

AIATSIS Research Seminars

1.00pm, Monday 7th November 2011

The Mabo Room, AIATSIS, Lawson Crescent, Canberra ACT 2601

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Issues in the provision of social housing for Indigenous people in urban areas - evidence from practice

Dr Vivienne Milligan, BA (Hons 1) (Sydney) PhD (Utrecht), City Futures Research Centre, The University of New South Wales

Ms Rhonda Phillip, MPhil, UQ; BA (Social Science), UNE; Grad Dip Community Education, CIT

Abstract

The way social housing is provided in urban, regional and rural cities and towns is a critical factor in 'Closing the Gap' on Indigenous disadvantage. This is because four out of five Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders live in these non-remote settings and one in three lives in social housing. This presentation draws on a recently completed AHURI-funded study, which has examined how social housing is being provided to Indigenous households in urbanised areas of Australia, with a particular focus on the respective roles of mainstream agencies and Indigenous-governed organisations. The overall aim of the research has been to consider how social housing policies and services can better respond to diverse housing needs and address the housing disadvantage experienced by Indigenous Australians. Using a case study approach in three jurisdictions (NSW, Queensland and Victoria), the researchers have investigated how both culturally specific and culturally adapted mainstream services operate as well as the working relationship between them. The presentation will present the evidence from the case study research and use the findings to argue a case for re-conceptualising and adapting current social housing policy and service delivery approaches to redress over-reliance on simple mainstreaming and to create more options for Indigenous households. The two published reports from this research can be obtained at <http://www.ahuri.edu.au/publications/projects/p70569>.

Dr Vivienne Milligan is a geographer and policy analyst with extensive experience in strategic policy and program development in housing and urban policy in Australia spanning twenty years' work across seven jurisdictions. This has provided her with in-depth knowledge of the history of the government interventions in housing in Australia and first hand experience of the policies and processes that have influenced the development of that system over the last two decades. Vivienne has a large network of national and international contacts in the housing field. In her capacity as Executive Director Office of Housing Policy NSW (1992 to 1999), Vivienne had responsibility for the development of Indigenous housing policy and strategic directions for Indigenous community housing. Working closely with Aboriginal leaders, she was instrumental in the establishment of the Aboriginal Housing Office in NSW in 1998. A key goal underlying this initiative was integration of national and state based Aboriginal housing programs in NSW. Since that period, Vivienne has maintained professional and personal links with key Aboriginal housing leaders in NSW. BA (Hons 1) (Sydney) PhD (Utrecht), City Futures Research Centre, The University of New South Wales

Ms Rhonda Phillips is a Research Fellow with the Institute of Social Science Research, The University of Queensland. She is a qualitative researcher with interests in policy relevant research and expertise are in homelessness, Indigenous and not-for-profit social housing. She had nearly 30 years' experience in social housing and homelessness service delivery, policy, management and research. Between 1990 and 2005 Rhonda held executive strategic policy and program management roles in the Queensland Department of Housing including in the area of Indigenous housing. MPhil, UQ; BA (Social Science), UNE; Grad Dip Community Education, CIT

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