

Public Housing Tenant Relocation

**Residential Mobility, Satisfaction, and the
Development of a Tenant's Spatial Decision
Support System**

Thesis submitted for the degree of
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Abstract

This study is an examination of residential mobility and its outcomes focussing on the forced relocation of public housing tenants from The Parks area of metropolitan Adelaide. In Euro-American countries, this type of residential mobility is increasingly used as a means of facilitating urban regeneration and countering the effects of the ongoing decrease in local public housing stock. The result is growing numbers of public tenants affected by relocation. The study argues that these public tenants have the right to a basic level of residential satisfaction, and in order for this satisfaction to be provided; the conditions and character of its formation must be understood.

The thesis examines residential mobility and the formation of residential satisfaction to provide a basis for understanding the outcomes and effects of relocation, who is most affected, and how to target solutions to improve the relocation process. Despite the fact that households experience similar influences, and make their residential decisions in largely predictable ways, the formulation of residential satisfaction and the effects of relocation are highly individualised. Successful relocation is shown to be dependent on the inclusion of tenants' expert knowledge about their own residential satisfaction; this means that resident involvement in the process is crucial. This thesis investigates a means of combining these findings to improve the outcome of the relocation process for each individual tenant and their household.

A prototype Spatial Decision Support System (SDSS) is constructed to allow relocating tenants to participate in their own relocation decision process. This SDSS allows local, spatially referenced information to be combined with each tenants own expert knowledge. This information is combined through a structured decision process, which is presented in a portable computer program with a simplified user interface. This SDSS is tested by relocating tenants and key stakeholders from The Parks to evaluate its usefulness in improving the relocation process.

Declaration

This thesis contains no material that has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any university or tertiary institution. To the best of my knowledge and belief, it contains no material previously published or written by any other person, except where due reference is made in the text.

I give consent for this copy of my thesis, when deposited in the University Library, to be available for loan and photocopying.

Signed

Date

Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations

ABS	... Australian Bureau of Statistics
AIHW	... Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
ASCCSS	... Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics
CBD	... Central Business District
CSHA	... Commonwealth State Housing Agreement
GIS	... Geographic Information Systems
GMH	... General Motors Holden
GP	... General Practitioner
HUD	... United States Department of Housing and Urban Development
IDW	... Inverse Distance Weighting
IOM	... International Organisation for Migration
OECD	... Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PPA	... Pioneer Projects Australia
SAHT	... South Australian Housing Trust
SDSS	... Spatial Decision Support System
SEIFA	... Index of Social and Economic Disadvantage (ABS)
SLA	... Statistical Local Area
A\$... One Australian Dollar was equivalent to 51 US cents and 57 Euro cents on the 1 st January 2002.

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