Rent Assistance:
Time for a Policy Review?

Kath Hulse
The ISR Working Papers series aims to give authors of papers and articles intended for publication an opportunity to seek peer review and comment. It will also include conference papers, technical papers, discussion papers, literature reviews and annotated bibliographies.

Kath Hulse is a Research Fellow with the ISR Cities and Housing Program. She can be contacted by email at khulse@swin.edu.au.
ISR Working Papers

1 Rent Assistance: Time for a Policy Review? **
   Kath Hulse

2 What Is Social Capital?
   Liza Hopkins

3 A Load of Old Garbage: Applying Garbage-Can Theory to Contemporary Housing Policy **
   Anne Tiernan and Terry Burke

4 Retirement Village Expectations and Experiences: An Exploratory Study
   Ilene Wolcott and Helen Glezer

** abstract only
Rent Assistance: Time for a Policy Review?

Abstract

In 1997, after several years of heated policy debate, plans to integrate Commonwealth rent assistance (RA) with assistance under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement (CSHA) were abandoned. Since then, governments have focused on micro-level reforms to RA and CSHA programs separately. This paper argues that it is time to look again at the bigger picture. It places RA in an international context and considers how it was shaped by some of the key features of the Australian income security system. The paper highlights a number of issues about the present RA strategy to stimulate wider debate about current policy settings.

Key words

housing allowances
private rental
housing policy
rent assistance
housing assistance

A full copy of this paper may be available for peer review. Please contact the author for details.