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Transforming Housing Project Update

Transforming Housing is an action research project focused on influencing and supporting the transformation of the housing policy and delivery environment in Victoria

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.

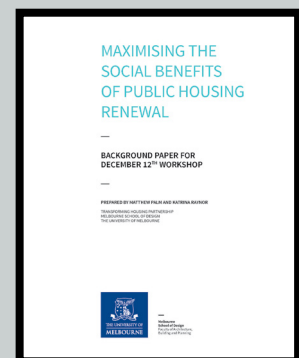
Transforming Housing hosted over 100 stakeholders at a workshop on *Maximising the Social Benefits of Public Housing Renewal*. The workshop included a panel with representatives from public housing communities, academia, community housing, tenant unions and local government. Following the panel, small 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

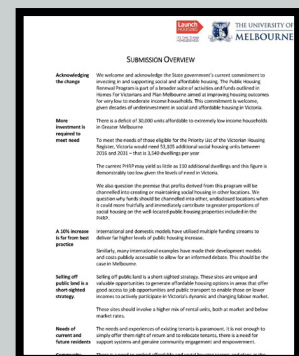
dedicated for public housing in the inner city.

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.

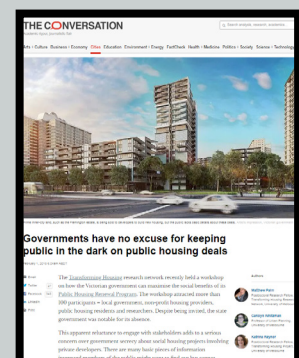
Transforming Housing researchers also produced a [conversation article](#) based on stakeholder feedback from the workshop identifying the need for greater transparency in public housing renewal.



[Read the background report](#)



[Read the submission](#)



[Read the Conversation Article](#)

Upcoming Event: Lightening Talks

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

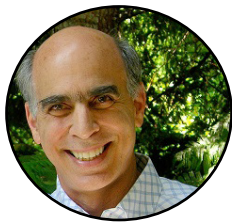
Present your research to Victoria's leading academics, private practitioners and government leaders.

- 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](#)



HOW WILL THE NDIS CHANGE AUSTRALIAN CITIES?



Upcoming: Innovation in Affordable Housing Showcase

*Occurring
in June 2018*

*Melbourne
School of
Design*

*Showcase
and Masters
Studio*

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 up-scale 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

[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

Recent Transforming Housing Researcher Outputs

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

Badland, H., Foster, S., [Bentley, R.](#), Higgs, C., Roberts, R., Pettit, C., & Giles-Corti, B. (2017). *Examining associations between area-level spatial measures of housing with selected health and wellbeing behaviours and outcomes in an urban context*. Health & Place, 43, 17-24. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.healthplace.2016.11.003>

[Palm, M](#) & Niemeier, D (2017) *Achieving Regional Housing Planning Objectives: Directing Affordable Housing to Jobs-Rich Neighborhoods in the San Francisco Bay Area*, Journal of the American Planning Association, 83:4, 377-388, DOI: [10.1080/01944363.2017.1368410](https://doi.org/10.1080/01944363.2017.1368410)

[Raynor, K.](#), (2018). *Social representations of children in higher density housing: enviable, inevitable or evil?*. Housing Studies, doi:[10.1080/02673037.2018.1424807](https://doi.org/10.1080/02673037.2018.1424807)

[Ribar, D. C.](#), (2017). *Early Research Findings from Journeys Home: Longitudinal Study of Factors Affecting Housing Stability*. The Australian Economic Review, 50(2), 195-196. doi: [10.1111/1467-8462.12215](https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-8462.12215)

[Warren-Myers, G.](#), & Heywood, C. (2018). *A new demand-side model to enable sustainability in new Australian housing*. Sustainability, 10(2), doi: [10.3390/su10020376](https://doi.org/10.3390/su10020376)

[Whitzman, C.](#) (2017) *Participatory Action Research in Affordable Housing Partnerships: Collaborative rationality, or sleeping with the growth machine?*, Planning Practice and Research 32(5): 495-507.

[Wiesel, I.](#) & Levin, I., (2017) *Cohesion and differentiation in Australia's elite suburbs*, Geographical Research, doi:[10.1111/1745-5871.12268](https://doi.org/10.1111/1745-5871.12268).



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HOMELESSNESS

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Be Involved

There are many ways to be involved with
Transforming Housing.
Visit the [Transforming Housing website](#) for event
and research updates.

Contact Us

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Dr Matthew Palm matthew.palm@unimelb.edu.au
Twitter [@Melbhousing4all](https://twitter.com/Melbhousing4all)