SUB-PROJECT 5
Sustaining Tenancies in Remote Indigenous Communities
Public Housing & housing and non-housing outcomes
RMIT PhD. Candidate Megan Nethercote (Worthington)
My interests

**SOCIAL HOUSING**

**PUBLIC HOUSING**

**COMMUNITY HOUSING**

**HOUSING NEEDS**
shelter needs & other/’support’ needs
Indigenous specific housing needs?

**HOUSING OUTCOMES**
physical design, appropriateness, location,
tenure, adequacy, affordability

**NON-HOUSING OUTCOMES**
health, education, employment, security,
crime, social capital, income, anomie,
perceived well-being

**SUSTAINABLE TENANCIES**

**RESIDENTIAL EXPERIENCES**

SUB PROJECT 5 PhD.
## Research Objectives

1. To analyse current understandings of the public housing model held by a cross-section of stakeholders.

2. a. To analyse the residential experiences of Indigenous people in remote communities, especially in relation to models of social housing, to identify the elements of the housing system that maximise residents’ satisfaction and that produce optimal housing and non-housing outcomes.

   b. To analyse the understandings of stakeholders in Indigenous Housing in relation to *Indigenous housing need* and *Indigenous notions of home*, in relation to the new housing model.

3. To identify approaches/procedures/processes in the housing system that support efficiencies whilst optimising housing and non-housing outcomes.

4. To evaluate the current public housing model against my research findings, and to identify opportunities to further optimise housing and non-housing outcomes.
Fieldwork

PHASE 1 (Oct-Nov 2010)
DATA COLLECTION
Unstructured interviews/ discussion groups with cross-section of stakeholders in remote Indigenous housing.

PHASE 2 (mid 2011)
DATA VALIDATION
Discussion groups with stakeholders to review/ validate research findings
Stakeholders in Ind. Housing

Housing Professionals
- State level
  - Govt.
- Regional level staff
  - Govt. & ICHO
- Local level staff
  - Govt. & ICHO

Remote community residents
- Local professionals

Indigenous housing tenants

Who?

One-on-one Discussions

Group Discussions
Comparative Case Studies

Northern Territory
NT DLGH, Darwin
Regional Govt & ICHO, Region?
Remote Indigenous community *TBC*
(Nguiu, Maningrida?)

Western Australia
DHW, Perth
Regional Govt & ICHO, Kimberley Region
Halls Creek/ Fitzroy Crossing
Timeline: past 6 months

**December 2009**
- RESEARCH DESIGN & LITERATURE REVIEW
  - Ongoing
- CONFIRMATION OF CANDIDATURE
  - RMIT PhD research

**May**
- PRELIMINARY SCOPING TRIP
  - Perth DHW & Halls Creek

**August**
- ETHICS APPROVAL granted by RMIT HREC

**September**

SUB PROJECT 5 PhD.
Timeline: next 6 months +

**Complete Phase 1 of Fieldwork: DATA COLLECTION**

- **Perth DHW**  
  (5th- 8th Oct)  
  Status: confirmed

- **Halls Creek, Darwin?**  
  (11th- 22nd+ Oct)  
  Status: confirmed/TBC

- **NT community**  
  (8th - 12 Nov)  
  Status: TBC

**SEPT**

**JAN 2011**

**mid 2011**

**Complete first drafts**

- **LIT REVIEW & RESEARCH DESIGN CHAPTERS**

**Complete Phase 2 of Fieldwork: DATA VERIFICATION**

SUB PROJECT 5 PhD.
A **research gap** exists in relation to both the housing and non-housing outcomes of social housing for Indigenous clients (Phibbs 2005; Milligan et al. 2007; Milligan et al. 2010).

- Existing literature predominantly produced by AHURI (general and Indigenous specific), tends to focus on *housing attributes* (condition, tenure, design, etc) and their relation to non-housing outcomes (especially health) (Phibbs 2005; Bridge et al. 2003; Bridge et al. 2007; Mullins & Western 2001; Faulkner & Bennett 2000; McDonald & Merlo 2002).

- This research gap is compounded by the lack of research into:
  - differences between social housing provision models generally for Indigenous communities (Long et al. 2008a, p.37; Long et al. 2008b) and
  - the wider problem that independent evaluation of housing programs in Australia are ‘sporadic and uncommon’ (Milligan et al. 2007).[1](#)

**Research timeframe** dictates a focus on the *implementation phase*. 

**SUB PROJECT 5 PhD.**
SUB-PROJECT 5
Sustaining Tenancies in Remote Indigenous Communities
Public Housing & housing and non-housing outcomes
RMIT PhD. Candidate Megan Nethercote (Worthington)