

Sustainable social housing – providing access to energy efficiency technologies

Low income families living in energy inefficient homes are disproportionately impacted by rising energy costs

Household energy use is driven by three factors that have significant implications for households facing financial stress:

- the building - older and poorly insulated buildings require more energy to heat and cool
- appliances - older appliances are often less energy efficient than modern equivalents
- energy use patterns - people in financial stress often spend more time at home and are less mobile, which can increase energy consumption

The NSW Government understands that it has a very important role in addressing the challenges of energy affordability.

On average, low income households pay more of their income towards energy bills, and are least likely to be able to afford energy efficient homes or appliances. This impacts upon their health and social wellbeing.

Increases in energy costs can result in some households having to ration their energy use to make ends meet.

There are a number of barriers to improving the energy efficiency of our social housing stock. A number of these barriers are listed below:

- Split incentives (where benefits do not accrue to the person who incurs the cost)
- Lack of sectoral understanding of cost-effective improvements
- Limited availability of practical advice and information
- Poor tenant understanding of efficiency upgrades
- Inability to monitor tenant energy consumption

The impact of action

Improving access to energy efficiency housing and technologies will deliver a considerable positive impact to individuals and communities, including downward pressure on costs and improved health, well-being and productivity.



Coordinated by the CRC for Low Carbon Living, the NSW Energy Efficiency Decision Making Node is part of the Energy Efficiency Research Hub. The Node is a research collaboration between CSIRO and the Universities of Wollongong and NSW. With a track record of high-quality, rigorous and end-user driven research, it is delivering research outcomes to help reduce greenhouse gases and improve energy efficiency. Key research areas are:

- Energy efficiency investment decisions
- Efficient products, technologies and services
- Practical and achievable energy-saving actions



FURTHER INFORMATION

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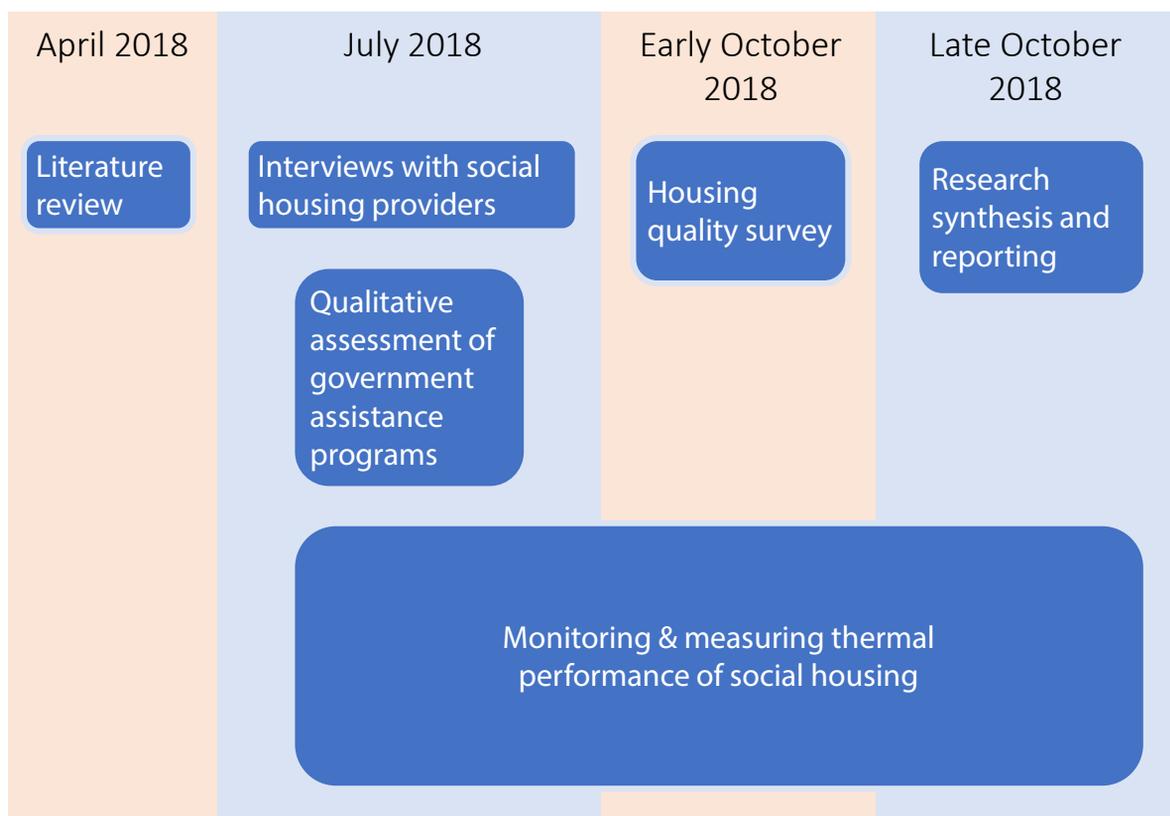
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Research outcomes

Our research will deliver an understanding of:

- The key factors that shape energy efficiency investments and improvements in the social housing sector nationally and internationally
- The barriers and opportunities for organisational change of community housing providers
- The importance of energy efficiency in social housing stock management, including how efficiency upgrades are addressed in asset management plans and what assistance programs they draw upon
- The energy performance of our social housing stock

Steps



What excites us

Working with key stakeholders (regulators, community housing providers, landlords, appliances providers) to improve our understanding of the social housing sector, including key barriers, drivers and opportunities that will assist the NSW Government influence energy efficiency uptake.