Welcome

In August the Federal Government flagged two very important policy initiatives. First, the Productivity Commission released its Final Report into the provision of aged care services. In essence, its recommendations seek to drive changes that will open up the sector, provide a greater range of services for older people, create greater flexibility in the ways in which older people are supported, and diversify the ways in which care in older age is financed.

Of course, it is not the first time that the Productivity Commission has recommended the creation of a market in order to more efficiently or effectively provide services, but in this instance, most existing industry participants appear to have welcomed the initiative. There has been some discussion in the media about the expectation that some older people will be forced to sell their family home in order to enter and afford care, but as research undertaken by Diana Olsberg and others from the University of NSW in 2005 has showed, this trend is already evident with older Australians selling their properties to fund their lifestyle and service aspirations.

Potentially, reform in the aged care sector will introduce a new set of drivers into the Australian housing market, with some older households less committed to holding on to their homes than previously. If this eventuates, it will go some way to addressing the housing shortfall evident across Australia, with fewer dwellings built than needed. For the housing industry there may be new opportunities for urban infill and consolidation as suburbs originally developed in the 1970s experience accelerated sales rates and substantial change.

The second relevant announcement was the commitment made by the Australian Government to begin a discussion with the broader community around the establishment of a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). This commitment was made by Prime Minister Gillard, but also featured The Hon. Jan McLucas as the relevant Minister, and The Hon. Bill Shorten, who is currently Assistant Treasurer but previously served as Minister for Disabilities.

Over the last five years CHURP and its staff have undertaken a great deal of work on disability and its impact on the housing of carers and persons with a disability. Key findings have included:

- The challenge of finding affordable accommodation generally;
- The high percentage of persons with a disability paying more than 50 per cent of their income for housing;
- The heavy reliance on public rental accommodation;
- The absence of accessible stock in the private rental market;
- The inaccessibility of some locations;
- The high cost of modifying dwellings to meet individual needs; and
- Stigmatisation when large numbers of persons with a disability are concentrated in particular estates.

Many, but not all, of these problems are a consequence of the low incomes of persons with a disability and carers. The NDIS will go a long way to solve these problems and improve the quality of life of this vulnerable group within the community. We can only hope that the Government’s discussion with the community around this issue proceeds at pace, and that in the foreseeable future we witness a new era in disability policy in this country.

Professor Andrew Beer
Director
Oxfam Trailwalker Sydney
26-28 August 2011

Oxfam’s Trailwalker has the reputation for being Australia’s toughest charity walk. Teams of four had 48 hours to cover 100km of steep and uneven track from the Hawkesbury River down to Mosman on Sydney Harbour.

Our team has successfully raised over $8,000. Thank you to everyone who have contributed. If others would like to contribute, please do so, as it is a very worthy cause. [Link to donation page]

**Congratulations**

Professor Andrew Beer et. al. – Category 1 research grant success – an NCCARF grant entitled ‘Australia’s Country Towns 2050: What will a climate adapted settlement pattern look like?’.

Dr Debbie Faulkner – DFC research grant success – ‘Homelessness Reforms in South Australia’.

**Coming Soon...**

The official launch of CHURP
Tuesday 15 November, 10 am – 12 pm
Venue: Innova 21, University of Adelaide

**Book**

**Housing Transitions Through the Life Course: Aspirations, Needs and Policy**
Andrew Beer and Debbie Faulkner with Chris Paris and Terry Clower
Available to order at: [Direct Orders Website]

**Upcoming Conferences/Events**

**IAPS International Network Symposium**
Jointly organised by IAPS-CSBE and Housing Network
*Continuity and Change of Built Environment – Housing, Culture and Space Across Lifespans*

Date: 10-14 October, 2011
Venue: Daegu, Korea
[Website]

**Ninth Asia/Oceania Regional Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics**
*Ageing Well: Regional Perspectives*

Date: 23-27 October, 2011
Venue: Melbourne
[Website]

**Regional Studies Association Conference**
*Localism: Sufficient and Fit for Purpose?*

Date: 3 November, 2011
Venue: University of Manchester Conference Centre
To register go to: [Website]
Regional Studies Association One Day Winter Conference
Contested Regions: Territorial Politics and Policy

Date: 25 November, 2011
Venue: London, UK
To register go to:
https://eiemea.certain.com/rsa/getdemo.ei?id=1010024&s=39K0K

18th Pacific Rim Real Estate Society Conference

Date: 15-18 January 2012
Venue: Hawke Building, University of South Australia
To register go to:
http://www.prres.net

Australasian Housing Researchers’ Conference
Adelaide, 8-10 February 2012

**Website Launched**

Following on from the 5th highly stimulating and successful AHRC in November 2010 in Auckland, the Centre for Housing, Urban and Regional Planning (CHURP) at The University of Adelaide is pleased to announce it will be hosting the 6th AHRC in February 2012. The conference will bring to Adelaide Australasia’s brightest minds in housing research. CHURP is particularly excited to host this event as the AHRC was launched in Adelaide in 2006 and it is great to bring back to Adelaide this successful, well respected and informative event.

Email: ahrc12@adelaide.edu.au
Web: http://www.adelaide.edu.au/churp/ahrc12

Call for abstracts NOW OPEN.

Events Attended by CHURPies

Joint discussion: Debbie Faulkner with Eleanor Kennett Smith (ECH Ltd) spoke about Social Isolation and Older People for the Amanda Blair Weekdays 1-4pm show on Fiveaa, Adelaide, 29 June.

Debbie Faulkner presented a paper entitled "Understanding the housing and community needs of the older population: a case study of the western suburbs of Adelaide" at the Ageing in the Migrant Diaspora Conference held at Flinders University 1-3 July.

Debbie Faulkner talked about Social Isolation and Older Australians, on Drive with Barry Nicholls, ABC South West Radio, Western Australia, 6 July.

Launch of new research: Precarious housing and health inequalities: what are the links?

International work is increasingly pointing to housing as a key social determinant of health. We know that housing and health are related, but we know surprisingly little about how.

On the 4th August the findings of a major study into the health and housing of Australians were released at a function for 60 guests from government and the housing, health and community sectors. This project, funded by VicHealth, builds on CHURPs existing work on housing and health, and was undertaken by a team of researchers from CHURP (University of Adelaide), the University of Melbourne, Hanover Welfare Services, Melbourne City Mission, and AHURI Research Synthesis.

The study provides important evidence of the strength of the interaction between housing and health for Australians, highlighting the groups most vulnerable. It is further evidence of the policy need for housing to be health’s business, and health to be housing’s business.

Some major findings from the quantitative analysis include:

1) Housing and health are linked up for Australians – housing affects health and health affects housing.
2) Dose is important – those with the worst housing are also likely to also have the worst health. The flipside is also true – those with the worst health are also likely to also have the worst housing.

3) Single parents and their children were highlighted in the large scale data analysis as being especially vulnerable to poor housing outcomes, compared the children living with both parents, the children of single parents were:

a. 9 times more likely to be in unaffordable housing.
b. 3 times more likely to have experienced a forced move (evicted, lease not renewed etc)
c. 11 times more likely to rent privately, and also
d. 3 times more likely to be in poor quality dwellings.

To download the report click here.

Other Events

Hutt Street Centre, Walk a Mile in My Boots
Andrew Beer, Debbie Faulkner, Selina Tually and Emma Baker participated in this event on Friday 5 August.

Andrew Beer spoke to the University of the Third Age at Elders Hall, Mitchell Park on 11 August.

Debbie Faulkner gave the final Keynote address at the Australian Association of Gerontology SA Conference, This Goes With That: Synergistic Ageing held at the Wine Centre in Adelaide on 12 August. Her address provided Visions for an Ageing Australia: Moving Forward?

Publications


Seminars

Discipline of Geography, Environment and Population Seminar Series, The University of Adelaide:

Jennifer Bonham gave a seminar entitled “Mobilities and the Life Course” on 15 August.

Andrew Beer gave a seminar entitled “Subversive Leadership in Regional Australia” on 5 September.

and

Emma Baker will give a seminar entitled “Illuminating the Blackbox of Housing and Health in Australia” on 19 September.
Human Dimensions of Climate Change on South Australian Transects – A Symposium

On 21-22 November we will be hosting a symposium on the human dimensions of adaptation to climate change in South Australia. This symposium, as part of a Premier’s Science and Research Fund project, will bring researchers, practitioners, and some of South Australia’s best minds together to discuss geographically-focused data, approaches and findings for the monitoring of the human effects of climate change in South Australia. We encourage both researchers and policy makers to contact Dr Emma Baker (emma.baker@adelaide.edu.au) for more information if you are interested in participating in this symposium.

Welcome Onboard to:

Pauline McLoughlin. Pauline has recently joined CHURP as a research officer. She has a background in both sociology and public health, and has recently submitted her doctoral thesis with the Discipline of Gender, Work and Social Inquiry, The University of Adelaide.

Through her new role at CHURP, Pauline is contributing to a range of projects relating to her research interests in social citizenship, homelessness, and the intersections of place and wellbeing. In her doctoral thesis, Pauline explored the practice of couch surfing among homeless youth. This is a process where young people rely on temporary living arrangements drawn from their local social connections, when facing barriers to housing and caregiver support. In addition to her higher degree research in the social sciences, Pauline holds a first class Honours degree in Health Sciences (Public Health). In previous years, she was involved in health technology assessment work, conducting systematic reviews and evidence-based reporting on new and emerging medical interventions.

Emily Thwaites-Tregilgas. Emily has recently joined the CHURP team as part-time conference organiser for the Australasian Housing Researchers’ Conference (AHRC12) and as a research assistant. She is due to graduate from her Bachelor of International Studies, major in Politics in September this year.

Emily has gained her experience in conference organisation from her involvement in the Australian Institute of International Affairs and the Australian Crime Prevention Council for which she assisted the co-ordination of an international forum titled “Crime Prevention 2011 and Beyond – a Forum of Key Personnel from the Asia-Pacific”.

Additionally she has actively participated in Model United Nations conferences abroad and the “Standing Committee of Male Parliamentarians Forum on Prevention of Violence and Discrimination Against Women and Girls in the Asia-Pacific” hosted by Mr Rob Oakeshott MP, Member for Lyne.

Mark Bruerton. Mark has joined the CHURP team as a research officer on the recently initiated ARC Linkage Project entitled “New directions in health inequalities research: Understanding the intersection between housing, employment and health”. He is a recent arrival from Queensland, where he worked on the Griffith University Federalism Project. Mark has a background in Law and an ongoing research interest in intergovernmental relations. He is currently also undertaking a PhD at the University of Adelaide.

Please send items of interest to: louise.oloughlin@adelaide.edu.au

Contact us

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Workshop Announcement

We are pleased to announce the workshop ‘Social Inclusion and Climate Change’, 1 November, Innova Rooms, University of Adelaide, 9.30 - 4pm.

This workshop will bring together researchers from universities in South Australia and interstate, and feature a number of key speakers including Professor Andrew Beer, Director of CHURP; Professor Graeme Hugo, Member of the SA Social Inclusion Board; Lorraine Rosenberg, Mayor of Onkaparinga Council and staff form the Department of Premier and Cabinet to consider ways forward in addressing equity, sustainability and justice issues within climate change. For more information about booking or speaking please contact Dr. Melissa Nursey-Bray on 08 8313 3497 or at: melissa.nursey-bray@adelaide.edu.au

The Recession and Beyond – Local and Regional Responses to the Downturn
Edited by David Bailey and Caroline Chapain
Published 27 June 2011

How has the recession impacted on firms, people and places? How have local and regional authorities responded? This book aims to answer these questions by offering an overview of the impacts of the recession on people and places and how it has affected local authorities in the UK and other OECD countries. Being ‘close to the ground’, local authorities are usually at the forefront of dealing with the impacts of recession on people and places. During recessions, they face important challenges: on the one hand they have to cope with increasing demand for services and on the other hand they may face a decrease in their income due to the slowdown in the economy. And with the shift from local government to local governance in the last 10 years, they also have an increasing role in terms of coordinating various organisations in the delivery of local services.

This book begins by looking at the potential impacts of downturns and economic shocks on firms, workers, communities and places, both in the short and long term (Part I). Part II then looks at interventions and responses that local authorities can put in place on their own or in partnership with other local, regional and/or national actors to try to deal with these differential impacts.

Building on these insights, part III offers international perspectives, outlining the role of local authorities during the recession in France, Canada and Australia. These examples and cases highlight some key variations in the availability of resources at the local level across countries and shed light on the way particular economic situations and governance contexts influence local authorities’ responses. This section also includes work by the OECD LEED Programme which surveys cities worldwide and which looks at the application of the ‘Barcelona Principles’.

Overall, the volume makes a fresh contribution to understanding local economic development and governance by providing a unique perspective and original data on the way local authorities have dealt with the recent economic shock across countries. Looking ahead, the book also raises some important issues in relation to local and regional governance and policies to foster long term, sustainable economic recovery. This edited volume will be accessible to and suitable for students and researchers studying economic change, the recession, planning, public policy and industrial policy interventions, and political science.

Chapter 17. Local Government and Economic Shock
Within a Federal System – the Australian Case by Andrew Beer

Hardback: 978-0-415-59034-1: $155.00 – £95.00
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