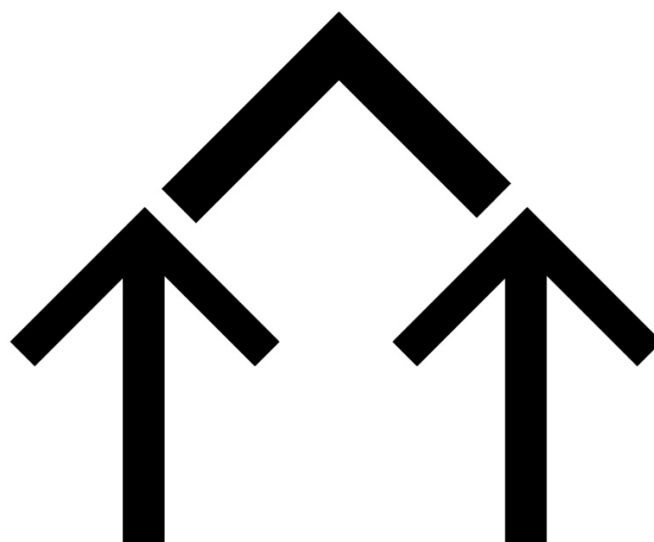Housing for Health Incubator

Housing Policy and Infrastructural Inequality in Indigenous Australia and Beyond

Progress Report | May 2018

Tess Lea, Liam Grealy, Christen Cornell

Acknowledgement of Country

As authors, we would like to acknowledge the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, whose land was never ceded or sold and upon which the University of Sydney now sits, and pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people past, present, and emerging.

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Disclaimer

The views expressed in this report do not necessarily represent the views of the Henry Halloran Trust, the University of Sydney, additional Incubator sponsors, or Incubator collaborators. The report reflects the views of Chief Investigator Tess Lea, Postdoctoral Research Fellow Liam Grealy, and Research Officer Christen Cornell.

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Housing for Health Incubator | Progress Report May 2018

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Year One (March 2018 – February 2019)

The Incubator commenced in 2018, following the recruitment of the Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Dr Liam Grealy, who started in March 2018, and recruitment of the Research Officer, Dr Christen Cornell, in late 2017. The Incubator's core team have since been busy clarifying research themes and questions, establishing new scholarly and other professional alliances, initiating organisation of upcoming events, identifying possible extension funding sources, and commencing research.

In January and February 2018, Chief Investigator Tess Lea and Christen Cornell met twice with industry partners, Healthabitat, to discuss and confirm priorities for upcoming collaborative work. In March, Incubator researchers hosted a day-long planning workshop with industry partners and other scholarly and policy experts to conceptualise research articles for two peer-reviewed publications, scheduled for submission to top policy journals by the end of 2018. Lea and Grealy attended the Aboriginal Housing Forum in Darwin (7-8 March), with Lea presenting on the Housing for Health program and community control of housing. Lea also presented at the American Association of Geographers conference in New Orleans (10-14 April), while Grealy attended the Architecture as Agency: Humanitarian Design symposium at the Sydney School of Architecture, Design and Planning (10 March), and the Cultures of Energy 7 symposium at Rice University in Houston (12-14 April).

In April 2018, the Incubator website was launched at: https://www.hfhincubator.org/ Designed by Dr Morgan Richards of The Design Embassy with external funding from the Fred Hollows Foundation, this site provides a public access point for those wishing to engage with the research and network, including through participation at events or by accessing publications. In May 2018, the Incubator also published its first Issues Paper, outlining the project's aims, background, and research agenda. The paper has been distributed through relevant professional and scholarly networks, and published on the Incubator website.

In May 2018, the Incubator began hosting its 'Infrastructural Inequalities' reading group, which will run monthly on the University of Sydney's Darlington campus, and which will be live streamed to include those unable to attend in person. This group is promoted on the website, and is provisionally organised around bi-monthly themes including architecture, wires, water, waste, and paper. The program is expected to run across the

course of the Incubator project, engaging the input of experts in housing design, policy and legal analysis, and Indigenous health and housing, while also expanding the reach and activities of the Incubator beyond its core network of researchers to include critical theorists, activist intellectuals, and artist scholars. Those who have already expressed an interest in the reading group include academics from the University of New South Wales and Macquarie University, professional designers, lawyers, and policy strategists from the City of Sydney.

The reading group will contribute to the social and intellectual scaffold for another, larger public event in October 2018, co-organised with new partners Dr Astrid Lorange and Dr Andrew Brooks of UNSW Art and Design. Collectively known as Snack Syndicate, Lorange and Brooks have a studio at the Artspace gallery in Woolloomooloo, with Artspace also partnering for this event. Using this venue we will collaboratively curate and hold a public program titled 'Infrastructural Inequalities'. This program will run across two days, October 6-7, and will feature a mix of talks, installations, and workshops led by policy professionals, artists, activists, critical theorists, and academics.

So far in 2018 we have also begun to collect and curate archival material and to map a conceptual and thematic structure for the scheduled e-book on the work of Healthabitat and the Housing for Health program. Thus far we have engaged a designer for the project, researched pioneering examples of this new medium, and have met with potential publishers. This pre-production work will continue throughout 2018.

An associated research project investigating the intersections of housing, health, and climate change vulnerability has also commenced. This project is supported by the NSW Adaptation Research Hub of the NSW Government Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and involves collaboration with Professor Nicole Gurran (University of Sydney), Associate Professor Ollie Jay (University of Sydney), and Neil Hime (NSW Department of Health). To date, this project has involved the drafting of an Issues Paper ('Climate change, housing, and health: A scoping study on intersections between vulnerability, housing tenure, and potential adaption responses'), and preparation for ethnographic research into intersections between vulnerability, housing tenure, and adaptation responses to extreme heat. An application for University of Sydney Ethics approval has been conditionally approved and related research into relevant organisations ahead of fieldwork is currently underway.

Finally, in May 2018, Lea met with Dr Amanda Tattersall (HH Incubator 'Organising the 21st Century City: An International Comparison of Urban Alliances as Citizen Engagement') to explore ways to collaborate. Dr Tattersall will spend time with the Housing for Health Incubator to workshop techniques for re-gaining political attention using contemporary distributed/networked approaches; and Lea is going to work with Dr Tattersall on

developing interdisciplinary units for students to learn how to activate and communicate actionable stories about transformation and social change.

The schedule for June 2018 – February 2019 is as follows:

- Continue e-book pre-production in collaboration with Healthabitat, including organising additional videography and graphic design elements

- Continue reading group meetings, held monthly on campus and engaging a wide network of scholars and policy professionals

- Co-host Infrastructural Inequalities public program at Artspace with Snack Syndicate in early October

- Submit two research articles to A+ international policy journals, working with Professor Allan McConnell and others

- Submit University of Sydney Ethics application for other Incubator research

- Conduct fieldwork for the housing, health, and climate vulnerability research and draft first report with collaborators

- Postdoctoral Research Fellow to begin fieldwork at sites in NSW and Louisiana on behalf of establishing a comparative program of international policy research

- Organise and host the first policy roundtable in January 2019, briefing the Advisory Group on results to date and involving the Incubator's network of policy collaborators

- Develop Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Research Support Scheme proposal into ARC Linkage Project application with academic collaborators Astrida Neimanis and Kirsty Howey and industry partners, exploring issues of water contamination, housing and health

- Assist Healthabitat to coordinate the first practitioner workshop folding health research findings into survey tool revisions and Housing for Health database design, with a view to issuing a new edition of the *Aboriginal Housing for Health: The Guide* (formerly the *National Indigenous Housing Guide*) in 2019.

- PIs Tietz and Tawa explore separate funding options to conduct collaborative design studio to apply, model, and test performance criteria and guidelines to a pilot design project.

- PIs Welke and Norman exploring student projects using HFH methods with School of Architecture, USYD

Year Two (March 2019 – February 2020)

- Secure publishing contract for e-book

- Develop and revise the e-book manuscript

- Continue reading group meetings, reformed by new conceptual requirements and the input of our network of scholars and policy professionals

- Interim analysis of data, interview transcriptions, and any further HfH methodology refinements design

- Workshop and preparation process for *Aboriginal Housing for Health: The Guide.* Aim for the publication of the revised *Guide* by the end of 2019

- Preparation of further publications: background, concept, and comparative publications for policy papers and academic journals

- Postdoctoral Research Fellow and CI Lea to begin fieldwork at sites in NT and continue fieldwork in NSW and Louisiana

- Second practitioner workshop folding review findings into survey tool revisions and database design

- Lab testing led by Ollie Jay for the housing, health, and climate vulnerability research, and dissemination of research

- Organise and host the second policy roundtable, briefing the Advisory Group on results to date and involving the Incubator's network of policy collaborators

- Begin preparation for final international symposium to be held at the end of year three

- If funding secured, PIs Tietz and Tawa lead parallel industry collaborations to investigate the commercialisation of alternative, fit-for-purpose and superior health hardware, housing equipment, and infrastructure, aimed at proposing changes to institutional procurement policies and procedures to enable informed evaluation and selection of fit-for-purpose products.

Year Three (March 2020 – February 2021)

- Finalise policy analysis

- Finalise design performance criteria and guidelines for the design, manufacturing, installation, and/or maintenance of health hardware

- Postdoctoral Research Fellow concludes fieldwork

- Finalise and launch e-book

- Preparation of additional final publications: results of project (journal articles); policy briefs; design project outcomes

- Attend international conference

- Hold public lectures on project findings and disseminate media releases

- Host an international symposium at the University of Sydney in late 2020 featuring at least one key international speaker and participants with multidisciplinary expertise (e.g. the anthropology of infrastructure; cultures of energy; critical policy analysis; race, gender, and class in public health and housing)