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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 welcomes Homes for Victorians and Plan Melbourne.

The next step is using this policy for better outcomes.

Early 2017 has been a busy time for the housing industry and policy makers across Victoria. Transforming Housing welcomes the recent Homes for Victorians strategy and the refreshed Plan Melbourne as examples of the State Government taking a leadership role in affordable housing provision.

Recent policy and funding announcements include the \$1 billion Social Housing Growth Fund, \$1 billion in guaranteed loans for Housing Associations and a new Shared Equity Scheme. While Transforming Housing supports these worthwhile

investments in social and affordable housing, these announcements raise more questions than they answer. How is 'affordable housing' defined? How will funds be allocated? Where will affordable housing be located?

Now is the time to come together as a 'coalition of the willing' to answer these questions. Transforming Housing is hosting a Housing Summit and public

event in early June to address some of these questions. We will also continue to support innovative affordable housing projects and disseminate research to support housing outcomes.





Upcoming Event:

## THE HOUSING SUMMIT: TRANSFORMING HOUSING IN 2017

Date: Friday 2nd June 2017

Housing Summit: 9:00am – 4:30pm

Building on the success of the 2015 Housing Summit, we will be hosting a second Housing Summit on 2nd June 2017.

The 2017 Housing Summit will respond to the recent Homes For Victorians strategy document, the refreshed Plan Melbourne and other key changes in the affordable and social housing sectors. It will be an opportunity to discuss a range of implementation strategies including how the Social Housing Growth Fund might be delivered and managed, the role of local government in supporting affordable housing projects, next steps for inclusionary zoning and mechanisms for redeveloping public housing sites.

The event will bring together 60 stakeholders from the affordable housing sector including: researchers; state government; local government; private developers; the investment community; and not-for-profit housing associations. It will be an opportunity to contribute to current housing debates, create solutions to pressing housing problems and network with others who have a genuine interest in supporting, funding, designing and delivering affordable and social housing for very low to moderate income households.

We will be sending out invitations to core collaborators.

We also wish to encourage the participation of new voices in the housing sector. If this is you - or you know someone who fits this description - we invite you to register your interest by briefly stating why you're interested in participating via email to [sarah.backhouse@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:sarah.backhouse@unimelb.edu.au). As this event is capped at 60 participants, we cannot promise that all registrants will be able to attend.

## KEY SUMMIT TOPICS

- 1 Defining affordable housing and setting numeric targets
- 2 Setting spatial targets
- 3 Community planning for housing outcomes
- 4 Next steps for inclusionary zoning
- 5 Using the Social Housing Growth Fund and loans
- 6 The role of the Federal Government
- 7 Use of government land for affordable housing
- 8 Redevelopment and transfer of public housing
- 9 Partnerships for service and housing provision
- 10 Medium density in GRZ and NRZ

SEE MORE DETAILS



## Featured Research: The Australasian Housing Researchers Conference

The Australasian Housing Researchers Conference took place in February in Melbourne. The conference brought together researchers and practitioners with a common interest in contemporary housing issues. Five of our Transforming Housing Researchers presented their research at the conference.



*States drag feet on affordable housing, with Victoria the worst, Carolyn Whitzman, The Conversation*

Professor Carolyn Whitzman presented a paper on ‘What constitutes good housing policy,’ comparing Infrastructure Victoria’s 30 Year Strategy to the Vancouver Housing Strategy. The presentation, coming just weeks before Homes For Victorians, drew attention to the historical lack of integrated housing policy in Victoria and was accompanied by a [well-circulated article in the Conversation](#) on the same topic. She also chaired a panel on the

future of housing research. Dr Ilan Wiesel presented a paper investigating the use of shared ownership schemes for people with disabilities. His presentation was part of a [larger body of work recently published by AHURI](#) that highlights shared ownership as a policy option to help address unmet need for affordable housing and barriers in entry to home ownership for people with disability. Read more about shared ownership for people with disabilities in [Ilan’s recent Conversation article](#).

Dr Andrew Martel presented research that posed the question; Can Government-supported home modification schemes for people with disabilities act as drivers of innovation for the housing industry? The research investigates the relationship between existing housing design, regulation and innovation in anticipating future modifications and evaluates the potential for a national NDIS modification program to stimulate innovation in private sector Australian housing design.

Kate Raynor presented research synthesizing the benefits of affordable housing

Shared ownership can help make housing affordable for people with disability



*Shared ownership can help make housing affordable for people with disability, Ilan Wiesel, The Conversation*

supply. By reviewing existing literature, Kate identified key social, employment, health and fiscal benefits accruing to society and residents from living in affordable housing. She highlighted the change in rhetoric surrounding affordable housing from social welfare to ‘critical infrastructure’ as a key opportunity for considering the benefits of investing in affordable housing.

Associate Professor Bec Bentley presented her research on the lifetime health effects of inadequate housing during childhood. Her presentation was part of research symposium entitled ‘Housing Australia’s Children’ and is related to her ongoing research investigating the link between housing and health outcomes.

## Transforming Housing In the News

[Housing affordability bond aggregator model explained](#)

Prof Carolyn Whitzman, April 9, ABC Online

[Shared home ownership helps people with disability, researchers find](#)

Dr Ilan Wiesel, April 7, Phys Org

[Last resort housing for homeless more cost effective](#)

Tranforming Housing-related research, March 16, Pro Bono Australia

[What a difference a month makes, but Victoria can still do more to get housing and planning right](#)

Kate Raynor and Prof Carolyn Whitzman, March 15, The Conversation

[Homelessness: a \\$194 million problem for Victoria](#)

Prof Carolyn Whitzman, March 15, Herald Sun

[New Melbourne housing blocks will not improve affordability in Victoria, housing experts say](#)

Prof Carolyn Whitzman, March 1, ABC News

[States drag feet of affordable housing, with Victoria the worst](#)

Prof Carolyn Whitzman, Feb 15, The Conversation

[Teens in poorest families go hungry more than younger kids](#)

Prof David Ribar, February 13, Science Daily

[People left out in the cold as Melbourne is in the grips of a rental crisis](#)

Prof Carolyn Whitzman, February 18, News.com

[How to beat the housing affordability crisis](#)

Prof Carolyn Whitzman, December 9 2016

[Melbourne house prices: eastern suburbs hit by drop in foreign property activity](#)

Kate Raynor, October 29, Domain

## Upcoming Transforming housing Events

April  
20

### Shelter - Panel Discussion

Grimshaw are hosting a panel event with inspiring leaders from the service and property industries discussing social housing in Melbourne and how we can work together to effect change. The panel features Transforming Housing's Carolyn Whitzman and Advisory Committee member, Robet Pradolin along with Andrew Whalley from Grimshaw, Sherri Bruinhout of Melbourne City Mission and Tony Nicholson from the Brotherhood of St Laurence

5:30pm, 21 Bouverie St Carlton  
[Click here for details](#)

May  
17

### Advisory Committee Meeting

Quarterly meeting to discuss project progress with the advisory committee

June  
2

### 2017 Housing Summit

This Housing Summit will bring together a 'coalition of the willing' to discuss implementation opportunities in response to recent policy announcements at the state and federal level. Transforming Housing invites interested parties from state and local government, private development, the investment community, not-for-profit housing and housing research sectors to apply to be part of this one-day summit.

[The Woodward Conference Centre, University of Melbourne](#)

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### Professional Development Program

Throughout 2017 Transforming Housing will host a series of Professional Development events to share skills relevant to the delivery, management and negotiation of affordable housing. Topics may include development feasibility calculation, housing program evaluation, philanthropic investment and strategic plan making. Details about times, topics and costs will be released shortly. [Click here to take a survey and register your interest.](#)



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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. Follow us on twitter @Melbhousing4all

## Contact Us

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