Productivity Commission Human Services Inquiry: Identifying Sectors for Reform

We are writing in response to an invitation to make a submission in response to the above preliminary findings report. The chapter on social housing was of especial interest to us because we have recently completed a project exploring the factors shaping entries into and exits from homelessness.

The project was based on the use of a unique panel data base (Journey's Home) that tracks the experiences of over 1700 persons that are either homeless or vulnerable to homelessness. The project was motivated by an interest in the role of housing and labour markets. One of the key findings is that public housing plays an important role in preventing entries into homelessness. In contrast we found that community housing has an insignificant influence. These results are obtained from panel model estimates that control for other important socio-economic, demographic and health determinants of homelessness.

We attach a conference paper that was presented at the Melbourne Institute's Homelessness and Housing Insecurity Workshop 18th – 19th July. This paper explains the methodology and discusses our main findings in more detail. The paper is a work in progress. Further enquiries can be addressed to Gavin A. Wood or Yi-Ping Tseng.

Yours sincerely,

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