

From the conference organisers

Thank you for participating in the 3rd Australasian Housing Researchers' Conference, *Housing research for a sustainable affordable future*.

Housing issues are on the policy agenda in Australian in new ways following the change in the federal government in late 2007. We have seen reviews announced, further policy work and the beginnings of new program commitments. It is reasonable to say that the large scale housing research effort in recent years, especially around housing affordability and the supply of affordable housing, has made a difference. It is being used and referred to and researchers are being consulted.

Researchers also continue to make a difference in state and local policy and program development. At the same time researchers less engaged with applied research continue to ask bigger framing questions and stimulate larger social, economic and cultural debates about urban housing.

This conference is another opportunity for researchers to present and discuss their recent housing research. Some papers deepen our understanding of some well-known issues. Others consider these issues by asking different questions or bring to bear new theoretical frameworks that assist us in seeing things differently. There are also papers on new issues. This year we have added something that is quintessentially Melbourne, a film night – documentary makers are researchers too.

This third Australasian Housing Researchers' Conference hosted by RMIT University builds on the work of the previous two earlier conferences. Thanks to Andrew Beer from Flinders University and his team in 2006 for the first Housing Researchers' Conference in Adelaide, which demonstrated very well that there was scope for an annual housing researchers conference. Queensland University built on this in 2007 when Andrew Jones and Tim Selig and their team hosted a well-attended and lively conference in Brisbane. At each conference there have been a small number of overseas participants with particularly strong participation from New Zealand.

We are very grateful to our universities for their support as hosts and to our sponsors who enable us to keep costs as low as possible for participants. Most of all we are grateful to our presenters, session chairs and referees who give willingly and freely of their precious time.

In 2008 we thank our steering committee and everyone who has supported the development of this Australasian Housing Researchers' Conference – especially the Office of Housing in the Victorian Department of Human Services and the Victorian Department of Planning and Community Development. Their sponsorship of this conference has assisted us in meeting our minimum-fee, cost neutral-goal. Finally, I would like to say thank you and congratulate our Conference Organiser, Rilke Muir. Rilke freelances as a writer, editor, issues adviser, producer and administrator. She has brought all of her experience and skills to the design of the conference and its organisation.

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www.mit.edu.au/dsc/research/AHRC08