



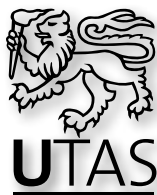
HOUSING *and* COMMUNITY RESEARCH UNIT

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A public conversation about public housing

**A discussion forum organised
by the Housing and
Community Research Unit**

**Thursday 5th June, 2008
Staff Club, University
of Tasmania, Hobart**



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The context

Recent research in Australia has highlighted the extent that public housing has become marginalised from 'mainstream' society (a process known as residualisation).

In practice, this has meant that those with choice often exit the tenure, leaving public housing neighbourhoods comprised of those with the least resources and opportunities. In tandem with this process, public housing has become stigmatized, both rightly and wrongly, by its association with crime and criminality, disorder, anti-social behaviour, welfare dependency and impressions of a detached underclass unwilling or unable to engage with labour market opportunities.

This negative perception is relayed through the media and to other agencies, including police, fire, ambulance, schools and education and social work thereby compounding the effects of stigma for those who remain in public housing.

Our aim in hosting this forum is to consider policies and strategies that can be developed to counteract the stigma that surrounds public housing.

More specifically, the forum will:

- Explore some of the significant factors that accentuate negative perceptions of public housing.
- Comment on the existing practices (both here and overseas) that have been deployed to counteract negative perceptions of public housing.
- Scope some of the ways in which Australian housing and welfare agencies can address stigma and promote public housing in a more positive way.



Format

The forum will involve presentations by Rowland Atkinson, Keith Jacobs and a guest panel. Confirmed speakers as we go to print are: Mercia Bresnehan (Director, Housing Tasmania) and Natasha Cica (Collaborative Research Project Developer, University of Tasmania).

Our aim is to generate significant discussion and engagement between stakeholders on the role of public housing and future investment in the sector.

Who is this forum for?

- Staff in State and community housing sectors
- Researchers on community and social affairs
- Staff of related NGOs and charitable foundations
- Staff and journalists working within the press and television media
- Interested members of the public and elected officials

Timetable

9.00	Tea/coffee on arrival
9.30-10.30	Presentation by Atkinson and Jacobs: The Value of Public Housing and the Broader Community: A discussion paper
10.30-10.45	Morning tea
10.45-12.00	Panel and discussion
12.00	Close

Numbers are strictly limited.

Please contact rowland.atkinson@utas.edu.au to reserve your place.

Cost of attendance is \$20, discounted rates are available on application.

