

AIATSIS Research Seminars

12.30pm, Monday 8th August 2011

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

This seminar will be webcast at www.aiatsis.gov.au

Seminars are free and open to the public. Free parking is available

Avoiding evidence: housing, overcrowding and health

Paul Pholeros

Abstract

Recent health research by NSW Health completed on Indigenous people living in over 2000 houses that were improved using the Housing for Health methodology, showed a 40% reduction in hospital separations for a range of environmentally caused illnesses compared to similar groups whose houses had not been improved.

This evidence seems to have been ignored in the detailed implementation of the \$5.5bn National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing (NPA).

Firstly this paper will outline 25 years of Housing for Health method, local community involvement, housing improvements results and costs, then contrast Housing for Health with the methods, results and costs of the NPA program.

Specific examples will include:

- how myths stop progress
 - how project results are presented and to whom
 - how best to reduce the negative impacts of overcrowding
 - the role that practical research has played in improving house function
 - the need for a National Indigenous Housing Guide
- one size won't fit all contrasted to the universality of the Housing for Health work

Bio

Since 1984 Paul Pholeros has been the principal architect of a practice based in Sydney working on urban, rural and remote area architectural projects throughout Australia and overseas.

Paul is also one of three directors of Healthabitat. For over 25 years Healthabitat has worked to improve housing and the living environment of Indigenous people in many suburban, rural and remote areas of Australia.

In the last 12 years alone, the Housing for Health projects carried out by Healthabitat have improved more than 7,000 houses in 184 project communities around Australia. This work has improved the living conditions of over 40,000 people. The national project team has been made up of over 75% local Indigenous people.

The Housing for Health program has received awards from the Australian Institute of Architects, Australian Public Health Association and the International Union of Architects. Over the last 5 years the work has expanded to projects in Nepal and the USA.

You are on this mailing list because you have shown interest in AIATSIS events in the past. Should you wish to unsubscribe, please reply to this email with 'unsubscribe' written in the subject line.

For more information: www.aiatsis.gov.au, or contact publicprograms@aiatsis.gov.au, tel: 02 6261 4221.

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed by speakers during the AIATSIS Seminar Series do not necessarily reflect those of AIATSIS, and the Institute accepts no responsibility for them.