

CENTRE FOR HEALTH POLICY

Seminar Series

The University of Melbourne

Healthy Housing: Driving a National Agenda

**Presenters: Professor Rebecca Bentley &
Professor Emma Baker**

Monday 18 October 11am-12pm

Via Zoom [https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/84589386129?](https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/84589386129?pwd=SFdzWENPSFFoWnYvWkVreHY5TnIydz09)
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A surprising number of Australians live in unhealthy housing – up to 1.1 million people live in poor condition housing, 2.1 million have housing that is unaffordable and almost quarter of our houses have health harming damp or mould.

In Sept 2019, the World Health Organisation released its Healthy Housing guidelines. Core to these guidelines is the knowledge that improved housing conditions can save lives, prevent disease, increase quality of life, reduce poverty, and help mitigate climate change (WHO 2018). They pave the way internationally for governments to adopt healthy housing agendas that are evidenced based. What does this mean for an Australia that currently has no healthy housing agenda?

The National Health and Medical Research Council has funded a Centre of Research Excellence for Healthy Housing. This Centre will generate new evidence and drive a national healthy housing policy agenda. This talk will provide an overview of our emerging evidence base and present priorities for Australia to develop a healthy housing agenda.



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Rebecca Bentley is Director of the NHMRC Centre for Research Excellence in Healthy Housing and the leader of the Healthy Housing Research Unit in the Centre for Health Policy, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health. Over the past 15 years, Rebecca has developed a research program exploring the role of housing and residential location in shaping health and wellbeing in Australia. This research has a particular focus on housing affordability, tenure and their measurable effects on individual health and wellbeing.



Professor Emma Baker is the Director of the Australian Centre for Housing Research at the University of Adelaide. Over almost 20 years, Professor Baker has led and conducted some of the most well cited and influential housing and urban research. Her recent activities have included the development of public data infrastructures, editorial and international advisory positions, coordination of the [European Network for Housing Research's](#) Residential Context of Health Working group, and Deputy Directorship of the recently funded [NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence for Healthy Housing](#).

These seminars are free. All are welcome to attend.

For more information contact the Centre for Health Policy CHP-enquiries@unimelb.edu.au / +61 3 8344 9111