conference abstract process, and is selected to speak, AHURI provides complimentary speaker registration. (Payment, travel and accommodation costs for a speaker bringing a LE perspective remain the responsibility of the nominating organisation.)

Safety & Respect

We recognise that sharing LE perspectives can have an emotional impact on participants. We don't highlight in the program that a person brings a LE perspective - we let them offer their perspectives in the way they want to. We encourage everyone attending our conferences to respect the privacy, dignity and lived expertise of those who bring these essential perspectives.