



UNIVERSITY of
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The role of place in policy responses to address disadvantage experienced by social housing residents.

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Acknowledgement of Country

The Mouheneenner people

Hobart

The Moomairremener people

Brighton, Clarence and
Pitt Water



Aboriginal Australia Wall Map

Aboriginal Studies Press, 1996

Introduction

PhD Project

What is the impact of place-based initiatives on facilitating complex social change for tenants and the broader community in social housing?

Still in scoping phase (6 months in)

Motivations

- A break from admin work 😊
- Social determinants of health
- Equality
- Importance of housing to life
- Frustration with current system

Supervisors



Professor Keith Jacobs
Director, HACRU



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What is disadvantage?

MARGINALISATION
ECONOMIC
INEQUITIES
POLARISATION
SOCIOECONOMIC
DEPRIVATION
SOCIAL **COMPLEX**
HEALTH
DISADVANTAGE
PROBLEMS
ENTRENCHED
EXCLUSION
POVERTY

- Complicated, multidimensional construct
- Goes by many different names
- Typically refers to things that can be quantified (Pawson, Hulse, & Cheshire, 2015)
- Popular focus is on economic factors because data is easy to obtain (Price-Robertson, 2011)
- Too simplistic, obscures lived experienced
- In fact, patterns of advantage and disadvantage are present in people's lives (Kerr et al., 2014)

What is spatial disadvantage?

CONCENTRATED DISADVANTAGE
SPATIAL DISADVANTAGE
LOCATIONAL DISADVANTAGE
SOCIO SPATIAL POLARISATION
SOCIALLY EXCLUDED COMMUNITIES
PLACES WITH SOCIAL PROBLEMS
GEOGRAPHY OF DISADVANTAGE
COMMUNITY DISADVANTAGE
SOCIAL POLARISATION

- Lots of different terms

Two perspectives

- People disadvantage: places in which a disproportionate number of disadvantaged people reside (Pawson et al., 2015)
- Place disadvantage: idea that place itself can affect the outcomes of residents, "place / neighbourhood effects" (Atkinson, 2008)

Individual data aggregated spatially, but scale is important (Pawson et al., 2015)

- Trend in Australia towards outlying suburbs as sites of disadvantage (Australian Council of Social Service, 2015)

Social housing neighbourhoods as disadvantaged places



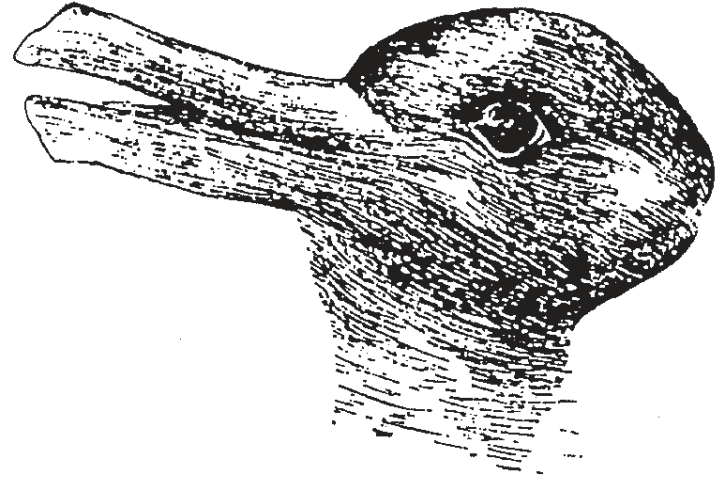
Stainforth Court housing estate in Hobart

ABC News, 2013

- Social housing is the tenure most commonly associated with disadvantage (Randolph & Holloway, 2005)
- Large estates of social housing built in outlying suburbs during 1940's to 1970's
- Reduced funding + tenants with high and complex needs + clustered social housing in poorly serviced areas = disadvantaged places (Flanagan, 2010)
- Social housing neighbourhoods have developed a negative reputation in eyes of public and policymakers (Randolph & Holloway, 2005)

What's the problem?

- “Knowledge of public housing is not objective and neutral but conditional and contingent” (Flanagan, 2015, p.422)
- Discourse, stigma and politics problematise areas with social housing (Doney, McGuirk, & Mee, 2013; Verdouw & Flanagan, 2019).
- Framed as a spatial and individual problem that needs solving.
- Dominant policy approach focuses on selectively applying interventions to physical places and the people within them that are *perceived to be disadvantaged*.



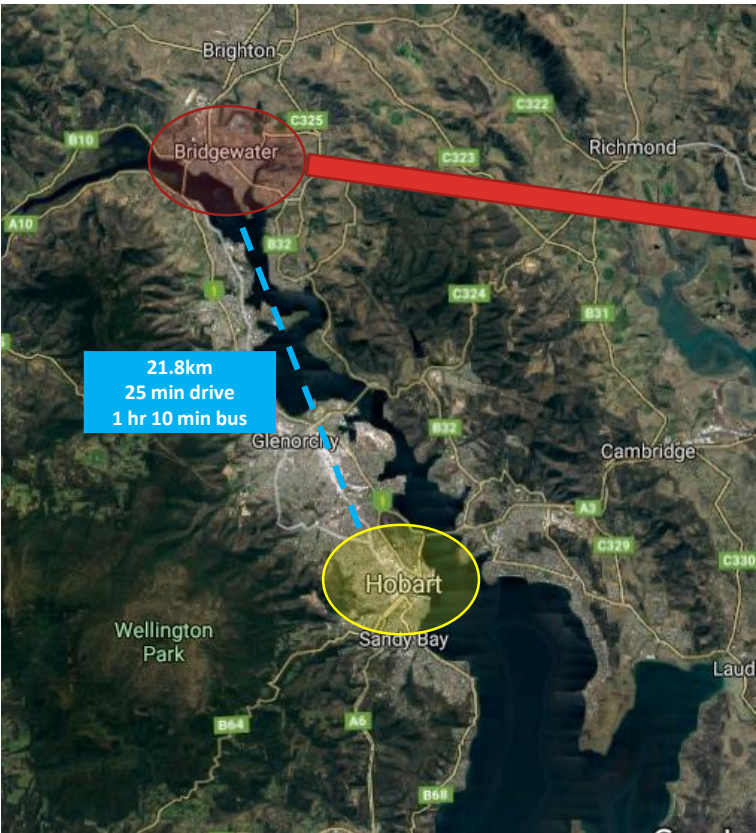
<https://paintingvalley.com/two-pictures-in-one-drawing>

Place-based policies



- Popular approach to solve the perceived problems of deteriorating social housing estates in Australia.
- An efficient way to allocate limited resources (Mkandawire, 2005).
- May address localised challenges, but not clear if they can effectively address the core features of poverty and disadvantage (Darcy, 2007).
- Narrowly defined geographic boundaries - failure to address the economic and political drivers of disadvantage.
- Place improvement strategies can displace low-income groups to other disadvantaged locations ("selective migration").

Bridgewater / Gagebrook



Bridgewater / Gagebrook



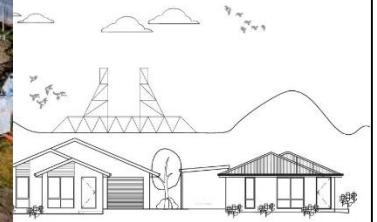
- Most disadvantaged
- Disadvantaged
- Advantaged
- Most advantaged



Bridgewater, Gagebrook & Herdsman's Cove

Master Plan

Community Summary



Place is both central to the problem and the solution.

- What can we learn from how **this community housing provider** implemented **this place-based initiative** in **this place**?
- How did they understand and conceptualise **the problem**?
- How have they **understood, defined, experienced, related to, sensed and constructed the place** and how has this influenced how they are approaching the problem?
- How do these differ to those of community members and tenants?
- And is place-based management of social housing any *better* than other model of public housing management?

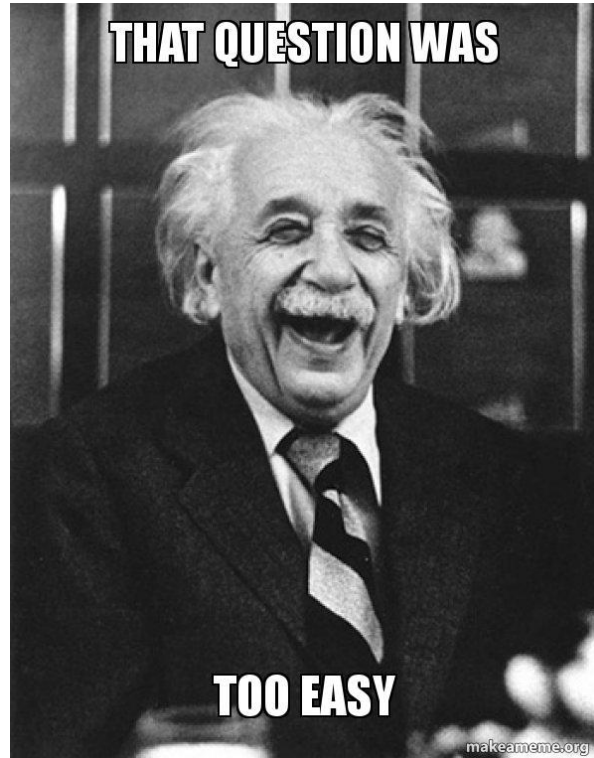
What am I looking forward to?

- Learning more about *place*
- Learning more about *the place*
- Starting to have meaningful conversations with the community housing provider
- Getting deeper in the maze (eek)



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