



Mapping Housing Pathways: An analysis of housing consumption patterns among income support recipients over time

Tim Seelig¹ and Jung Hoon Han² (t.seelig@uq.edu.au) ¹*Housing Research Fellow, University of Queensland Social Research Centre/AHURI Queensland Research Centre at UQ.* ²*Postdoctoral Fellow (Housing and Ageing) AHURI Queensland Research Centre (UQ/QUT).*

This presentation/paper will focus on the housing consumption configurations and patterns of tenure change - the 'housing pathways' - among income support recipient populations over time. This has been one of the principal themes of research recently conducted for the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI). Traditional approaches of tenures and tenure change have been based around the notion of 'housing careers', which tended to apply a relatively simplistic and linear approach to understanding movements around the housing system. More recently, it has been argued that this is problematic as a way of conceptualising the housing experiences and housing histories of people, particularly when low-income households are concerned. The current research to be presented on has applied Clapham's concept of 'housing pathways' as a theoretical tool and framework for the empirical analysis of housing arrangements and transitions over time. The research represented a rare opportunity to study housing consumption patterns through the analysis of large-scale longitudinal data, involving some 75,000 income support recipient cases, 226 continuous time periods between 1995 and 2003, and over 10 million observations in total. Using reconstructed tenure categories and a range of analytical approaches, the study has helped establish the foundations for gaining considerable insights into, and a better understanding of the tenure arrangements of income support recipients, including the diversity of housing pathways overall; specific housing consumption patterns based around public housing, private rental housing, home ownership and other tenures; and the potential association of these changes with other circumstances.