

Housing for Health; thoughts and directions after 20 years

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The core of the Housing for Health methodology started in the mid 1980's in the northwest of South Australia in the form of the UPK Public and Environmental Health review.

Just as the initial response to the UPK review was overwhelmingly negative by governments and agencies, the simple safety and health improvement goals at the core of the work was actively supported and kept on the housing and health agendas by local indigenous people.

As the work spread interstate and nationally it continued to be simultaneously supported and opposed.

After 20 years of the same apparently simple goals being implemented throughout Australia, and more recently overseas, this paper will examine:

- key principles of the work,
- some of the important achievements
- directions the work has moved and recent innovations
- why, in 2008, there are still significant difficulties in designing and building houses that provide indigenous residents with safer and healthier living environments
- some key myths in detail such the issue of 'housing failure and vandalism' and the 'need for more houses at a reduced cost'



