Local Government and Housing in Australia

DELIVERING FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Professor Andrew Beer, Dean: Research and Education
University of South Australia Business School

PROJECT PARTNERS:
City of Greater Bendigo • Berri Barmera Council • Gwydir Shire Council • Local Government Association of South Australia
Mount Alexander Shire Council • City of Mount Gambier • City of Moonee Valley • Randwick City Council
The Rural City of Murray Bridge • City of Playford • Sunshine Coast Council • City of Sydney • Waverley Council
Local governments do more in housing than they are given credit for –

Many local governments hear the message that housing affordability problems are hurting their communities

Survey Q 16: In the view of the Council, to what extent is there a housing affordability problem in the area?
Local governments do more in housing than they are given credit for – Many are involved in affordable housing provision

Survey Q 24a: Does your local government support affordable housing providers – eg housing associations or homelessness services?
Local governments do more in housing than they are given credit for –

Many are involved in direct provision of housing

Survey Q 23a: Does your Council own housing that it makes available to people based on need/income?
Local governments do more in housing than they are given credit for –

Many support community groups and take other actions to help the homeless

Survey Q 31a: Does your Council have a formal homelessness policy or set of strategies?

Survey Q 31b: If no, does your Council have an informal policy or practices to support homeless people?
Local governments are excellent partners working on the ground to help other tiers of government achieve their goals.

Survey Q 50: Who would your Council say is primarily responsible for addressing the problems associated with housing in Australia?
Other tiers of government can be hard to engage with, and there is often a lack of leadership from central governments.

Survey Q 55: Do you feel local governments are often unfairly blamed by other tiers of government for housing affordability problems?
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Conclusion ...

Local governments are doing a lot already to make housing more affordable

- They don’t need to take on additional responsibilities or be asked to do more

- Australia’s housing market is made up of thousands of housing markets, so local governments face complex and highly differentiated challenges in housing

- But they take those responsibilities seriously and are delivering to the best of their abilities