Transforming Housing

Project Update

Transforming Housing in 2018

This edition of the Transforming Housing Project Update highlights key policy-oriented research work in late 2017 and early 2018. We also look ahead to projects and events we have planned for 2018.

Maximising the affordable housing uplift of the Public Housing Renewal Program was a significant focus in the latter half of 2017, with a workshop, report and submission to the state government inquiry on the program.

Our focus in early 2018 will be research that investigates innovation in affordable housing in Melbourne and continuing our work on using well-located public land to meet housing need.

We will continue to research, advocate, collaborate and educate to improve housing outcomes for very low to moderate income households in Melbourne.
Advocacy and Research Update: The Public Housing Renewal Program

Transforming Housing focused on the Public Housing Renewal Program in late 2017, contributing research and advocacy efforts to campaigning for a better outcome for public housing tenants and the public housing waiting list on these sites.

Transforming Housing hosted over 100 stakeholders at a workshop on Maximising the Social Benefits of Public Housing Renewal. The workshop included a panel with representatives from public housing communities, academia, community housing, tenant unions and local government. Following the panel, small groups gathered to help gather data on the most pressing concerns and priorities for the event attendees.

Stakeholders at the workshop highlighted a wide range of hopes and concerns about the renewal project. This included hope for the program to produce a greater number of social housing units, and concerns about the loss of public land dedicated for public housing in the inner city.

To prepare for the workshop, Transforming Housing produced a background report that summarised the major themes found in Public Housing Renewal Parliamentary Inquiry submissions and highlighted international best practices for public housing renewal. Building on the research network’s Parliamentary Inquiry submission, the report canvassed the opportunity for leveraging the positive spill over benefits of renewal on nearby property values through tax increment financing and value capture taxes. It also discussed opportunities for Community Land Trusts and Inclusionary Zoning contributions.

Transforming Housing researchers also produced a conversation article based on stakeholder feedback from the workshop identifying the need for greater transparency in public housing renewal.
Upcoming Event: Lightening Talks

3 minutes. 1 slide.
PhD students pitching their bright ideas

Present your research to Victoria’s leading academics, private practitioners and government leaders.

Who: PhD students in Victoria working on affordable housing and related topics
Members of the public are welcome to attend

What: The opportunity to present your work to housing leaders in Victoria

When: Tuesday, March 20th, 3:00pm-5:00pm

Where: Japanese Room (4th floor), Melbourne School of Design, Parkville, VIC

How: Register online at https://tinyurl.com/AffHsgLightening

Meet the Panelists

Prof Carolyn Whitzman
University of Melbourne

Dr David Rosen
David Rosen and Associates

Dr Heather Holst
Launch Housing

Dr Andi Nygaard
Swinburne

Rob Pradolin
Independent Developer

Associate Prof Wendy Stone
Swinburne

Rob McGauran
MGS Architects

This event is generously sponsored by the Economic and Social Participation Research Initiative, A Hallmark Research Initiative at the University of Melbourne
Featured Allied Projects:

The four projects featured below are not directly related to Transforming Housing but reflect important housing-related research or projects that Transforming Housing is pleased to support.

How will the NDIS change Australian cities?
Ilan Wiesel, Carolyn Whitzman, Christine Bigby, Brendan Gleeson, University of Melbourne

Researchers from Transforming Housing, Ilan Wiesel and Carolyn Whitzman, are working on a new ARC-funded project investigating the impact of NDIS on cities and housing.

People with disability represent a fifth of the Australian population, and this proportion is expected to increase with population ageing.

In their most recent paper, the impacts of deinstitutionalisation, the last paradigmatic shift in disability policy, are drawn upon to consider possible changes in the lives of individuals, communities and cities in the imminent NDIS era.

Read the report here

Housing Affordability in Victoria
Kate Raynor, Caley Otter and Igor Dosen, University of Melbourne and the Parliamentary Library

In late 2017 Kate Raynor co-authored a report with the Parliamentary Library summarising recent data and research about the current state of housing in Victoria. The report highlighted decreasing affordability, decreasing rates of homeownership and increasing rates of mortgage and rental stress across Victoria.

The report also includes a multi-jurisdictional comparison of state housing policy in Australia. It finds longer histories of strategies aimed at improving affordability in WA and SA than in other states.

Kate presented the findings of the report to Parliament.

Read the report here

Resilient Communities, Resilient Melbourne

Resilient Melbourne is part of the 100 Resilient Cities challenge pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation and designed to build resilience to the economic, social and physical challenges that are increasingly part of the 21st century.

Transforming Housing researchers are currently supporting Resilient Communities, a strategy focused on encouraging and capturing information about best practice residential and mixed development that brings together developers and communities to collaborate on the decisions that shape their neighbourhoods.

More project details here

Negative Gearing and Welfare
Yunho Cho, Shuyun May Li and Lawrence Uren, Department of Economics, University of Melbourne

Economists at the University of Melbourne have released a report estimating that 76% of Australian households would benefit from the removal of Negative Gearing.

Their research found that removing negative gearing would result in lower houseprices, higher rents and higher homeownership rates.

They estimate that changes to Negative Gearing would benefit young and middle-aged households on lower incomes most significantly and disadvantage younger landlords on higher incomes.

Click here to read their draft report

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The University of Melbourne is hosting an Affordable Housing Showcase in 2018. The showcase will feature a range of exemplary social and affordable projects from across Melbourne, highlighting design attributes, equity and service elements, partnership structures and financial arrangements. The showcase will share key lessons from these projects and will be supported by events designed to bring the affordable housing sector together to celebrate excellence.

The purpose of the showcase is to celebrate successes in affordable and social housing delivery. This showcase is a continuation of our efforts to build the depth of knowledge and connections necessary to upscale affordable housing provision in Melbourne.

Exemplary projects have now been chosen. A Masters of Urban Planning Studio led by Dr Kate Raynor is currently interviewing representatives and collecting information from each of the featured projects for inclusion in the showcase.

Further details will be released in the next Transforming
Transforming Housing In the News

Recent Transforming Housing Researcher Outputs

The grim cycle of homelessness and unemployment
David Ribar, February 28 2018, Pursuit

Melbourne’s median unit price continues to climb
Carolyn Whitzman, February 2 2018, Your Mortgage

Governments have no excuse for keeping public in the dark on public housing deals
Matthew Palm, Carolyn Whitzman and Kate Raynor, February 1 2018, The Conversation

Portable units and temporary leases free up vacant land for urgent housing needs
Kate Raynor, November 13 2017, The Conversation

Building with the people
Kate Raynor, November 2 2017, Pursuit

‘Build to rent’ could be the missing piece of the affordable housing puzzle
Matthew Palm, August 29 2017, The conversation

Melbourne shows up Sydney in funding the most disadvantaged suburbs
Ilan Wiesel, August 16 2017, The Conversation

The below publications are selected outputs from Transforming Housing researchers. They showcase the breadth of knowledge and research interests embedded within the network.


There are many ways to be involved with Transforming Housing. Visit the Transforming Housing website for event and research updates.

Contact Us

Prof Carolyn Whitzman  whitzman@unimelb.edu.au
Dr Kate Raynor  katrina.raynor@unimelb.edu.au
Dr Matthew Palm  matthew.palm@unimelb.edu.au
Twitter  @Melbhousing4all