

Shelter SA has conducted a review all the publicly available submissions to the SA Housing Strategy Green Paper to discern the strongest themes represented in them and has written to Minister Ian Hunter about these issues. Clearly, the authors and their organisations are committed to improving the housing situation in South Australia. Collectively, there are strong calls for attention to the special housing needs of particular groups of people and many of the submissions include the housing aspirations of ordinary South Australians. Looking at the range of submissions, only one has been prepared by an individual, so it is even more important to heed the concerns raised by organisations that are in touch with citizens. Also shared by many is a petition for the inclusion of evidence-based information in policy development and implementation plans.

Special housing needs

A very strong message emanating from the submissions is that it is critical to understand and include the housing situations and *special needs* of particular groups of people in housing policy and planning. The groups of people with special needs include those who are older (ageing), younger (including children), leaving the Guardianship of the Minister, living with physical disability and/or mental health issue, homeless, refugees, asylum seekers and Aboriginal people. The issues, problems and solutions are well-known and it is imperative that these are included in policy development so that they can be implemented on a practical level via services, projects and funding to quickly improve the dire circumstances and increasing numbers of people living in housing stress and who are either at risk of homelessness or homeless.

Evidence-based Information

The second key theme relates to the use of *evidence-based information* in developing and implementing policy. The term 'evidence-based' is used to describe information that is reliable, accurate, credible and accepted by society. The body of research and academic literature cited in the submissions is too large to list here, but is included in the reference sections and footnotes within the submission documents, and easily located. The depth and breadth of high quality research into Aboriginal Housing and Homelessness is noticeable, as is its lack of application in Aboriginal policy and service delivery. There are also many examples of alternative housing models and innovative projects that describe in detail how not-for-profit organisations have increased the supply of affordable housing both in Australia, South Australia and overseas. It is of particular concern that when evidence is referred to in the submissions, authors are calling attention to instances where *policy does not take evidence into consideration*. A short summary of the evidence-based references

(other than research reports and peer-reviewed literature) from the submissions is attached as Appendix 1.

Some submissions also contain calls for State Government to *provide* evidence-based information to substantiate their claims in the Strategy and elsewhere and to make the information publicly available.

Lesser, but very important themes include the lack of focus on the particular housing issues and needs of rural people and local governments and support for opportunities for growth of affordable housing by not-for-profit organisations.

Whilst only commented on by two submissions, Shelter has reiterated points previously raised with Minister Hunter about the importance of improving the situation of Supported Residential Facility residents, who have their own particular needs and make up one of the most vulnerable groups of South Australians, who have little or no opportunity to participate in activities that affect their future. The development of a consumer network is described in the Strategy and Shelter SA is continuing with plans to build on our existing Consumer Branch to build a consumer network, independent of government that supports ordinary South Australians to get involved in decisions about the housing issues that are most important to them.

Appendix 1

Evidence-Based References from submissions to the SA Housing Strategy Green Paper

Theory

Social determinants of health
Community development
Critical theory

Statistics

Demographic information about the ageing population and people with disabilities
Australian Bureau of Statistics
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute
Consumer and Business Services
Department for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Models/projects

Empowerment model
Built4Kids
Vertical Living Kids
Kids Under Cover
Michael Project
People *and* place-based approaches
Private Rental Liaison Officers

Residual Income Method
Winteringham Model

Legislation

Disability Discrimination Act
Residential Tenancies Act
Real Properties Act

Principles

Universal Housing Design

Rights charters

Tenant rights statements
United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Policies

Closing the Gap
World Health Organisation's Active Ageing: A Policy Framework and Global Age-Friendly Cities
Liveable Housing Design Guidelines
Townships and Urban Development Plan Amendment (Adelaide Hills Council)
Directions for Alternative Care
Rapid Response Framework
National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020 (NFPAC)
The Road Home (2008) White Paper on Homelessness
National Partnership Agreements on Housing and Homelessness
Strong Voices: A Blueprint to Enhance Life and Claim the Rights of People with Disability in South Australia
National Disability Insurance Scheme

National standards and codes

Building Code
AS4299 Adaptable Housing Standard
Universal Housing Design Standards