THE HOUSING AFFORDABILITY CHALLENGE:
Building coherent and sustainable solutions

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 5 2007 1.30 PM TO 5 PM

SEMINAR OUTLINE

This ½ day seminar aims to explore the ways in which we might develop solutions to affordable housing problems in Australia. Professor Peter Williams, Visiting Professor Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning, University of Sydney will lead the seminar, in conjunction A/Professor Judy Yates, Dr Nicole Gurran and Dr Vivienne Milligan. The seminar will cover a range of possible solutions including public-private and public-public solutions that are being or could be developed in Australia and explore examples of and lessons learned from solutions being used to address affordability problems in the United Kingdom.

WHO WILL BENEFIT

The seminar is designed for national, state and local government officials and housing and planning professionals in the private and not for profit sectors who have a current or prospective role in addressing housing affordability issues. It is intended to assist policy makers and producers of affordable housing to consider a range of solutions and not least the role that might be played by enhancing interagency partnering and networking in this vital area of public, private and community action. The course will be strongly interactive. Participants will be encouraged to discuss their experience in this field and to contribute their ideas about fruitful directions.

AIMS

- Provide an up to date review of housing affordability issues in Australia
- Convey recent approaches to addressing housing affordability problems here and in the UK, with a focus on the development of public-public and public-private partnerships and the active engagement of the planning system
- Identify the potential for and any barriers to the expansion of partnership based approaches in Australia
- Explore working partnerships with examples from the UK and Australia
- Promote a collaborative approach to tackling the housing affordability challenge
To nominate for the course please email Julia Wilson and provide the following information: full name, email and phone number, address, organisation. Please also advise of any special dietary requirements. A tax invoice for the amount payable will be sent to you once your nomination is received. Nominations should be received no later than 28 August 2007.

For further information please email Julia Wilson on prc@arch.usyd.edu.au

Peter Williams is a UK based housing consultant who is teaching and researching housing at the University of Sydney in the second half of 2007. He was formerly the Deputy Director of the Council of Mortgage Lenders in the UK. He has had a long involvement with housing research, policy and practice in the UK and abroad, including as a Professor of Housing Management at Cardiff University Wales, and as a researcher at the former Urban Research Unit at the Australian National University and for the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute. He has served regularly on high level government advisory boards concerned with housing in the UK and on ways of bringing the public and private sectors together, especially in relation to finance.

Nicole Gurran is a senior lecturer in the urban and regional planning program of the University of Sydney. Two of her specialties are planning for affordable housing provision and the role of local government in planning processes. Her most recent work in this field focuses upon emerging international responses to planning for affordable housing. She also has several years’ experience in professional planning and housing practice. Recent consultancy projects include work for the NSW Departments of Housing and Planning to develop affordable housing strategies for local councils and the development of kits to assist local government to develop housing strategies. She is the author of a recently published book on Australian urban land use planning.

Vivienne Milligan has been studying innovative approaches to affordable housing provision throughout Australia and internationally over the last six years. She is currently Director of the AHURI Sydney Research Centre and an Adjunct Associate Professor in the urban and regional planning program at the University of Sydney. Previously, for over 20 years, she held senior positions in housing policy in several Australian jurisdictions where she is well known for her leading contributions to the development of the public, community, Indigenous and affordable housing sectors. Her most recent research is a wide-ranging review of recent international trends in housing and policy responses.

Judy Yates is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Economics at the University of Sydney. Judy is recognised as one of Australia’s foremost experts on housing economics and housing markets. Over the last three years she has directed an AHURI funded national research venture on ‘Housing Affordability for Lower Income Australians’. The central aim of this research has been to undertake evidence-based research on housing affordability to inform the development of policies that can effectively address housing affordability problems.

PROGRAM
Topics to be covered will include:

- The scale of the housing affordability challenge
- Key strategies for low cost home ownership and social/ affordable renting in the UK
- Possible solutions in the housing sector and beyond in Australia
- A positive role for urban and regional planning
- Building effective partnerships with the private sector

Disclaimer: The University of Sydney reserves the right to change the seminar program and, in the case of unforeseen circumstances, the presenters and/or date of the seminar.