

# **Innovation in Housing for Persons with a Disability. A Return to the Past or the Development of Enhanced Housing Models?**

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Recent research has focussed on emerging gaps in the provision of housing for persons with a disability in Australia, with some commentators (Connellan 2008) suggesting that institutional models of provision will be re-introduced because of growing demand for supported housing. Approximately 20 per cent of Australian households accommodate one or more persons with a disability and approximately three per cent of the population has a disability that means that they need assistance with day-to-day living. This paper reports some of the findings of a major study into the housing of persons with sensory, psychiatric, intellectual and mobility impairments. It argues that disability has an uneven impact on the housing of persons with a disability – across and within disability type – and that many persons with a disability are marginalised by unaffordable, inappropriate and insecure accommodation. The paper goes on to consider policy innovation in Victoria and other jurisdictions and the potential to deliver appropriate and sustainable programs of housing assistance.