

Based at the University of Otago, Wellington, Aotearoa New Zealand, **He Kāinga Oranga - Housing and Health Research Programme (HKO)** and the **New Zealand Centre for Sustainable Cities (NZCSC)** are world-leading, long-standing, multidisciplinary research centres that investigate the impact of housing interventions and complex urban systems on health and wellbeing. With a team of over 30 respected researchers, we have expertise in biostatistics, medicine, psychology, architecture and urban design, political science, engineering, economics, and the arts. He Kāinga Oranga is also a World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre on Housing and Wellbeing, with a focus on the Western Pacific. We undertake research to identify the causal links between poor housing and ill health, and wellbeing and evaluate housing-related interventions that can improve individual, family and community health and equity, particularly through public housing.

Research Group Competences:

Our interdisciplinary team has over 25 years of research expertise in a range of areas, including:

- Working with the World Health Organization to develop the first WHO Housing and health guidelines;
- Developing the NZ Healthy Homes Standards for rental housing, e.g., insulation, heating and ventilation for public, community and private rental housing;
- Carrying out a large comparative case study of seven public and community housing organisations, focusing on: the governance policy and practice of housing organisations; tenant wellbeing; Māori wellbeing; community and neighbourhood wellbeing; housing quality; energy usage; transport patterns, and embodied and operational carbon emissions from housing & transport;
- Energy poverty;
- Architecture and urban design;
- Asthma, allergy, respiratory and cardiac problems associated with housing;
- Health and environmental economics with a focus on co-benefits;
- LGBTIQ+ and housing;
- Injury epidemiology;
- Health and wellbeing outcomes for children;
- Indigenous Māori and Pasifika wellbeing and housing;
- Homelessness and the effectiveness of Housing First policies;
- Evaluation of outcomes from different government policies.

Our centres provide analysis and innovative and sustainable solutions to urban development challenges - economic, social, environmental and cultural. We work with national and regional policy agencies to evaluate policies and to advise on national frameworks that can improve wellbeing and urban sustainability and reduce inequalities in the determinants of health.

He Kāinga Oranga (more info [here](#))

NZ Centre for Sustainable Cities (more info [here](#)).

Research Output:

We have a strong history of publication in high-ranking journals. Our latest publications can be found via the following links and searched by topic or filtered by category:

<https://www.healthyhousing.org.nz/publications-resources/publications>

<https://www.sustainablecities.org.nz/publications-resources/publications>

Previous Projects:

Internationally, we are leading experts in housing research. Our director, Professor Philippa Howden-Chapman, has chaired the WHO Housing and Health Guideline Development Group, and the International Science Council Scientific Committee of the Urban Health and Wellbeing programme. Our research centres HKO and NZCSC have been funded through competitive grants since 2001 and 2012, respectively. We have a proven record of delivering transformational research which bridges the translation gap between academic knowledge and implementation that drives real-world impact. The Public Housing & Urban Regeneration: maximising wellbeing research programme (PHUR) is a five-year project funded by the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment. Currently, we are studying public housing providers' approaches to housing and urban regeneration projects. Our vision for this research is to improve the wellbeing of people living in public housing, their families and communities by providing evidence that leads to healthier and more environmentally sustainable development.

Integrated Data Infrastructure:

Our research group capitalises on the expertise and technology housed within the [Integrated Data Infrastructure \(IDI\)](#) data lab. The IDI is a large statistical database that holds de-identified microdata about people and households and their contact with external agencies. Our team uses the IDI to conduct cross-sector research that provides data on migration, health, income, justice, social benefits, and education to understand and improve health and wellbeing outcomes by providing an important evidence base for policies, nationally and internationally. He Kāinga Oranga and the NZ Centre for Sustainable Cities also have strong relationships with Māori and many community advocacy groups who partner with us in our qualitative research.

Research Lead:

Distinguished [Professor Philippa Howden-Chapman](#), CNZM, QSO, FRSNZ, is co-director of He Kāinga Oranga - Housing and Health Research Programme and director of the New Zealand Centre for Sustainable Cities, our renowned research groups, which both received major research grants in 2020.