

***NATIONAL HOUSING CONFERENCE 2005 – ABSTRACT***

**Title of Paper:**

How does housing assistance affect residential mobility?

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As above

**Conference Theme:** Market and Policy responses to changing socio-demographics

Does housing policy help or hinder people's decisions to move house? When might it be appropriate to assist or hinder residential mobility? Housing policy in Australia has been mainly formulated around particular tenures. Assistance has been focussed in particular on encouraging home ownership, which has been culturally associated with stronger citizenship, stable family life and residential immobility, while rental accommodation has evolved as a tenure to accommodate residential transitions: such as the transition between family home to own home of young adulthood and the transition between economic states of unemployment and employment.

This presentation draws on recent AHURI research to understand residential mobility in relation to housing tenure but also in relation to other aspects of housing including location, home life and dwelling. It asks questions about: (a) why people move and whether housing policy (advertently or inadvertently) facilitates or reduces residential mobility; (b) the social costs and benefits of residential mobility and immobility, (in particular whether workforce participation is improved through residential transitions), and who should bear risks associated with residential transitions.