

# parity



Australasian Housing Institute

## HousingWORKS

## A Call for Contributions – September 2018



### The September 2018 “Marginal Housing: Where to Now?” joint edition of *Parity* and *HousingWorks*

#### Introduction

Marginal housing has become an important issue because of the ongoing crisis in access to affordable housing and accommodation. The issue of marginal housing is a sometimes a “hidden” issue that only occasionally results in any public awareness or in media and policy responses to it.

Increasing numbers of people excluded from the housing market, people who are unable to access or afford private rental or who are ineligible for, or waiting for the ever-diminishing supply of social housing, are being forced into insecure marginal housing, that is, into boarding and rooming houses (both registered and unregistered), caravan parks and different kinds of shared accommodation.

This is particularly the case for those on benefits but also includes increasing numbers of the “working poor” on low incomes and growing numbers of the elderly, particularly older women. In addition, new forms of marginal housing have developed including overcrowded shared accommodation for growing numbers of international students.

Those in marginal housing not only frequently have to endure sub-standard forms of housing, they frequently live in unsafe and often dangerous situations with little or no security of tenure.

Alongside the growth in the number of people being forced to resort to different kinds of marginal housing, there is also an increasing body of evidence and practice around what is required to respond to the drift into marginal housing. Arguably, the increase in various forms of marginal housing is the result of both the failure of the housing market to provide affordable housing and the failure of government to develop and implement policies that provide affordable and sustainable social housing for those excluded from the housing market.

This evidence base has had clear implications for the development of both affordable housing policies as well as the governance and regulatory framework for different forms of tenure.

The 2018 edition will build on previous publications and research that looked at boarding and rooming houses, caravan parks and the vicissitudes of insecure private rental.

*This edition Parity and Housing Works* aims to examine the different forms and types of marginal housing as well as the responses of both government and services to the issues faced by people forced into marginal housing.

The hope is to provide a national overview of policy and service responses to marginal housing, examine and discuss what they have in common, as well where they differ.

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### A Framework for Discussion

#### Chapter 1 Conceptual, definitional and enumeration issues

This chapter is to be devoted to the conceptual and definitional issues around what constitutes marginal housing and our understandings of that is marginal housing.

- Is there conceptual clarity and agreement around what actually constitutes marginal housing for the purposes of identification and enumeration as well as implementing appropriate policy and service responses?
- Is marginal housing a useful concept capable of being operationalised for both research and the development of policy and service responses?
- What is the relationship between those forced into marginal housing and the experience of homelessness?
- What groups of people or “cohorts” are most likely to resort to marginal housing? Or to put it another way, what groups are the most vulnerable and susceptible to making use of marginal housing and insecure forms of tenancy?
- Is there agreement and clarity on the number of people in marginal housing? What have the various (and sometimes very different) understandings of what constitutes of marginal housing told us about numbers over time?
- Likewise, is there agreement and clarity on what is driving the continued growth of people in marginal housing and indeed the development of different kinds of marginal housing?

#### Chapter 2: Policy Responses

This chapter is devoted to the national (where relevant) and state and territory policy initiatives and frameworks designed to respond to marginal housing. These may be an integral part of national, state or territory wide broader housing or homelessness policies.

The aim of this chapter is provide a nation-wide overview and assessment of government policies connected to the response to marginal housing and insecure tenancies.

#### Chapter 3: Regulating Marginal Housing

The aim of this chapter is to examine and discuss the regulatory response to marginal housing.

The essential question here is the effectiveness of these regulatory responses in terms of protecting the rights and interests of those in different forms of marginal housing. Clearly, the various Residential Tenancy regulations are most relevant here.

- In assessing this, what are the constraints working to inhibit or limit the effectiveness of the various regulatory responses to marginal housing?
- How effective are the regulations in governing those that ignore them, who are, “off the books”, and where relevant, unregistered?
- How effective are the compliance systems enshrined in the various regulatory protocols?
- Is the universally recognised inability to access and provide affordable and sustainable housing the key blockage in the service system preventing an effective response to marginal housing?

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- What is the role of Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) in terms of the issues of marginal housing given that many SHSs are forced to make use of various kinds of marginal housing because no other accommodation is available?
- How have different local and other levels of government attempted to regulate marginal housing?
- Have these attempts at regulation been successful?
- How have the issues of the regulation of marginal forms of housing, and the compliance to these regulations been negotiated?
- Have those in marginal housing been consulted and involved in the development of the regulations governing marginal housing?

### Chapter 4: Conclusions

This chapter is devoted to the discussion of what needs to be done to prevent people being forced into marginal housing and what needs to be done to get people out of insecure forms of marginal housing and marginal housing tenures.

### Contributing to September 2018 “Marginal Housing: Where to Now?” joint edition of *Parity* and *HousingWorks*

**Deadline:** All contributions need to be submitted by COB Friday September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

**Submissions:** All contributions should be submitted as Word attachments to [parity@chp.org.au](mailto:parity@chp.org.au)

**Word length:** Contributions can be up to 1600 words. This equates to a double page spread in *Parity*. Single page articles can be up to 800 words in length. Contributions of a greater length should be discussed with the *Parity* Editor.

**Artwork:** Contributors are invited to submit the artwork they would like to accompany their article. Inclusion is dependent on the space being available. If artwork is not provided and is required, it will be selected by the *Parity* Editor.

**Questions:** If you have any questions at all about contributing to this edition please contact the *Parity* Editor by email [parity@chp.org.au](mailto:parity@chp.org.au) or ring 03 8415 6201

#### Referencing

NB: Due to space considerations, contributors are encouraged to use endnotes when referencing their *Parity* articles. All works that are cited or referred to in an article should be referenced.

#### For example:

1. Johnson G, Kuehne D, Parkinson S, Sesa S and Tseng Y 2014, ‘Resolving long-term homelessness: A randomised controlled trial examining the 36 month costs, benefits and social outcomes from the Journey to Social Inclusion pilot program’, Sacred Heart Mission, St Kilda.
2. Parkinson S 2012, ‘ The Journey to Social Inclusion Project in Practice- A process evaluation of the first 18 months’, AHURI Research Centre, RMIT University, Melbourne, p. 19.

CHP does not encourage contributors to list a bibliography of references used in the development of an article but are not cited in the article. There is simply insufficient space for the inclusion of extensive bibliographies.



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### **Assistance**

Feedback, input and assistance can be provided with drafts if required. If prospective contributors have any questions at all they should contact the *Parity* Editor, [parity@chp.org.au](mailto:parity@chp.org.au) or ring 03 8415 6200 or 03 8415 6201.

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