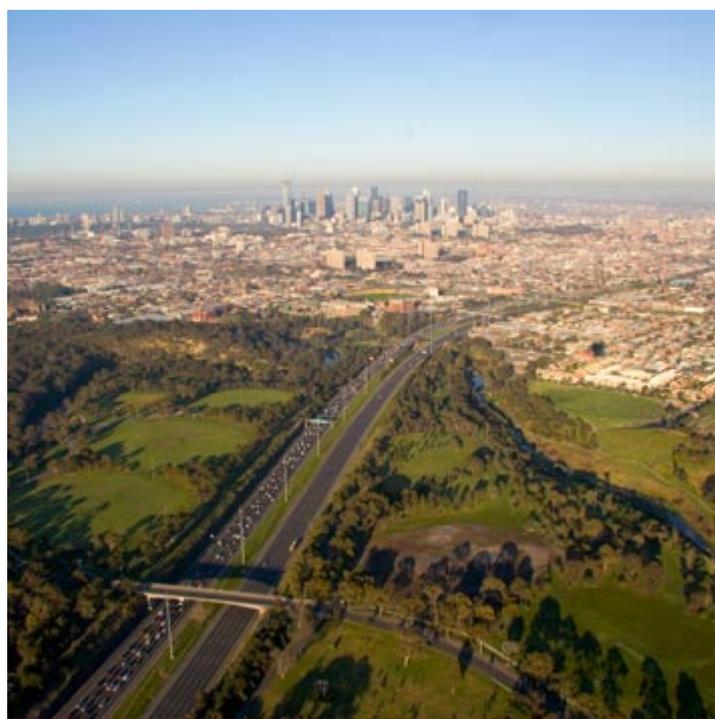


ANNUAL REPORT 2012

AHURI RMIT Research Centre



ABOUT THE CENTRE

The Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) Limited is a national organisation funded through contributions from federal and state governments and nine participating universities. AHURI Ltd has a research centre located in the School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning (now School of Global, Urban and Social Studies) at RMIT University and there are eight other research centres around Australia which all have access to a program of housing research grants distributed annually.

The RMIT Centre was established in 1999 under the direction of Professor Mike Berry, who was also foundation CEO of the national Institute (1993 -1998). Associate Professor Robin Goodman took over the role of Director from Professor Gavin Wood at the start of 2010. There are now three broad streams of research promoted by AHURI Ltd around housing, homelessness and cities. The RMIT AHURI Research Centre conducts research in all three areas. At the present time the Centre has staff whose work focuses on the links between housing and economics, on housing policy, on urban planning and issues around sustainable cities including transport and mobility, on homelessness and on the intersections between housing and labour market issues. The Centre fosters opportunities for researchers to work both individually and collectively, with colleagues from within RMIT and at other universities nationally and internationally.

The RMIT AHURI Research Centre is committed to strengthening the links between teaching and research staff in the university and promoting an active and collaborative research culture. This is achieved by bringing people together in joint activities such as the Centre's seminar program; secondment of staff to AHURI for study leave; involvement of AHURI staff in teaching (guest lectures etc.); and joint publications and grant applications.

The AHURI RMIT Research Centre aims to:

- Achieve high quality research outcomes that are internationally recognised;
- Effectively harness the multi-disciplinary expertise of AHURI staff for comprehensive innovative research and analysis;
- Forge and maintain productive links with relevant government, community and business agencies; and
- Encourage and facilitate productive knowledge exchange.

The AHURI RMIT Research Centre specialises in applied research which directly addresses current policy problems, particularly in the areas of housing and urban planning. Emphasis is on the economic, social and environmental sustainability of cities and regions. Research focus areas will continue to expand and diversify as we tackle new issues and form collaborative links with colleagues from across a variety of different disciplines.

In 2013, the AHURI RMIT Research Centre will become an important pillar within the Centre for Urban Research (CUR), a new research centre located within the School of Global, Urban and Social Studies. The CUR will showcase RMIT University's excellence in urban research and have a broad remit for applied research into urban and regional planning, housing and homelessness policy, and urban sustainability and climate change issues.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

In 2012, the RMIT AHURI Research Centre experienced another productive and busy year, which saw a number of staff arrive, new research programs and projects begin funded by a range of new grants (including seven Category 1 grants), while existing multi-year projects and programs of research continued.

The expansion in the number of staff housed in the centre was quite dramatic. Susie Moloney moved into the centre in March to work on a book project with myself and Michael Buxton. Ian McShane arrived in May to work on projects concerning civic infrastructure along with research assistant Natalie Cole. In August six staff from the former Centre for Design – Cecily Maller, Yolande Strengers, Larissa Nicholls, Paula Arcari, Andrew Martell and Shae Hunter - transferred into GUSS and the AHURI Research Centre. Also in August Hartmut Fuenfgeld transferred into our school and centre from the Climate Change Adaptation Program of GCI bringing with him Alianne Rance and Sophie Millin.

This great influx of staff has given the centre new energy and greater breadth to its research agenda (as well as some accommodation issues), in part prompting the name change and new identity as the Centre for Urban Research, which was approved in December 2012 and put into effect in 2013. This new centre identity was also supported by staff from the Environment and Planning group, particularly Paul Mees, who could see the value in having an identified urban research centre, and Sarah Bekessy who leads a group of researchers into biodiversity and urban planning issues, now incorporated into the new centre. While the Centre for Urban Research did not come into being until the start of 2013, the planning and preparatory work took place during 2012.

A key event for the centre took place in April 2012, when RMIT hosted a conference focussing on Homelessness Research. The conference, which attracted national and international attention, was superbly organised by Guy Johnson. It was opened by the Vice Chancellor Professor Margaret Gardner, and featured a keynote address by Professor Chris Chamberlain. The Vice Chancellor was called upon to open another significant gathering of researchers when she launched the Beyond Behaviour Change Symposium in November. This conference was organised by the Beyond Behaviour Change group now based in the centre and co-led by Yolande Strengers and Cecily Maller.

We had a number of outstanding visitors to the centre during the year who were able to contribute in multiple ways included some terrific public lectures. These included Professor Oswaldo Massambani, Senior Advisor for Sustainable Urban Development, from Sao Paulo, Brazil in March; Professor Susan Smith (who is an Honorary Adjunct Professor with us) from the University of Cambridge in August and September; Dr Marietta Haffner, a Senior Researcher from TU Delft in October, and Professor Elizabeth Shove from Lancaster University in November.

2012 was a very busy year for me personally as I took on the additional job of Deputy Dean (Research) for GUSS from March, on top of my role as centre Director. To assist me however, Joe Hurley was appointed as a Deputy Director for that time, taking on many crucial tasks, most importantly around the process of establishing the new Centre for Urban Research. His energy and organisational skills were greatly appreciated by all of us but most particularly by me.

Robin Goodman
Director

PEOPLE

Researchers

Professor Mike Berry

Professor, Urban Studies & Public Policy

BEC Hons Sydney, MEc BA New England, Grad Dip UrbRegSt Birmingham, PhD Melbourne, DSocSc RMIT

Mike Berry is a leading scholar of urban studies and public policy. His research role at the RMIT University Research Centre of the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) has focused on urban development processes, urban social theory, economics and public policy, and housing markets and policy. Mike has been carrying out research of national significance and international reach into alternative financing approaches for affordable housing, and the impact of housing markets on the macro economy.



Dr Melek Cigdem

Research Fellow

Melek Cigdem joined AHURI in 2010, shortly after completing her PhD in Economics at Latrobe University. Melek has since been a co-author of two AHURI-funded research projects. The first project, titled 'Modelling the impacts of the Henry Review tax recommendations on housing supply and affordability', was co-authored with Professor Gavin Wood, Dr Elizabeth Taylor, and Dr Rachel Ong (Curtin University) and examines the impact on supply and affordability from implementation of the Henry Review recommendations in relation to negative gearing, land tax and stamp duty. The second project was co-authored with Professor Gavin Wood and is titled 'Cost-effective methods for evaluating Neighbourhood Renewal programs. Her main areas of expertise are in econometric modelling of large panel datasets, quasi-experimental designs, hedonic price modelling, taxation modelling and data imputation and Geographic Information Systems (GIS), spatial analysis and modelling.



Associate Professor Val Colic-Peisker

Associate Professor, School of Global, Urban and Social Studies

BA (Hons) MA PolSc Zagreb, DipEd Rijeka, MPhil UWA, PhD Murdoch

Val Colic-Peisker's research is interdisciplinary, theoretically as well as policy-oriented, spanning sociology, political science, social psychology and economics, and uses qualitative as well as quantitative research methods. Val's central research interests are in the areas of migration, mobility, globalisation and Australian immigration and settlement policies. Her research has focused on notions of ethnicity/race, identity, community and class. Val's recent publications cover topics such as labour and residential integration and social inclusion of immigrants. She is also interested in social, cultural and political aspects of Australian housing market and homeownership. Val actively promotes cross-disciplinary, inter-university and international research collaborations, engaging in housing as well as migration research and combining the two themes.



Val actively promotes cross-disciplinary, inter-university and international research collaborations. She regularly presents her research at national and international conferences and public seminars. In 2006, she was a convenor of the Australian Sociological Association Annual Conference in Perth (TASA 2006). Val regularly serves as a referee for academic journals, research funding bodies,

and higher degree theses. In 2009, Val has convened the inter-university Migration and Mobility Research Network (MMRN) based at RMIT.

Professor Tony Dalton

Professor, Urban Studies & Public Policy

Fel Dip Arch PhD RMIT, Grad Dip PubPol Mel, M SocSci Birmingham (UK)

Tony is a professor in the RMIT Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute Research Centre. He contributes to the program of urban housing research in this research centre and teaches in the area of research strategies. His areas of research interest are in housing affordability and access, housing and climate change and the housing industry. He returned to research and teaching position in 2011. Prior to this he held senior leadership positions at RMIT. He was Deputy Pro Vice Chancellor Research and Innovation in the College of Design and Social Context (2004-2010) and Chair of Academic Board (2009-2010).

Tony is Chair of the RMIT Fair Trade Steering Committee. He also represents RMIT on the Board of ProSPER.NET an Asia-Pacific grouping of universities committed to work together to integrate Sustainable Development (SD) into postgraduate courses and curricula.



Associate Professor Robin Goodman

Director, RMIT AHURI Research Centre & Acting Deputy Dean Research & Innovation

BA (Hons) La Trobe, MUrbPlan Melbourne, PhD Melbourne

Robin Goodman has been the Director of the AHURI RMIT Research Centre since the start of 2010. She is an urban planner and holds a BA (Hons) from La Trobe University and a Masters of Urban Planning and a PhD from the University of Melbourne.

Robin's research interests centre on various aspects of urban planning and public policy. In 2009-2010 she led an AHURI project on the effects that various planning policy changes have had on the types of housing constructed, particularly in new growth areas in Victoria in the last 20 years. The publication of the report of this project in 2010 generated interest from both the media and the state government with its findings that strategic planning policy in Victoria had had minimal effect on built form outcomes. Robin also led a project on marginal rental housing funded by AHURI in 2011-2012, and is currently leading a team on a VicHealth funded project to evaluate the effects of stable community housing on the health of residents. She has led a number of research projects on aspects of owners' corporations and master planned estates, retail planning and the planning of new suburbs. She is currently working on a book on planning in Melbourne.



Dr Guy Johnson

Senior Research Fellow

BA (Hons) BBus (Marketing) MA Monash, PhD RMIT

Guy Johnson has been involved in the area of homelessness for almost two decades, initially as a practitioner and more recently as a researcher. Guy has extensive knowledge of existing homelessness research, current homelessness policies, and is well acquainted with the homelessness service system.

Guy has published extensively on homelessness is a co-author of 'On the Outside: Pathways in and out of homelessness. He has won over \$1,000,000 in competitive and contract funding and is currently involved in three longitudinal



studies to evaluate service interventions designed to end chronic homelessness. He is also a Honorary Senior Fellow at The Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research at The University of Melbourne.

Dr Ian McShane

Senior Research Fellow

BA (Hons) (Tasmania), MEd (Canberra), PhD (Swinburne)

Ian McShane joined RMIT as Senior Research Fellow in May 2012 from Swinburne University. Ian's research focuses on informal and formal education systems (especially museums, libraries and schools), local infrastructure and community services, and digital technologies.

Current research projects are on shared use community infrastructure and service co-ordination, the development of publicly accessible wireless networks in Australia and internationally, and the representational politics of cultural diversity in Australian museums. Ian has had a long involvement with the Australian museum sector, working as a senior curator at the National Museum of Australia and consulting to other levels of government on museums and culture. In 2013 Ian was appointed to UNESCO's Creative Cities Network external evaluation panel.



Dr Susie Moloney

Senior Research Fellow

B Plan&Design (Hons) PhD Melbourne

Susie has an urban planning and environmental sustainability background with an honours degree in Planning and Design and a PhD in Urban Planning from the University of Melbourne. Her doctoral thesis focused on the changing role of urban planning and environmental policy in response to the imperative for cities to become globally competitive. The research involved a comparative analysis of urban planning policy in Melbourne, Vancouver and Copenhagen between the early 1970s through to the late 1990s. Susie has a long standing interest in the challenges of planning for sustainable urban environments and developing the policy and participatory processes required to achieve such outcomes.

Prior to joining the AHURI Research Centre, Susie worked for RMIT's Centre for Design and for the Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability on the State of Environment Report for Victoria, focusing particularly on methods for reporting on the consumption of energy, water and materials and the key drivers of environmental change. Prior to her time in State Government she worked as a lecturer and researcher in the School of Global Studies, Social Science and Planning at RMIT University. She has also worked as a consultant on a range of strategic planning projects including the Activity Centres Technical Report for Melbourne 2030 and a number of local government projects.



Dr Sharon Parkinson

Postdoctoral Research Fellow

BHSc (Hons) PhD RMIT

Sharon Parkinson is a Research Fellow and joined the AHURI Research Centre in 2007 to work on an ARC international linkage project led by Professor Gavin Wood (RMIT) and Professor Susan Smith (Cambridge University). Sharon has a combined background in public health and the social sciences, with research experience spanning over 15 years in private consultancies, non-government research organisations, and now academia. Throughout her career, Sharon has led several housing related research projects and consultancies in the areas of homelessness and housing insecurity and has developed particular expertise in



longitudinal data analysis including econometric modelling and qualitative biographical methods, as well as service program planning and evaluation.

Sharon's areas of research and policy interest include labour and housing market connections, housing insecurity and homelessness, housing wealth and consumption, and the social determinants of health and wellbeing. Her PhD, *The Rise of the Working Insecure Household*, submitted in 2010, examined the connection between changing labour and housing markets in Australia during the period of restructuring and growth between 1992 and 2007. Following on from her PhD Sharon was awarded a nationally competitive AHURI three year postdoctoral research fellowship.

Recently completed and ongoing project include:

- Process evaluation of the J2SI Program (leader)
- Housing security consequences of underemployment (co leader)
- Homelessness and 'Housing First': Issues for Australian policy and practice

Dr Jan Scheurer

Senior Research Fellow

Dipl-Ing Hamburg Academy of Fine Arts, PhD Murdoch

Jan's areas of expertise are urban design, transport planning, sustainability policy and mobility culture. His Senior Research Fellow position is shared between the AHURI RMIT Research Centre and the Faculty of Built Environment at Curtin University, Perth. He currently teaches in the Sustainability and Climate Change Policy program at Curtin University, and the Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) PlaNet program in Melbourne.

Jan has developed an award-winning tool for land use-transport integration assessment (Spatial Network Analysis for Multimodal Urban Transport Systems or SNAMUTS), which is the subject of an ARC Discovery grant in 2011-2013 to a collaborative team at RMIT and Curtin Universities, and will be applied to an extended sample of 25 cities worldwide during this period.



Professor Gavin Wood

Professor, Housing & Urban Research

BSc Hons (Econ) Brunei, MSc London, PhD Murdoch

Gavin Wood was Director of the RMIT Research Centre of the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) (2004-2009) and previously held positions at Murdoch University, Western Australia and the University of Glasgow, Scotland. Gavin's main research interests are in public policy and urban studies, housing finance and labour economics. He has published widely and is currently on the International Editorial Advisory Board of *Urban Studies* and *Housing Studies*. Gavin has consulted to a number of organisations including: the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the New Zealand Department of Labour, the Office of Fair Trading (WA), the Northern Housing Executive and the Australian Commonwealth Government's National Housing Strategy.

He has recently led several AHURI funded research projects, including on the sustainability of homeownership in the 21st century and tax reform and housing supply; on evaluating neighbourhood renewal programmes, and on underemployment and housing insecurity.

In recent years Professor Wood has forged successful research collaborations with Professor Susan Smith at Girton College, Cambridge University, UK, Dr Rachel Ong at Curtin University, Western Australia and Marietta Haffner, Delft University, Netherlands.



Administrative Staff

Ms Serena Lim

Centre Coordinator

Serena ensures that the RMIT AHURI Research Centre runs smoothly and efficiently. Amongst her many responsibilities are to:

- Manage financial records for AHURI, including budget preparation and projection, to assist with the development of business plans.
- Manage AHURI's human resources activities, including supervision and organising of research assistants and casual staff;
- Provide assistance to AHURI's researchers with preparation of research funding applications, including costing and budgetary information and assessment of project viability, and contracts management;
- Provide assistance in the preparation of formal reports of AHURI's projects to external funding bodies as required;
- Monitor grant reporting requirements, including research grants, commercial activities to facilitate management and accountability;
- Manage special projects such as conferences, seminars and workshops.



Ms Yani Iskandar

Centre Administrative Assistant

Honorary Appointments

Adjunct Professor Duncan Maclennan

University of St Andrews, Scotland, UK

Adjunct Professor Geoff Meen

University of Reading, UK

Adjunct Professor Susan Smith

Girton College, Cambridge, UK

Associate Professor Anitra Nelson

Dr Marietta Haffner - Principal Research Fellow

Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands

Dr Julie Lawson – Honorary Associate

Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands

Dr Joe Flood – Honorary Associate

Associate Members

Professor Michael Buxton

RMIT University

Dr Joe Hurley

RMIT University

Associate Professor John T Jackson

RMIT University

Dr Annette Kroen

Victorian Government Department of Transport

RMIT-AHURI affiliated PhD Students in 2012

Alice Stoakes

The impact of change of women's marital status on labour and housing market experiences of female-headed households.

Scholarship(s): AHURI Top Up & APA

Supervisors: Gavin Wood and Sara Charlesworth

Bronwyn Meyrick

Housing Affordability or Environmental Sustainability: what's the right thing to do?

Scholarship(s): AHURI Top Up & APAI

Supervisors: Mike Berry and John Morrisey

Naomi Bailey

Breaking the cycle: chronic homelessness and supported housing.

Scholarship(s): AHURI Top Up & APAI

Supervisors: Chris Chamberlain and Guy Johnson

Kristen Bell

Spatial Network Analysis for Multimodal Transport Systems: Planning for best practice public transport networks.

Scholarship(s): AHURI Top Up & APA

Supervisors: Paul Mees and Jan Scheurer

Cael Leskovec

Challenging the doxa of planning for certainty: a case study of Melbourne and its implications for strategic spatial planning theory and practice

Scholarship(s): AHURI Top Up & APA

Supervisors: Jean Hillier

Carlo Carli

Getting it right? The relationship between private and public providers of public transport in a period of privatisation.

Supervisors: Robin Goodman and David Hayward

Ian Jones

Defining Sustainable Transport through Planning Practice: Developing a Normative Mobility Framework for the Melbourne Metropolitan Transport System.

Scholarship(s): APA

Supervisors: Robin Goodman and Ralph Horne

Thunradee Thavegan

Bridging the Governments and Civil Society through Network Governance in Thailand: Two Case Studies of Local Environmental Policy Network Analysis in Songkhla and Buriram Provinces

Supervisors: Paul Battersby and Robin Goodman

Tom Bolton

The Dynamics of Housing Affordability and the Housing Tenure of the Low Paid

Supervisors: Gavin Wood and Tony Dalton

Roberto Colanzi

Avoiding Carbon Lock-in: an analysis of government, community and industry responses to proposed political and economic models of urban development with specific focus on private transport mobility in major cities of Viet Nam

Supervisors: Ralph Horne and Tony Dalton

Kathryn Daley

Young people and problematic substance use

Supervisors: Guy Johnson and Chris Chamberlain

Comments:

PhD Completions 2012

Tammy Wong

The city as a curated space: A comparative case study of the visual arts in the public realm in central Melbourne Sydney.

Scholarship(s): AHURI Top Up & APA

Supervisors: Elizabeth Grierson and David Forrest

NEW RESEARCH PROJECTS IN 2012

Category 1 Research Projects

Refugees, housing and social Inclusion in Australia (collaborative with UWA)

(Commencing 2012)

Grantor: AHURI Ltd

Researcher(s): Paul Flatau (UWA); Farida Fozdar (UWA); Anne Pedersen (UWA); Val Colic-Peisker (RMIT)

Total Grant: \$193,322 (ex GST)

The study maps the housing, neighbourhood, and non-shelter experiences of humanitarian entrants to Perth and Melbourne for a period of three years from the point of arrival, seeks to understand, whether, how and to what degree humanitarian entrants face difficulties in accessing and sustaining long-term housing, the non-shelter consequences of the housing outcomes achieved by humanitarian entrants, the role of neighbourhood in affecting the lived experiences of humanitarian entrants and the effectiveness of housing support programs in assisting humanitarian entrants achieve desired housing outcomes.

The edges of home ownership

(Commencing 2012)

Grantor: AHURI Ltd

Researcher(s): Gavin Wood (RMIT), Susan J. Smith (Girton College, UK), Rachel Ong and Clinton McMurray (Curtin University)

Total Grant: \$181,278

This project examines the 'churn' on the edges of home ownership to deepen understanding of entry (affordability), sustainability (risk of exit through financial stress) and utility (retirees trading-out for asset-based welfare). The study will be across all age groups with implications for a number of policy areas including home ownership, retirement incomes policy, subsidies to first home owners and CRA.

Housing equity withdrawal: uses and risks of alternative options for older Australians

(Commencing 2012)

Grantor: AHURI Ltd

Researcher(s): Rachel Ong, Therese Jefferson and Siobhan Austen (Curtin University), Gavin Wood (RMIT), Marietta Haffner (Delft University, Netherlands),

Total Grant: \$133,332

Recent economic events have highlighted the riskiness of housing as a vehicle for retirement funding. This project will uncover the financial costs and risks of alternative housing equity withdrawal mechanisms and offer recommendations of financial products which can mitigate risks associated with housing equity withdrawal in old age.

Wellbeing outcomes of low-income renters: a multi-level analysis of area effects

(Commencing 2012)

Grantor: AHURI Ltd

Researcher(s): Sharon Parkinson (RMIT); Melek Cigdem (RMIT); Rachel Ong (Curtin University); Elizabeth Taylor (Melbourne University)

Total Grant: \$102,684 (ex GST) (plus AHURI funding linked to the postdoctoral position \$45,000 a year)

The project aims to provide a multilevel analysis of the wellbeing outcomes of low-income renters living in diverse locations. It combines HILDA, ABS, and ATO data to isolate the area-based level from household level effects across time. The research helps to inform area-based policies on social mix and affordability.

Collecting Institutions, cultural diversity and the making of citizenship in Australia since the 1970s

(Commencing 2012)

Grantor: ARC Discovery

Researcher(s): Ian McShane (RMIT), Andrea Witcomb (Deakin), Kylie Message (ANU), Simon Knell (Leicester University), Aarne Bugge Amundsen (University of Oslo)

Total Grant: \$140,000

The project develops the first comprehensive history of the engagement of the Australian collecting sector with cultural diversity. It aims to understand the role of the sector in the management and promotion of culturally diverse societies, including the formation of citizens and to identify Australian innovation in this regard.

Opportunity spaces - Community engagement in the planning use and governance of shared school facilities

(Commencing 2012)

Grantor: Department of Education and Early Childhood Development & ARC

Researcher(s): Ian McShane (RMIT), Denise Meredyth (RMIT), Jerry Watkins (UWS)

Total Grant: \$180,000

In Australia and internationally, there is increasing interest in making more effective use of schools as community hubs. Investment in shared school facilities aims to engage parents and local communities in schooling, to coordinate educational and community services, and to encourage civic participation. There is little research on the conceptual and practical problems associated with engaging local communities in the planning, use and governance of shared facilities, or on the benefits to schools and communities of shared use. Combining analysis of international policy and practice and rich local site studies, this project will generate new empirically grounded insights into this significant development in educational and social policy.

Evaluating housing and health outcomes at Lakewood

(Commencing 2012)

Grantor: AHURI Ltd

Researcher(s): Robin Goodman (RMIT), Peter Phibbs (Sydney University)

Total Grant: \$80,000

The project explores housing's interaction with health, especially over time, and beyond the limitations of existing data sources. It evaluates the innovative housing initiative, Lakeside Community, which provides an important opportunity to fill in the evidence gap with a good empirical study.

Other Funded Contract Research Projects

Peer review of four Darebin housing reports

Grantor: Darebin City Council

Researcher(s): Robin Goodman (RMIT), Joe Hurley (RMIT)

Total Grant: \$12,600

This work involved a review of four housing reports from Darebin City Council: Housing Initiatives Analysis; Housing opportunities; Housing Issues and Constraints; and Grey Precincts Investigation Areas. The purpose of the review was to improve the quality of analysis and recommendations, and to provide certification of the reports. The reports will inform the development of the housing strategy for the Council.

Housing and employment for social cohesion in multicultural neighbourhoods 'in transition': building local best practice

Grantor: Scanlon Foundation Research Grant

Researcher(s): Val Colic-Peisker (RMIT), Peter Phipps (RMIT), Shanthi Robertson (RMIT)

Total Grant: \$25,000

The project investigates the role of housing, employment and local community in generating social cohesion in multicultural neighbourhoods 'in transition' - that is, neighbourhoods currently experiencing social and demographic change through the interactions between newly arrived/emerging migrant communities and established residents.

Doncaster Rail - Future scenarios and accessibility assessment

Grantor: Manningham City Council Research Grant

Researcher(s): Jan Scheurer (RMIT)

Total Grant: \$20,000

ONGOING AND COMPLETED PROJECTS

Category 1 Research Projects

Understanding the patterns, characteristics and trends in the housing sector labour force in Australia

Grantor: AHURI Ltd

Researcher(s): Tony Dalton (RMIT), Lucy Groenhart (RMIT), Ralph Horne (RMIT), Prem Chhetri (RMIT), Jonathan Corcoran (University of Queensland)

Total Grant: \$132,427

The research assists in establishing greater certainty in policy aimed at ensuring adequate housing supply, good economic management and future contribution of the residential sector through an institutional analysis of the housing industry that is engaged in building new dwellings and renovating existing housing. A particular focus is on employment within the housing sector labour force and its contribution to the national economy; developing a better understanding of how the housing sector labour force has responded to population changes and household formation over the last decade in Australia; and analysing the housing sector labour force spatially and consideration of potential 'spatial mismatch' between the demand for dwellings and supply of labour.

Australian suburban house building: industry organisation, practices and constraints

Grantor: AHURI Ltd

Researcher(s): Tony Dalton (RMIT), Ron Wakefield (RMIT), Ralph Horne (RMIT)

Total Grant: \$129,033

The research aims to assess the impact of current work processes and management of subcontractors on productivity in the housing construction industry. It seeks to test the hypothesis that delays in housing construction are at least partly caused by difficulties in the work processes and/or management systems of subcontractors by tracking the current use and practices of subcontractors. The findings promises widespread implications for Australia's residential housing construction sector and associated policies addressing the undersupply of housing.

Breaking the cycle: the role of housing and support in resolving chronic homelessness

Grantor: Australian Research Council

Researcher(s): Guy Johnson (RMIT), Chris Chamberlain (RMIT)

Total Grant: \$127,757

This is a PhD study examining role of support and housing in breaking the cycle of chronic homelessness.

Resident third party objections and appeals against planning applications: implications for medium density and social housing

Grantor: AHURI Ltd

Researcher(s): Nicole Cook (RMIT), Val Colic-Peisker (RMIT), Elizabeth Taylor (RMIT) & Joe Hurley (RMIT)

Total Grant: \$93,389

This project focuses on residents' concerns about changing neighbourhoods: as part of a democratic ethos of public participation in planning, many jurisdictions provide third-party rights of objection and appeal to interested groups. It aims to systematically examine two models of public engagement in planning approval processes. The assessment of planning approaches best able to mediate conflicting views in delivery of medium density and social housing is crucial to inform policy.

Modelling the impacts of the Henry Tax Review recommendations on housing supply and affordability

Grantor: AHURI Ltd

Researcher(s): Rachel Ong (Curtin University), Gavin Wood (RMIT), Melek Cigdem (RMIT)

Total Grant: \$52,843 (RMIT share)

In light of continuing concerns about the affordability of housing, this project's findings have potentially important implications for the future design of policies that affect housing outcomes. They will help policy-makers judge the effectiveness of the Henry Review's recommendations in addressing housing supply issues, and highlight aspects of the recommendations that may remove (or introduce) distortions in housing investment and the housing market.

Spatial network analysis for multimodal urban transport systems

Grantor: Australian Research Council – Discovery grant award

Researcher(s): Prof Carey Curtis, Roger Mellor (Curtin University), Dr Jan Scheurer (RMIT/Curtin University), Dr Paul Mees (RMIT), Kristen Bell (RMIT)

Total Grant: \$458,000

This project, extends from previous projects, addresses the important gap in understanding of the relationship between housing market change and transport accessibility and in determining appropriate policy responses to growing problems of 'transport disadvantage

Marginal rental housing and marginal renters: a typology for policy

Grantor: AHURI Ltd

Researcher(s): Robin Goodman (RMIT), Keith Jacobs (University of Tasmania), Anitra Nelson (RMIT), Tony Dalton (RMIT) & Elizabeth Taylor (RMIT)

Total Grant: \$222,337

This research project addresses the current conditions, trends, the drivers of change and the implications of the housing policy to marginal rental housing. It aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the dynamics driving the use of various forms of marginal rental housing, a deeper understanding of how they are used, the experiences and circumstances of users, culminating in a marginal rental typology. The result will offer a strong evidence base for policy-making, allowing differentiated and appropriate treatments of the various forms of marginal rental housing and renters and future monitoring of trends and conditions.

Cost-effective methods for evaluation of neighbourhood renewal programs

Grantor: AHURI Ltd

Researcher(s): Gavin Wood (RMIT) & Melek Cigdem (RMIT)

Total Grant: \$170,404

This project aims to design and implement a robust, cost effective, quasi-experimental methodology for the evaluation of urban renewal programs. Evaluation of neighbourhood evaluation programs can help policy makers monitor their effectiveness. While benefits within the boundaries of targeted renewal areas are of primary interest, it is important to recognise the benefits in adjacent neighbourhoods. The study method is capable of measuring their size, and rate of decay, as distance from renewal areas increases. Data sets and computer programs will be made available to government agencies interested in implementing the evaluation method.

The housing security consequences of underemployment

Grantor: AHURI Ltd

Researcher(s): Iain Campbell (RMIT), Sharon Parkinson (RMIT) & Gavin Wood (RMIT)

Total Grant: \$130,629 (plus AHURI funding linked to the postdoctoral position \$45,000 a year)

This research project aims to provide a comprehensive population-wide analysis of the consequences of time-related underemployment as it relates to different housing tenures and household groups. It will enable policy makers to develop informed housing assistance interventions for those adversely affected. The research design will provide robust evidence on the housing outcomes of underemployment workers that can be generalised to the broader Australian population.

Journeys home: longitudinal study of factors affecting housing stability

Grantor: FaHCSIA

Researcher(s): Guy Johnson (RMIT)

Total Grant: \$128,000

As part of the National Homelessness Research Agenda, the Australian Government commissioned the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research at Melbourne University to undertake the Journeys Home: Longitudinal study of factors affecting housing stability. Journeys Home aims to improve the understanding of, and policy response to, the diverse social, economic and personal factors that are related to homelessness and the risk of becoming homeless. It will be the first large-scale longitudinal study assessing a broad sample of Australians who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. In recognition of his expertise in the area of homeless research Guy was approached by Melbourne University to be a part of the research team.

Housing supply bonds - a suitable instrument to channel investment towards affordable housing in Australia?

Grantor: AHURI Ltd

Researcher(s): Julie Lawson (RMIT), Vivienne Milligan (University of New South Wales) & Judy Yates (University of New South Wales)

Total Grant: \$122,438

This project addresses the concerns in housing choice and the need for an increased supply of social/affordable housing. It addresses the deficiencies in existing public financing mechanisms by investigating and proposing adaptation of successfully implemented private financing scheme overseas to Australian conditions and demands.

Sustaining home ownership in the 21st Century: emerging policy concerns – Essay

Grantor: AHURI Ltd

Researcher(s): Gavin Wood (RMIT) & Rachel Ong (Curtin University)

Total Grant: \$28,808

The essay aims to chart the challenges to homeownership in the 21st century, and explore the possible policy responses to these challenges. It will offer new insights that will allow policy-makers to consider whether recent findings on precarious homeownership warrant a shift in policy focus away from assisting renters into homeownership toward helping existing owner-occupiers retain homeownership. Charting new directions in which housing policy should be developed to promote housing stability in an increasingly volatile financial environment.

Homelessness and 'Housing First': issues for Australian policy and practice – Essay

Grantor: AHURI Ltd

Researcher(s): Guy Johnson (RMIT), Sharon Parkinson (RMIT) & Cameron Parsell (University of Queensland)

Total Grant: \$26,010

The US Housing First model is one approach to rehousing those experiencing chronic and street based homelessness gaining prominence in policy discourse and now being widely implemented throughout Australia. This essay provides a critical and reflective analysis of the Housing First approach

Other Funded Contract Research Projects

Breaking the cycle: evaluation of the streets to home initiative

Grantor: The Salvation Army and HomeGround Services

Researcher(s): Guy Johnson (RMIT), Chris Chamberlain (RMIT), Sharon Parkinson (RMIT)

Total Grant: \$230,000

The project is a three year longitudinal study evaluating Melbourne Street to Home initiative. Melbourne Street to Home (MS2H) is a new program providing coordinated housing, support services and health intervention targeted at the most vulnerable people who are rough sleeping in inner-Melbourne.

Journey to social inclusion (J2SI): evaluation – RCT outcomes study

Grantor: Sacred Heart Mission

Researcher(s): Guy Johnson (RMIT), Sharon Parkinson (RMIT), Yi ping Tseng (Melbourne Institute of Applied Social and Economic Research); Daniel Kuehnle

Total Grant: \$153,036

The project is a four year randomised control study which is aimed to assess the effectiveness of the Journey to Social Inclusion program to break the cycle of chronic homelessness.

J2SI is a three year initiative that aims to improve the health, well-being, and the social and economic participation of people who are chronically homeless. It provides intensive, long term support for each person including therapeutic and skills building services.

Journey to social inclusion (J2SI): process evaluation

Grantor: Sacred Heart Mission

Researcher(s): Sharon Parkinson (RMIT)

Total Grant: \$59,400

This project documents and reviews the effectiveness J2SI program model in responding to the housing and support needs of the chronically homeless within a best practice framework. The process evaluation runs along side the randomised control study and seeks to connect service program activities with short, intermediate and longer term client outcomes.

PUBLICATIONS IN 2012

Books

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Book chapters

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Journal articles

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- Leshinsky, R., Douglas, K., Condliffe, P., & Goodman, R. (2012). Dispute resolution under the Owners Corporation Act 2006 (Vic): Engaging with conflict in communal living, *Property Law Review*, 2, 39 – 63.
- McShane, I. (2012). Learning to share: Australia's 'building the education revolution' and shared schools, *Journal of Educational Administration and History*, 44, 105 – 119.
- Mendes, P., Johnson, G., & Moslehuddin, B. (2012). Young people transitioning from out-of-home care and relationships with family of origin: An examination of three recent Australian studies, *Child Care in Practice*, 18, 357 – 370.
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- Wood, G., Ong, R., & McMurray, C. (2012). Housing tenure, energy consumption and the split-incentive issue in Australia, *International Journal of Housing Policy*, 12, 439 – 469.
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Conference papers – refereed

- Colic-Peisker, V. (2012). Mobility and its discontents in (sub)urban Australia In: *The Annual Conference of the Australian Sociological Association 2012: Emerging and Enduring Inequalities*
- Curtis, C., & Scheurer, J. (2012). Benchmarking public transport accessibility in Australian cities In: *2012 ATRF Papers*
- Hurley, J., Dalton, T., Horne, R., & Wakefield, R. (2012). Up for a challenge? The Australian housing industry re-examined In: *Proceedings of the 6th Australasian Housing Researchers' Conference (AHRC12)*
- Johnson, G. Grigg, S and Parkinson, S 2012 J2SI: 24 Month Social and Economic Outcomes and Implications for Practice –Trauma Informed Care, *Seventh National Homelessness Conference*, Melbourne, Australia, September 5-7.
- Johnson, G. Parkinson, S., Tseng, Y. & Kuehnle, D 2012 24 month outcomes from the J2SI pilot program, *National Homelessness Research Conference*. Melbourne April 19th-29th
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- McShane, I., Watkins, J., & Meredyth, D. (2012). Schools as community hubs: Policy contexts, educational rationales, and design challenges In: *The Joint Australian Association for Research in Education-Asia Pacific Education*
- Moloney, S. and Goodman, R (2012) 'Rethinking Housing Affordability and Provision in the Context of Climate Change' proceedings for the *10th International Urban Planning and Environment Symposium*, Sydney, 25-26th July 2012
- Parkinson, S & Wood, G Campbell, I, (2012) 'Exploring the connection between underemployment and housing insecurity', peer reviewed conference proceedings *6th Australasian Housing Researchers' Conference*, February 2012, Adelaide.

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Papers, articles, reports – non-referred

- Chigavazira, A., Johnson, G., Moschion, J., Scutela, R., Tseng, Y., & Wooden, M. (2012). Journeys home research report no.2: Findings from wave 1 and 2 In: *Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA)*.
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- Parkinson, S (2012), *The Journey to Social Inclusion Program in Practice: A Process Evaluation of the First 18 Months*, January 2012, Sacred Heart Mission, Melbourne.
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- Wylie, N., & Johnson, G. (2012). Mapping services for rough sleepers in in Hobart, Canberra and Melbourne In: *Department of Australian Government, Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA)*, Canberra.

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University of Queensland
Sacred Heart Mission
Victorian Government Department of Transport

2012 FINANCIAL REPORT

For the period of 1 January to 31 December 2012

Income	AU\$
Research Grants Income	
Australian Research Council	69,605
ACGR Non-Commonwealth Govt Scheme	490,252
Non-ACGR Public Sector Rsch Income	187,842
Industry	118,649
International	-
Institutional Grants Scheme	7,639
Research Infrastructure Block Grant	56,062
Student Related Income	1,700
Other - RPIS R Goodman	10,000
<i>Total Research Grants Income</i>	<i>941,750</i>
Expenditure	
Salaries and on-costs	1,043,823
<i>offset by School funding contribution</i>	<i>- 453,421</i>
<i>offset by College funding contribution</i>	<i>- 26,802</i>
<i>Net Salaries and on-costs</i>	<i>563,600</i>
Other Operating Expenses	
Consumable materials	5,029
Minor equipment, repairs and hire/lease	14,047
Communication costs	9,116
Administration costs	1,506
Marketing, Advertising & Public Relations	20,339
Travel & Motor Vehicle Expenses	40,952
Staff Administrative Costs	70,196
Finance, legal and other	1,529
Facility expenses	3,123
Grants to Other Institutions	115,983
Staff & Student Related Expenses	21,208
<i>Total Expenses</i>	<i>866,628</i>
Operating Result	75,122

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