Introduction and Welcome

Recently I completed the draft Annual Report for the Centre for Housing, Urban and Regional Planning. Writing an annual report is a requirement of all research centres at the University of Adelaide and while some such requirements can be considered onerous, this protocol was valuable in getting me to reflect upon the Centre’s achievements in its first full year of operations.

2011 was clearly a busy year, with a mountain of work undertaken and a great deal achieved. As a new entity CHURP set out to establish itself as a recognised body within the fields of housing, urban and regional studies nationally and globally. A highlight of the year was the formal launch of the Centre in November by the Hon John Rau, Minister for Planning, Urban Development and the City of Adelaide. 2011 also saw the establishment and first meeting of the Centre’s Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee is comprised of members drawn from local government, state government, the housing sector and the regions and the Committee’s members have already made an enthusiastic contribution to the Centre.

The year was marked by some notable achievements both in securing of Category One research income and the winning of contract research opportunities in the various areas of our joint expertise and interest. Notable success included:

- A large ARC Linkage Grant that examines the impact of different interventions that seek to address social isolation amongst older Australians;
- An ARC Discovery Grant on developing a new perspective on the relationship between housing and health in Australia;
- The award of a grant by the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility for a study of climate change and Australia’s country towns in 2050;
- A major contract with the SA Government’s Department of Social Inclusion and Communities on the evaluation of homelessness initiatives; and,
- A project funded by Resthaven and managed by the Council on the Ageing (South Australia) that addresses community engagement amongst older South Australians.

Staff from the Centre also worked on a number of established and/or previously funded projects, including research into:

- The relationship between homelessness and non-psychiatric disability;
- Social inclusion and housing policy;
- Regional housing markets and their functioning;
- The human dimensions of environmental decision making in Australia;
- The presentation of older South Australians to hospital emergency departments;
- The achievements of homelessness programs introduced after 2007;
- Recent humanitarian arrivals and homelessness; and,
- Precarious housing, health and housing.

CHURP and its personnel saw the release of major publications including a major book published by the Policy Press in June 2011, as well as key articles in top-ranked journals.

CHURP was established with a strong focus on international engagement and this dimension of the Centre’s operation was expressed in a number of ways throughout 2011: Dr Terry Clower of the University of North Texas was the first Research Fellow to visit the Centre, and made an important contribution through his on-going work on a number of regional projects. Professors Markku Sotarauta, Dean of the School of Management, Tampere University (Finland) and Professor Kingsley Haines of the School of Public Policy, George Mason University (Virginia) also briefly visited CHURP. The Centre and its staff were engaged with the international research community in other ways. As Research Centre Director, I continued to serve on the Board of the Regional Studies Association, while Associate Professor Susan Oakley spent time in Europe as part of her study leave.
2011 was also a period of considerable activity in preparation for the Australasian Housing Researcher’s Conference that took place on the 8th, 9th and 10th of February 2012. I am pleased to announce that the Conference was an outstanding success, with both the conference organisation and the quality of debate attracting praise. Many thanks to those CHURP staff who made it possible, especially Dr Selina Tually and Ms Emily Thwaites-Tregilgas.

Professor Andrew Beer, Director

Launch

The Centre was formally launched in November 2011 by the Hon John Rau, Minister for Planning, Urban Development and the City of Adelaide.

Research Week

Andrew Beer and Emma Baker of CHURP (with Simon Ladd, Research Development Officer for the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences) met Dr Andy Thomas at the University’s Research Week launch. CHURP is looking to establish a Mars office and was seeking real estate advice.

Emma Baker, Andy Thomas, Simon Ladd and Professor Andrew Beer

CHURPies: Pauline McLoughlin, Michael Kroehn, Emily Thwaites-Tregilgas, Laurence Lester
**Congratulations**

**Conference Positive Feedback**

‘Thank you to each of you and please pass on my congratulations to all members of the organising committee and CHURP who were involved in the organising and smooth running of the Australasian Housing Researchers’ Conference last week. It may not have been the biggest conference I have ever attended (in terms of numbers of registrants) nor held in the swish settings of some other conferences, but I honestly think that it was one of the best run, most interesting conferences which I have been privileged to attend. It was great to chat to researchers with very diverse research interests in the breaks (excellent food and coffee too). I thoroughly enjoyed the diverse range of papers which I heard presented.’

*Special thanks go to Selina and Emily for organising such a great event.*

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**Papers given by CHURPies at the Conference**

Disability and the relative risk of homelessness: a quantitative exploration Dr. Emma Baker, Professor Andrew Beer and Dr. Laurence Lester.

Homelessness and disability in Australia: implications for policy and practice Professor Andrew Beer, Dr. Emma Baker, Ms Deb Batterham and Dr Shelley Mallett.

Evidence on the non-shelter outcomes of housing assistance in Australia Dr. Emma Baker, Dr. Laurence Lester, and Professor Andrew Beer.

Unaffordable housing and tenure: are they sources of health inequality in Australia? Dr. Laurence Lester, Dr. Emma Baker, Ms Kate Mason, Dr Rebecca Bentley, Professor Andrew Beer.

Precarious housing and health in Australia Dr Shelley Mallett, Dr Rebecca Bentley, Ms Kate Mason and Dr. Emma Baker.

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Work undertaken by housing and health researchers from CHURP (Dr. Emma Baker), the University of Melbourne and Hanover Welfare Services was a finalist in the recent VicHealth Awards for Outstanding Achievement in Health Promotion. The three part work, entitled “Precarious Housing and Health Inequalities: What are the Links?” was recognised in the award for knowledge and translation.

**Significant Appointments**

Andrew Beer has joined the ARC College of Experts, has been made an External Thought Leader with the Wyatt Foundation and been appointed to be the Chair of the Homelessness Strategy Advisory Group for the Department of Social Inclusion and Communities.
Upcoming Conferences/Events

Inaugural Homelessness Research Conference
AHURI and RMIT University are co-hosting the inaugural Homelessness Research Conference in Melbourne.
Date: 19-20 April 2012
Venue: Jasper Hotel, 489 Elizabeth Street
Please visit the conference website for further details.

The Place of Leadership in Urban and Regional Development – RSA Research Network
Call for papers, Workshop 4
What Next? Leadership in Urban and Regional Development
Framing the Emerging Research Agenda
Date: 23-24 April 2012
Venue: University of Tampere, Finland

Network organisers:
Dr. John Gibney, University of Birmingham
Professor Markku Sotarauta, University of Tampere
Professor Andrew Beer, University of Adelaide

International Cooperative Research Conference
Building A Better World: The Role of Cooperatives and Mutuals in Society
Date: 21-23 June, 2012
Venue: Victoria University of Wellington.
http://nzascm.coop/?page_id=25

Events Attended by CHURPies

Professor Andrew Beer attended Regional Development Australia Mid North Coast in November 2011.


Dr Laurence Lester presented a paper ‘Does housing assistance mitigate the impact of a disability on labour force participation and employment outcomes of those on lower incomes?’ at the 22nd Australian Labour Market Research Workshop in Canberra on 6 February.

Adjunct Associate Professor Michele Slatter attended Pathways Through the Maze, the 2nd National Squalor Conference, in Sydney on 21/22 February.

Dr Emma Baker attended the Asia Pacific Network for Housing Researchers Conference in Hong Kong in December, presenting a paper entitled Housing Assistance and Non-Shelter Benefits: An Examination of Health and Financial Stress.

In late November, Dr Emma Baker attended the annual State of Australian Cities Conference in Melbourne and presented a paper “Evidence on the relationship between affordable housing and poor health”.

On 21-22 November CHURP hosted a symposium on the human dimensions of adaption to climate change in South Australia. This symposium, as part of a Premier’s Science and Research Fund project, brought together researchers, practitioners, and some of South Australia’s best minds together to discuss geographically-focussed data, approaches and findings for the monitoring of the human effects of climate change in South Australia.

Pauline McLoughlin will present on the findings of the AHURI Housing Assistance, Social Inclusion and People Living with a Disability project at the upcoming FaHCSIA Social Policy Forum, in Canberra on 29 March.

New Research Projects

New Directions in Health Inequalities Research: Understanding the intersection between housing, employment and health in Australia.

Pathways to Health and Wellbeing through Housing: A new causal understanding of relationships, processes and interventions.

Publications


Public Lecture

Dr Simon Yau gave a lecture on Antisocial Behaviour Management and Housing on 15 February.

Dr. Simon Yau had practiced building surveying in the Buildings Department and then worked as a Post-doctoral Fellow in The University of Hong Kong, before joining City University of Hong Kong in 2007. His research interests include housing economics and finance, and public policies related to building safety and management, development control, urban renewal and heritage conservation. Since September 2010, he has been the programme leader of the government-funded BSocSc (Policy Studies and Administration) programme. Besides, he has been a member of the College Board (formerly the Faculty Board) since May 2008.

Download presentation here.

Regional Studies Association
Early Career Grant Scheme

Who is it for?
This award is open to single applicants in their early career. Applicants must be based within an eligible higher education institution (HEI) and must be a current, early career member of the Regional Studies Association and throughout the duration of the grant.

How does it work?
The RSA Early Career Awards are provided to support a discrete piece of regional studies and/or regional science research. The value of the award is up to £10,000 (or its equivalent in dollars or euros depending upon the agreed exchange rate at the time of the award). The award has a maximum time span of 18 months and reporting conditions apply. Only one award will be made to any successful applicant.

The Regional Studies Association has made a minimum commitment of £160,000 to be disbursed before the end of 2013. This will be distributed across four rounds of the competition – one in 2011, two in 2012 and one in 2013 but the allocation of monies in each round will be determined by the quality of applications. There will, however, be a minimum of four grants available in each round. The Association may choose to release further funds in any round.

http://www.regionalstudies.org/funding/earlycareer.asp

Welcome Onboard to:

Elizabeth Grant

Dr Elizabeth Grant is a researcher in the field of people-environments, which overlays a number of fields to understand the environment from an interdisciplinary perspective. Elizabeth’s research interests include Aboriginal architecture and environments, Aboriginal housing and homelessness, prison, court and other design for the criminal justice arena and culturally sustainable design. She is interested in ascertaining congruence or ‘fit’ between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples’ behaviours and the design of physical environments.

Michele Slatter

Adjunct Associate Professor Michele Slatter will be substantially involved in CHURP in two roles. First, she is a named investigator in a project on Frontline Services and Homelessness, and second she will continue to liaise with key stakeholders, especially the Department of Communities and Social Inclusion.
Jo Baulderstone
Adjunct Associate Professor Jo Baulderstone will contribute to the workings of CHURP in a number of ways. First, she will bring valuable expertise in program evaluation which she will add to the stock of skills and abilities within the Centre. Second, she has a long track record of research into issues of homelessness and the functioning of services for homeless persons. This expertise builds upon CHURP’s already substantial experience in this area. Thirdly, Jo has a strong focus on public sector processes and their impacts, all of which relates to CHURP’s work.

At the same time, regions are becoming increasingly fragmented in many ways; economically, socially, environmentally and also politically. Classic forms of government based on clear cut arrangements between administrative levels, policy sectors and the public and private domain are no longer sufficient. The governance of regions faces multi-level, multi-actor and multi-sectoral challenges.

New spatial interactions at new scales demand new approaches for consultation and coordination. More flexible (‘softer’) forms of governance are beginning to emerge which seek to work around traditional governmental arrangements. The result is a complex pattern of overlapping governance and fuzzy boundaries, not just in a territorial sense but also in terms of the role of both public and private actors. These new arrangements pose many as yet unresolved dilemmas concerning the transparency, accountability and legitimacy of decision-making.

The 2012 RSA conference in Delft provides a timely opportunity for participants to come together and reflect on the various strengths, weaknesses, challenges and opportunities of networked cities and regions within these different contexts of fragmentation.

http://www.regional-studies-assoc.ac.uk/events/2012/May-Delft/

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Networked Regions and cities in times of fragmentation:
developing smart, sustainable and inclusive places
Sunday 13 – Wednesday 16 May 2012
Delft University of Technology, Delft, Netherlands

Regions and cities are increasingly interdependent; economically, socially and environmentally. They are, for example, becoming more reliant on interregional flows of trade, labour and resources. Patterns of interactions between regions are experiencing rapid changes as a result of dramatic shifts in production and consumption patterns, advances in communication technologies and the development of transport infrastructure. These changes pose many challenges for the analysis and management of regions. They are also leading to new patterns of activities and relationships and new forms of clustering and networking between regions.