

# RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

## Community Housing

**Housing NSW has engaged Professor Peter Phibbs of the Urban Research Centre, along with research and management consultants Dr Alison Ziller and Ms Robin Hill, to write an Industry Development Framework for improved operations and services in the NSW community housing system. The project is funded by Housing NSW.**

'Community housing is an important part of society, providing affordable rental housing to people on low to moderate incomes, some with special needs such as disability care, aged care or mental health care services', says Dr Phibbs. 'Community housing also may focus on the needs of the people local to an area, and involves tenants closely in the community's decision-making processes. The social housing system is undergoing a period of great change after more than a decade of diminishing funding, and the growth of community housing and increased emphasis on community housing providers as viable social enterprises is an important part of these changes. Australia lags behind many parts of the world in terms of its development of community housing. We now have an opportunity to develop a new framework for making the most of available funding by assisting organisations in this sector to manage rapid change, participate in structural changes and make use of appropriate networks. The new framework will identify clear roles, responsibilities and priorities for organisations and service providers working in the NSW community housing system.'

There are four stages of this project. The first stage will involve consultation with the housing sector and industry experts, using interviews and focus groups. This will determine what development the industry needs to undertake in terms of skills, resources, networks and partnerships. The second stage will review current industry development approaches in Australia and internationally (UK) to determine how other organisations are developing capacity.



Stages three and four will use all the information gathered in stages one and two to identify priorities and prepare an industry development framework in consultation with government, industry experts, peak bodies and housing providers.

The provision and management of community housing developments in Australia and overseas using industry initiatives such as Business Development & Innovation Units and Local Housing Networks will inform the construction of a NSW community housing industry development framework. This will help to build a robust, resilient and viable community housing sector for NSW residents in community housing.

**Project Title:** Developing an Industry Development Framework for the NSW Community Housing Sector.

**Funding has been set at:** \$54,091

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