



CHILDREN'S HOUSING INVISIBILITY AND ITS IMPACTS: LESSONS FROM AUSTRALIA

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Children's housing & urban evidence gaps: big picture *and* details

How are Australian childhoods & cities shaped by housing opportunity?

- What is the prevalence of housing advantage & disadvantage in childhood?
- How is children's housing advantage and disadvantage distributed across families?
- How does housing shape children's urban marginalisation & segregation?



Data and methods

1. Family housing opportunity change

- ABS 2003-4 & 2015-16 Survey of Income & Housing (SIH)
- Families (with dependent children aged 0-14 years)
- Enumeration of children in privately rented dwellings
- Enumeration of children living in 'housing stress' (30 rent/40 EHDI)

2. Private rental housing: families & children

- ABS Census 2006 & 2016
- Spatial focus on Victoria, metropolitan/regional districts

3. Voices, views & experiences

- lower income families living in the private rental sector
- ~60 interviews lower income families, multiple projects (2015-2018)

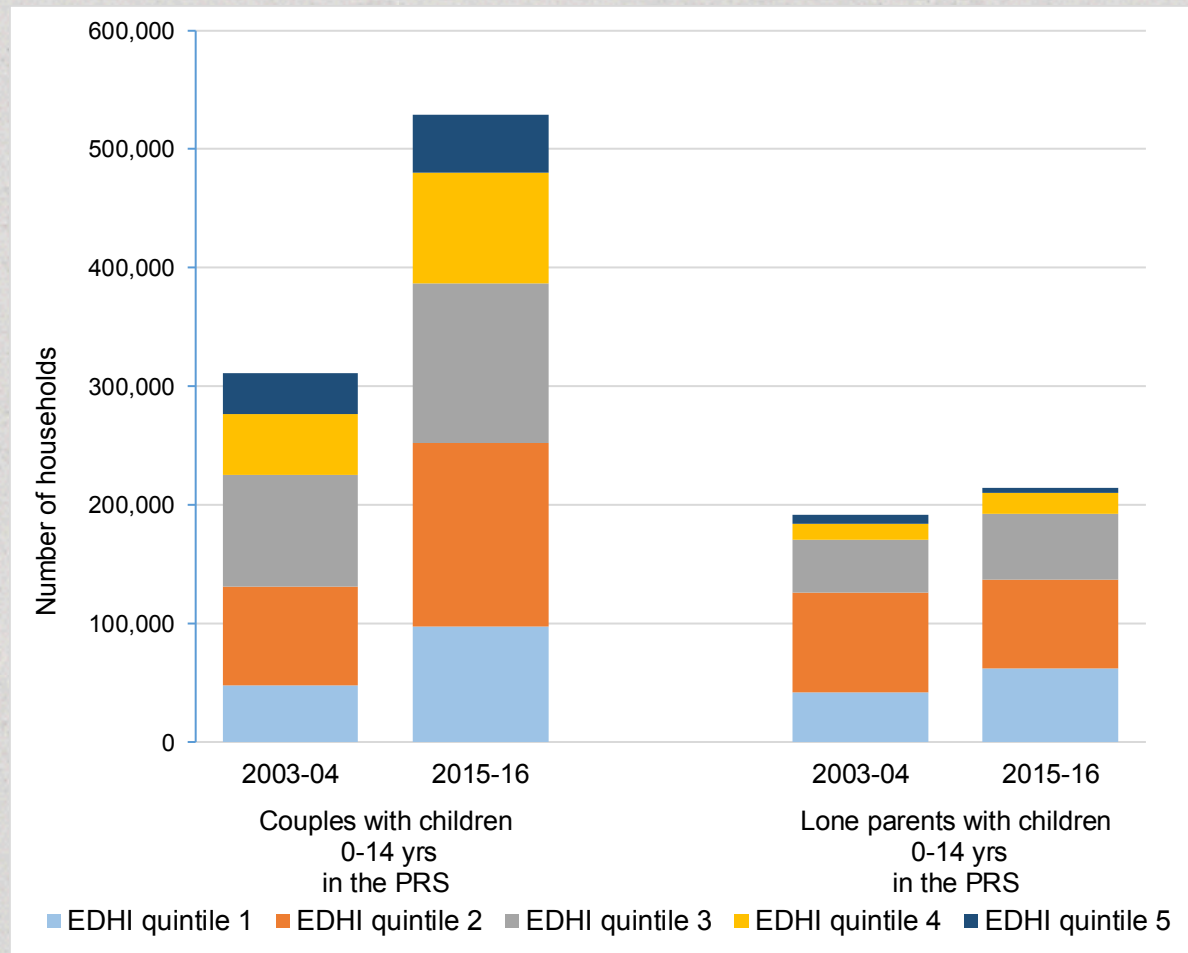
Private rental sector (PRS): Australia's growth tenure

- **Privately rented housing:** occupied residential dwellings in which rent is paid to a landlord that is not public housing authority or employer or caravan park.
- **25% or 2,268,000 Australian households** live in private rental sector (4.1% pt change 2003-4 to 2015-16)
- **30% or 743,193 family households with 0-14 year old child(ren)** live in private rental sector
- **40% or 389,589 of lower income families with 0-14 year old child(ren)** live in PRS (10% pt change 2003-4, 2015-16)



30% of couple & single parent headed family households in private rental

52%, or 389,589, of lower income families with 0-14 year old children in PRS



137,234
(64%)

Source: ABS SIH 2003-04 and 2015-16; * Dependent children in this graph refer to children aged 0-14 yrs.

Rental affordability (30/40) among couple & single parent families (PRS)

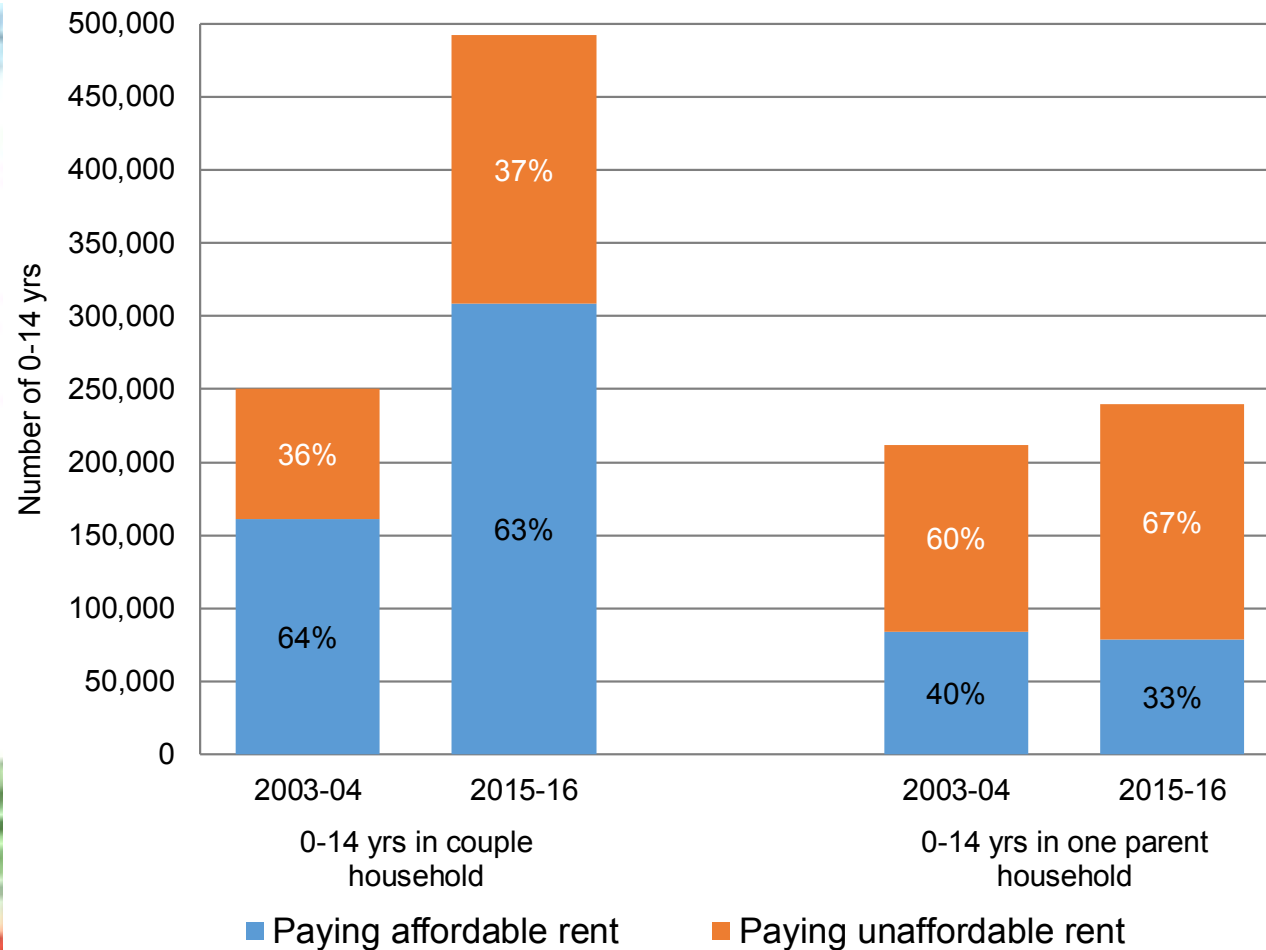
PRS includes paying rent to parent/other relative	Low income PRS households: couple with children aged 0-14 yrs							
	2003-04		2015-16		Change 03/04 to 15/16			
	N	%	N	%	N	%	% pt chg	
Paying affordable rent	77,281	62%	146,523	60%	69,242	90%	-2%	
Paying unaffordable rent	48,377	38%	97,732	40%	49,356	102%	2%	
Total*	125,658	100%	244,256	100%	118,598	94%	0%	

PRS includes paying rent to parent/other relative	Low income PRS households: lone parents with children aged 0-14 yrs							
	2003-04		2015-16		Change 03/04 to 15/16			
	N	%	N	%	N	%	% pt chg	
Paying affordable rent	45,391	37%	39,778	29%	-5,612	-12%	-8%	
Paying unaffordable rent	76,833	63%	95,281	71%	18,448	24%	8%	
Total*	122,224	100%	135,060	100%	12,836	11%	0%	

*Total in-scope households only: figures exclude those households paying > 90% of their gross income in rent along with those with a gross household income under \$80 (including negative incomes)

Source: ABS SIH 2003-04 and 2015-16; * Dependent children refer to children aged 0-14 yrs.

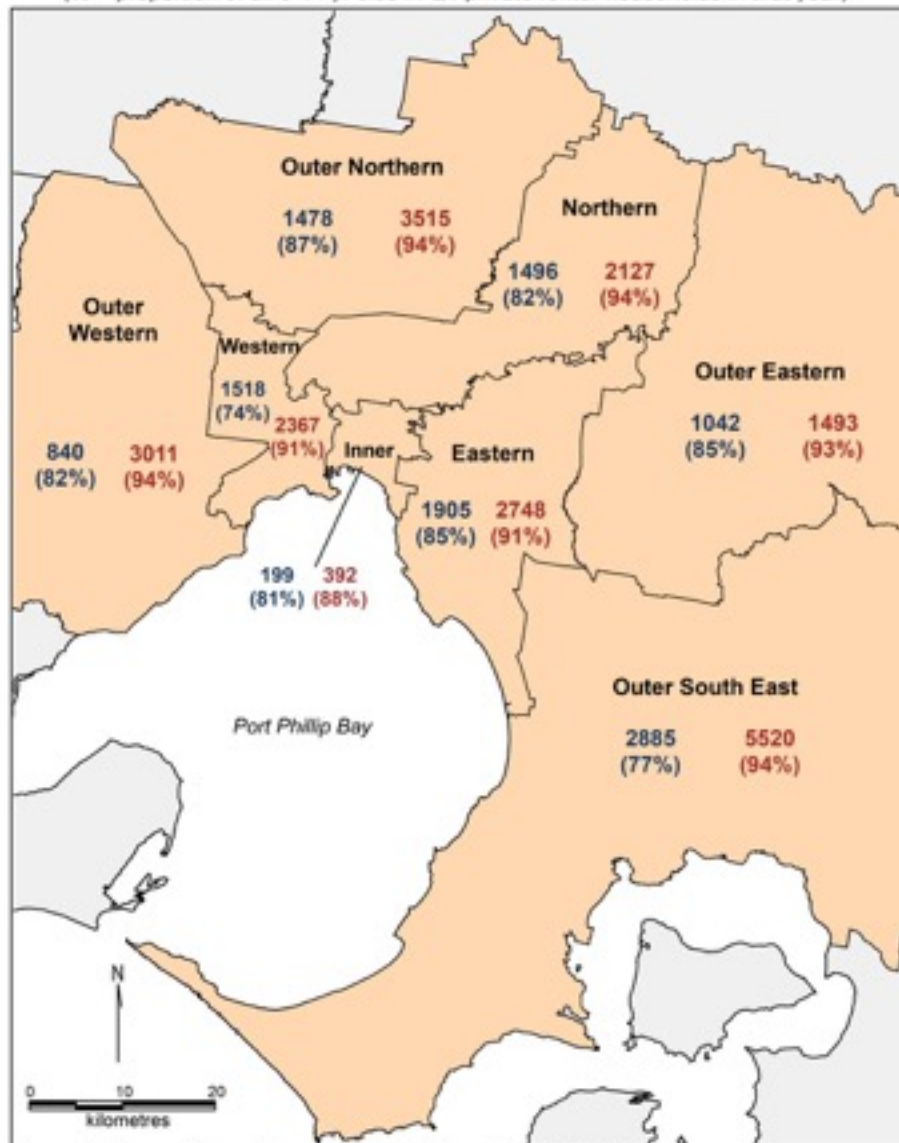
Enumeration of children aged 0-14 years living in unaffordable rental, 2015-16



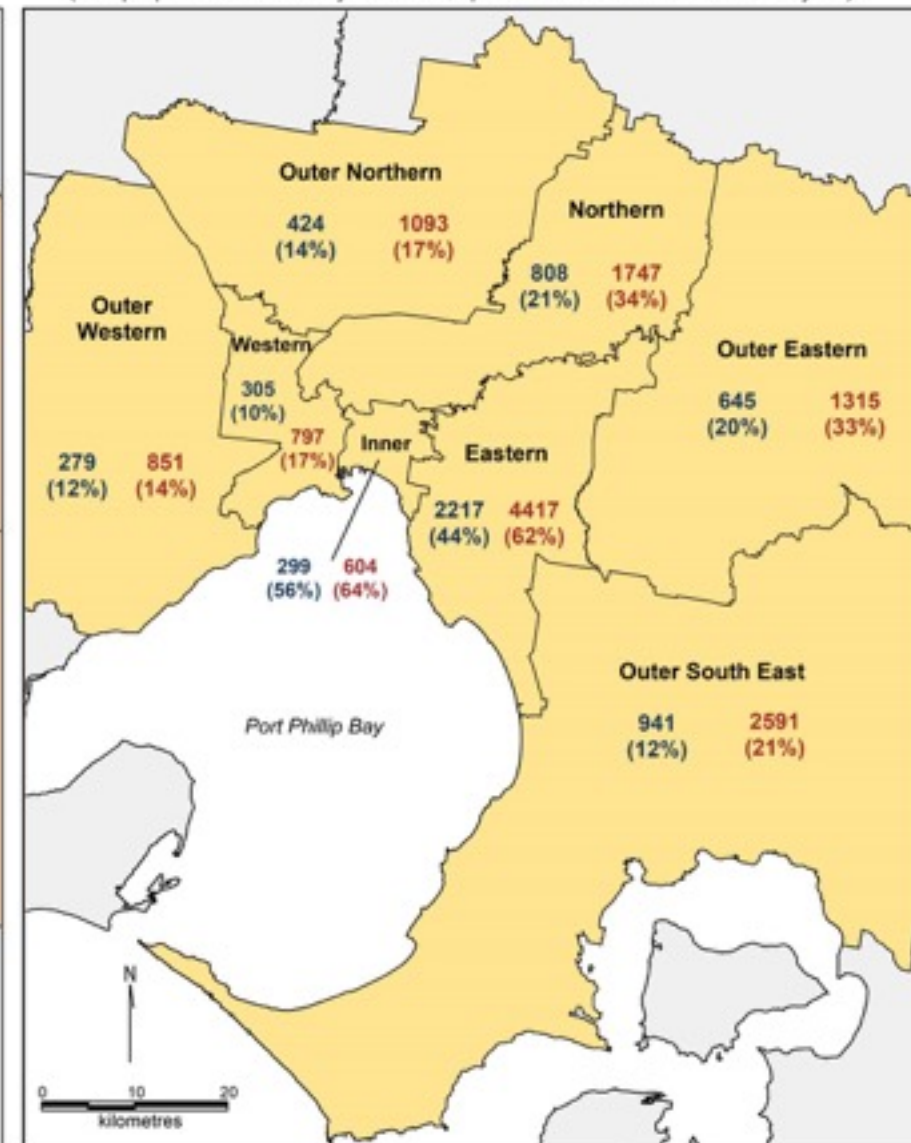
Source: ABS SIH 2003-04 and 2015-16; * Dependent children in this graph refer to children aged 0-14 yrs.

Melbourne metropolitan boundary 2006 & 2016 Census years

Children 0-14 years in Q1 private renter households paying unaffordable rent
2006 (blue) and 2016 (red)
(% = proportion of all 0-14 yr olds in Q1 private renter households in that year)



Children 0-14 years in Q2 private renter households paying unaffordable rent
2006 (blue) and 2016 (red)
(% = proportion of all 0-14 yr olds in Q2 private renter households in that year)



Toward child-focused housing

- Child- & young people-centred
- Theorised from children's socio-legal perspectives
- Measurable/researchable
- Translatable into policy and practice evidence
- Implementable for positive change
- Leap for Australian housing research

*Related
current
housing &
urban
research:*



Housing aspirations and constraints for lower income Australians

AHURI Inquiry

What are the impacts of housing constraints for lower income Australians, and how can innovative housing solutions support their shelter and non-shelter aspirations?



The future of the private rental sector

AHURI Inquiry

How can emerging trends in the institutions of the private rental market in Australia and internationally create opportunities for, and present challenges to, improving equity, efficiency and effectiveness outcomes in Australia, including for lower-income households?



Understanding and reimagining social housing pathways

AHURI Inquiry

How can social housing pathways be reimagined for more effective services, supports and policies?

ARC LIEF - Housing Conditions Infrastructure Data

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