

## Who?

### SA Women's Housing Caucus

In August 2004 Shelter SA's report *Sexcluded?* recommended that the SA Women's Housing Caucus should re-form, after almost 20 years silence.

The new Caucus was formally launched on International Women's Day 2006. It is a branch of Shelter SA.

It has a network of more than 300 members across South Australia and interstate. Activities are organised by a small Planning Group who reflect the diverse interests of the wider membership.

The Caucus has hosted forums, held community consultations, facilitated the visit of the UN Special Rapporteur on Housing and promoted cross-sector discussions to improve women's housing options and pathways.

The Caucus quickly met a problem in the lack of explicit analyses of current trends and policies for *women's* housing choice. So it formed a partnership to commission *Too Big To Ignore*. This ground breaking report takes the first steps in providing a women's perspective on housing data and research.

### AHURI Southern Research Centre

The Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) is the leading housing research collaboration in Australia. Its Southern Research Centre, based at Flinders University, is distinguished by the flow of high-quality policy relevant work it undertakes both independently and also in conjunction with AHURI partners across the nation.

*Too Big to Ignore*, by Dr Selina Tually, Professor Andrew Beer and Debbie Faulkner, is an outstanding example of AHURI Southern's engagement with local housing interests on matters of national concern.

## What?

### *Too Big To Ignore* predicts:

More diversity among Australian women: culturally, linguistically, financially and in lifestyle. Housing needs to reflect this.

Women of all ages will need to sustain their housing alone. Without more options, many women will not have the financial resources to do this.

Indigenous Australia has a distinct and younger demographic; Aboriginal women's housing needs will be even more apparent.

Women will be hit hardest by the loss of public housing.

Women will be more subject to rental stress and insecurity of tenure.

An ageing Australia will see more women living longer and living with disability.

As building density increases, public space will have to be 'the new backyard'.

Changing tenures are inevitable and will limit women's housing opportunities.

## What next?

### We need:

- **Affordable, sustainable housing to buy and to rent.**
- **An adequate supply of social housing.**
- **Effective housing responses to family violence: places to go, places to live, places to remake lives.**
- **Universal Design principles incorporated into new builds and renovations.**
- **Family-friendly/carer-friendly cultures in education, training and the workplace.**
- **Cities and suburbs with safe, accessible and usable public spaces.**
- **Gender disaggregated data**
- **More research!**

## ***Too Big To Ignore***

*began life as an idea of the SA Women's Housing Caucus and was then commissioned from AHURI's Southern Research Centre by a partnership of:*

**Department for Families and Communities**

**HomeStart Finance**

**YWCA of Adelaide**

**Shelter SA**

**SA Women's Housing Caucus**

The Caucus expresses its thanks to all partners and to AHURI Southern Research Centre for their participation in this important venture.

## ***Women's housing futures***

### ***Two extracts from the Report***

*'Women will need many more affordable purchase and rental housing options. This will especially be the case for women on low incomes living in housing stress in the private rental market, for women who no longer meet public housing eligibility and for women (whether partnered or not and with or without children) who are having difficulty accessing affordable home ownership'*

*'Women will need and will possibly demand more smaller dwellings to live in. This will almost certainly be the case among certain groups of women ... who want to trade down in terms of dwelling size – either to release some (or all) of the equity in their home or to reduce the maintenance and upkeep associated with their dwelling and/or property.'*

TBTI p 44

# **TOO BIG TO IGNORE**

***A Report on***

***Future Issues for  
Australian Women's  
Housing***

**ADELAIDE**

**October 2007**