



Using an Institutional Framework for Assessing Housing Problems: an Australian Case Study

Professor Terry Burke

Institute for Social Research
Swinburne University of Technology

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Room 829, Knowles Building, The University of Hong Kong

Abstract:

All countries have housing problems. Policy solutions to them tend to be crisis driven, selective, and tenure based. Rarely is there any attempt to develop a holistic understanding of housing problems and the way in which the institutional structure of housing provision of a country can create, accentuate and lock in a range of housing problems.

This paper seeks to explain how the institutional structure of the Australian Housing System i.e. the way housing is produced, consumed, exchanged, and managed has created a set of housing problems of a scale which cannot be resolved without tackling this historically imbedded structure. Poor affordability, lack of housing diversity environmental sustainability, segregated cities, are problems that have become manifest in Australia over the last decade and which despite a host of incremental packages remain intractable. The policy solutions are wrongly premised and indeed have become part of the problem.

About the Speaker:

Professor Terry Burke is one of Australia's best known housing academics. He has undertaken considerable research on housing affordability, public housing management, and housing policy reform and has published a number of articles, papers and reports around these themes. Professor Burke has co-authored a number of texts including *Social Theory and the Australian City* and *Informed Decision Making*. He established, and is the convener of, Australia's only suite of housing management courses which is offered to all Australian and New Zealand social housing agencies. He has also been on many government advisory committees, including Ministerial advisory committees, dealing with housing and urban issues. He is Vice Chair of the Asia Pacific Network of Housing Researchers.

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