

## **Understanding housing system complexity**

[Mapping the Social and Affordable Housing Network](#) research project commenced in October 2018.

This research is being conducted by the [Sustainable Built Environment National Research Centre](#). Sue Ash AO, Chairperson of the Project Steering Group, notes “The results will provide valuable insights into the Australian social and affordable housing system and will assist with improving system productivity, effectiveness, efficiency and thus housing outcomes”.

The national team is currently mapping the social and affordable housing networks in both Western Australia and Queensland. This is aimed at understanding the interactions between those in need of housing, the State-based housing agency responsible for the policy and/or delivery of housing, and the broader social and affordable housing network.

To make this complexity more legible, 13 dimensions were identified early in the research. These are: policy drivers and players; funding; financing (private, institutional and individual); procurement and delivery; metrics, indicators and data; labour market dynamics and housing; changing demographics; housing typologies; social and environmental systems; integrated, shared and disruptive technologies; housing asset management; housing production supply chain; and skills, knowledge and capacity building.

Workshops to test draft maps were held recently in Brisbane and Perth, with maps reflecting this input being currently developed. The team will now explore the challenges and opportunities within the system, to better address the critical shortfall in social and affordable housing across many parts of Australia.

This program of research is led by [Dr Judy Kraatz](#) from the Griffith University [Cities Research Institute](#) with Sue Ash AO serving as Chair of the Project Steering Group. This group meets quarterly to monitor progress and ensure the practical objectives of the project are delivered. [Professor Rachel Ong](#) leads the team from Curtin University.

The SBEnc’s CEO, [Dr Keith Hampson](#) has welcomed this important stream of research into the Centre’s growing portfolio of industry-driven initiatives, “Partnerships that improve the availability of social and affordable housing are a critical foundation of Australia’s society. SBEnc prides itself on bringing together leading industry, government and research networks to inform policy in this area.”



Keith Hampson  
CEO SBEnc



Judy Kraatz  
Project Leader



Sue Ash AO  
PSG Chair