



WEBINAR

# Inquiry into socially supported housing pathways

Tuesday, 24 June 2025



# Acknowledgement of country

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.

# The Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI)

AHURI is a national independent research network dedicated exclusively to housing, homelessness, cities and related urban research.

Our research supports policy development at all levels of government, assists industry and informs the broader community.

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# Read the research

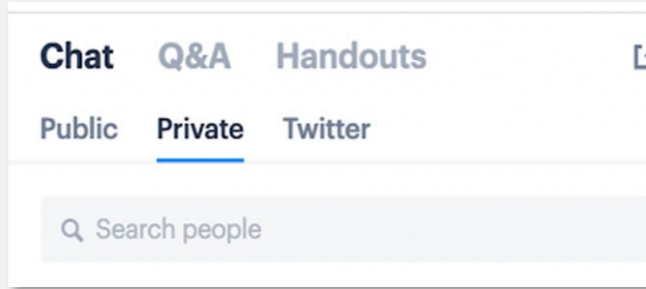
View the research in the handouts.

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# Chat function



- The chat function can be found on the right hand side of the presentation
  - Use Chat to share your thoughts with other participants
  - Use Q&A to post any questions
- Test it out by letting us know in the Chat what Lands you are joining us from today

# Guest speakers



**Chris Martin**

Scientia Fellow, UNSW Sydney



**David Fisher**

Chief Executive Officer, Housing  
Choices Australia

# Research context and approach



# Research context and approach

## Aim

Options for transforming Australia's social housing system into a **system for socially supported housing pathways**

## Context

- Originally: social housing without growth prospects
- Now: social housing's moment in the political sun
- Decades of visions of social housing transformation
- Dominant logics: rationing, straitening

## Approach

Projects on:

- Aspirations
- Access
- Support
- Outcomes

# Key findings



# Key findings

- Low-income households have **diverse housing aspirations** and are conscious that their needs and pathways change over time.
- Social housing is seen both as an **ideal tenure** and a **stepping stone** in housing pathways.
- Despite the rising international interest in **policy co-design** in human services, there is limited experience of it in Australian social housing and housing assistance policy.

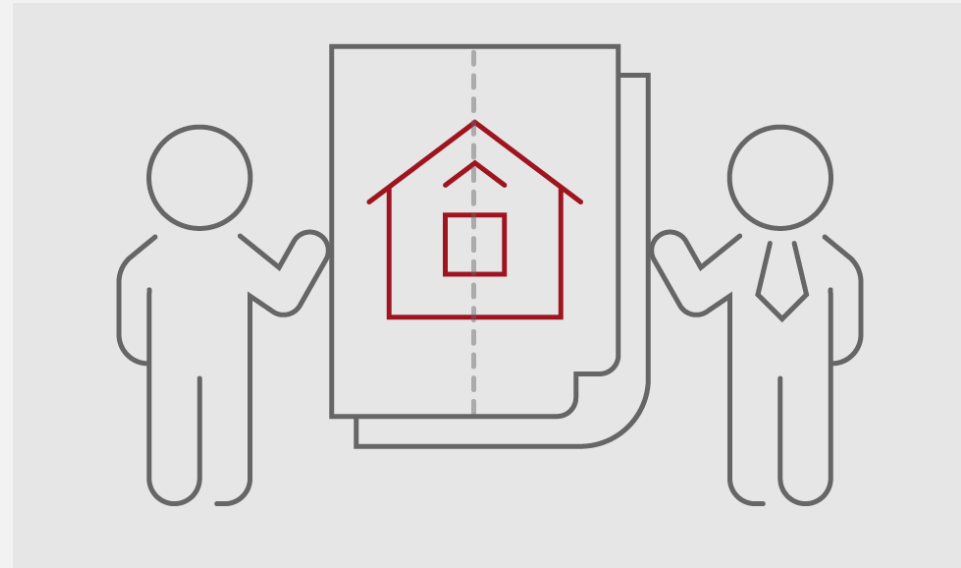
# Key findings

- The **application process** is often deeply unsatisfactory and upsetting. Private rental assistance appears to be more stopgap than diversionary from social housing, and its efficacy is questionable.
- **Support** for persons with complex needs can be delivered in a range of housing tenures, but social housing offers advantages. Case coordination gets results but can place pressure on workers.
- Social housing officers and stakeholders see **outcomes reporting** as a way of promoting the value of social housing, but the capacity of organisations to conduct evaluations varies.

# Key findings

- 'Housing pathways'
  - Centres subjective meanings of housing and home
  - Against housing 'careers' and 'ladders'
- Person-centred housing assistance strategy
- Data improvements
- Legislative reform (the Housing Acts)

# Policy development options: participation and co design



# Participation and co-design

- Two levels: system and individual
  - **System:** review and co-design operational policies, especially private rental assistance and the application process
  - **Individual:** consider individual housing plans (but not disciplinary)

# Policy development options: data and reporting



# Data and reporting

- Data for accountability, and for best practice
- **Accountability:** data improvement plans, especially re private rental assistance, temporary accommodation
- **Best practice:** an 'Australian housing clearinghouse' for sharing information and evaluations, informing co-design

# Policy development options: legislative reform



# Legislative reform

- Most jurisdictions' **housing legislation** says little about the operation of social housing and nothing about private rental assistance
- Legal entitlements to **housing assistance** are weaker than those to social security and disability support
- **Reform** housing legislation to:
  - reflect the range of forms of assistance provided
  - commit to co-design principles
  - enshrine the right to reasonable and necessary housing assistance

# Thank you