



# Engagement and Impact 2018

The University of Queensland

QLD12 (CAH) - Impact

## Overview

### Title

*(Title of the impact study)*

Enhancing understanding of Indigenous Architecture in the architecture profession, government and policy

### Unit of Assessment

12 - Built Environment and Design

### Additional FoR codes

*(Identify up to two additional two-digit FoRs that relate to the overall content of the impact study.)*

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### Socio-Economic Objective (SEO) Codes

*(Choose from the list of two-digit SEO codes that are relevant to the impact study.)*

87 - Construction

95 - Cultural Understanding

97 - Expanding Knowledge

### Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) Codes

*(Choose from the list of two-digit ANZSIC codes that are relevant to the impact study.)*

30 - Building Construction

44 - Accommodation

### Keywords

*(List up to 10 keywords related to the impact described in Part A.)*

Indigenous Architecture

Housing

Homelessness

Crowding

Culturally appropriate architecture

### Sensitivities

Commercially sensitive

No

Culturally sensitive

No

### Sensitivities description

*(Please describe any sensitivities in relation to the impact study that need to be considered, including any particular instructions for ARC staff or assessors, or for the impact study to be made publicly available after EI 2018.)*

### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research flag

*(Is this impact study associated with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander content?)*

*NOTE - institutions may identify impact studies where the impact, associated research and/or approach to impact relates to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, nations, communities, language, place, culture and knowledges and/or is undertaken with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, nations, and/or communities.)*

Yes

### Science and Research Priorities

*(Does this impact study fall within one or more of the Science and Research Priorities?)*

Yes

Science and Research Priority	Practical Research Challenge
Health	Better health outcomes for Indigenous people, with strategies for both urban and regional communities.

# Impact

## Summary of the impact

*(Briefly describe the specific impact in simple, clear English. This will enable the general community to understand the impact of the research.)*

UQ researchers in the Aboriginal Environments Research Centre worked with Indigenous communities, architecture industry and government agencies to increase awareness of the existence, importance and contemporary relevance of culturally appropriate architecture for Australia's Indigenous peoples, by understanding their architectural histories and cultural needs in the built environment. The term 'Aboriginal Architecture' was seldom used prior to UQ's research, and only appeared in the Encyclopaedia of Australian Architecture from 2012. This volume educates the architecture profession as to what constitutes architecture in Australia; the addition of Indigenous architecture to this authoritative resource has had wide-ranging impact on people and policy.

## Beneficiaries

*(List up to 10 beneficiaries related to the impact study)*

Government policy makers and agencies (state and federal)

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community organisations

Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) and their industry-based members

Indigenous Service delivery organisations (NGOs) e.g. in homelessness alleviation sector

Architectural profession

Aboriginal entrepreneurs and agencies e.g. Myuma Pty. Ltd, Anyinginyi Health Aboriginal Corporation.

## Countries in which the impact occurred

*(Search the list of countries and add as many as relate to the location of the impact)*

Australia

## Details of the impact

*(Provide a narrative that clearly outlines the research impact. The narrative should explain the relationship between the associated research and the impact. It should also identify the contribution the research has made beyond academia, including:*

- who or what has benefitted from the results of the research (this should identify relevant research end-users, or beneficiaries from industry, the community, government, wider public etc.)*
- the nature or type of impact and how the research made a social, economic, cultural, and/or environmental impact*
- the extent of the impact (with specific references to appropriate evidence, such as cost-benefit-analysis, quantity of*

*those affected, reported benefits etc.)*

*- the dates and time period in which the impact occurred.*

*NOTE - the narrative must describe only impact that has occurred within the reference period, and must not make aspirational claims.)*

Research in the UQ Aboriginal Environments Research Centre (AERC) has resulted in two key impacts: firstly on the positive access of Indigenous people to housing and secondly on the architectural profession in Australia.

The Australian Department of Families, Housing, Communities Services and Indigenous Affairs consulted the AERC's 'Evidence Note' (2012) entitled "Why are special services needed to address Indigenous homelessness?" to provide context and information to federal government employees and policy makers on how to better provide services to solve Indigenous homelessness. This research was undertaken at the behest of the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI), whose research focus is determined annually by a panel of industry partners to ensure its relevance and impact. Between 2011-2012, UQ Architecture researchers were invited to present to government policy makers, Indigenous housing and community groups on the importance of Indigenous-specific approaches to housing and homelessness. This included the Queensland Department of Housing, AHURI industry-facing research dissemination forums, Indigenous remote housing organisations, the New Zealand Coalition to End Homelessness, and the National Housing Conference (industry-facing). Industry-based publications such as "Parity", journal for homelessness workers, invited UQ researchers to publish key findings, which ensured wider knowledge dissemination among stakeholders and influencers. The AERC has continued to improve awareness of Indigenous-specific experiences of crowding and homelessness through these channels.

From 2014 Indigenous people were able to purchase homes on leasehold Indigenous community title land for the first time, removing a major barrier to Indigenous home ownership in Queensland. Within the architecture profession, research has led to the new conceptualisation of Indigenous architecture as a valid form and architectural category, seldom acknowledged prior to this research activity. This benefits Indigenous communities in being afforded their rightful place in the architectural and social history of the nation, and impacts architectural professionals and educators in having resources on which to base more inclusive and accurate architectural histories. UQ's research into how Indigenous people use and procure housing, and the administrative barriers they experience influenced Queensland Government policy. Adjunct researcher and practitioner Dr Shaneen Fantin, working within Queensland Government, developed pathways and removed bureaucratic barriers to Indigenous home purchases on lands without freehold title (a common occurrence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities) with the impact being that Indigenous people became able to purchase their own homes on leasehold Indigenous community title land for the first time. The removal of a major barrier to Indigenous home ownership in Queensland is an impact of the research seeking to reveal how housing inequity manifested within Indigenous communities and to understand how policy change to alleviate this issue.

UQ researchers ensured that best practice in Indigenous architecture was recorded and analysed. Myuma Indigenous Corporation director and UQ Adjunct researcher Prof Colin Saltmere instigated a program for Indigenous pre-vocational training under a Queensland Government scheme. It included an Indigenous history training component delivered by UQ researchers, two to four times per year from 2007. As a UQ Adjunct researcher, Dr Shaneen Fantin incorporated UQ research into community consultation and healthcare settings, resulting in the development of a culturally sensitive health facility for Indigenous people with an acquired brain injury (ABI), in partnership with ABI peak body, Synapse. This health facility was the first of its kind in Australia, and emerged in 2011 from ongoing practise-based research. The building commenced in 2015, as a collaboration between Synapse, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous NGOs, the Australian Government, and corporate organisations which sought to create innovative housing in the community for people with complex neurocognitive disabilities. The design responded to culturally-sensitive consultation with stakeholder groups, and incorporated Indigenous consultants throughout the process. The resulting design produced floor plans that suited Indigenous cultural norms of family visitation, preferred room shape and scheme layout, seasonal native planting to stimulate residents' senses, and enabled views to significant local story places.

Through the AERC, UQ researchers have contributed to a better understanding of the important role of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the architectural history and current practice in Australia and the world. The landmark work for architecture students and professionals, The Encyclopaedia of Australian Architecture (2012) specifically referenced the work of UQ's Prof Paul Memmott as one of "the great makers of architectural history" and the books "Gunya Goondie and Wurley" (2007) and "Take 2: Housing Design in Indigenous Australia" (2003), both by Prof Memmott and other UQ researchers, as integral to this understanding. The Australian Institute of Architects, the peak professional body, recognised that UQ's research changed how architecture was taught in Australia, especially Indigenous architecture, by awarding him the 2015 Neville Quarry Architectural Education Prize, the highest national award for architecture teaching. UQ researchers instigated a Facebook

community page 'Indigenous Architecture' in 2013 which has garnered an international following of 8000+ followers by end 2016. The page shares research and events in Indigenous architecture and has developed a research-practice nexus.

### Associated research

*(Briefly describe the research that led to the impact presented for the UoA. The research must meet the definition of research in Section 1.9 of the EI 2018 Submission Guidelines. The description should include details of:*

- what was researched*
- when the research occurred*
- who conducted the research and what is the association with the institution)*

The extensive research that led to the book "Gunyah, Goondie and Wurley: The Aboriginal architecture of Australia" was conducted by Prof Paul Memmott (1976-2005) and collaborators including Ms Carroll Go-Sam, Dr Tim O'Rourke (all UQ staff at the time) and Dr Shaneen Fantin (UQ adjunct) throughout 2002-2005.

Research into Indigenous housing, culture and architectural history was conducted by Prof Memmott, and other AERC researchers between 2002-2016, generating many publications. The authors were either staff or HDR students with part-time contracts at UQ at the time.

Research into Indigenous housing including crowding, the causes of crowding and best management of housing, was conducted from 2010-2012 by UQ's Prof Paul Memmott and Dr Kelly Greenop and Dr Chris Birdsall-Jones from Curtin University.

Research into the conditions imposed on Indigenous housing occupants was conducted by Prof Paul Memmott, Dr Daphne Nash, Prof Mark Moran (all UQ staff at the time), Dr Shaneen Fantin (UQ alumna and practice collaborator) and Dr Chris Birdsall-Jones (Curtin University) between 2012-2016.

### FoR of associated research

*(Up to three two-digit FoRs that best describe the associated research)*

12 - Built Environment and Design

### References (up to 10 references, 350 characters per reference)

*(This section should include a list of up to 10 of the most relevant research outputs associated with the impact)*

Memmott, P. and Long, S. 2002 "Place Theory and Place Maintenance in Indigenous Australia" in Urban Policy and Research, No. 1, Vol. 20, March, pp. 39-56.

Moran, M., Memmott, P., Long, S., Stacy, R. & Holt, J. 2002 "Indigenous Home Ownership and Community Title Land: A Preliminary Household Survey" in Urban Policy and Research, Vol. 20, No. 4, pp. 357-370.

Memmott, P. & Chambers, C. (eds) 2003 TAKE 2: Housing Design in Indigenous Australia, Royal Australian Institute of Architects, Canberra.

Greenop, K. & Memmott, P. 2007 "Urban Aboriginal Place Values in Australian Metropolitan Cities: The Case Study of Brisbane", in Miller, C. & Roche, M. (eds) Past Matters: Heritage and Planning History – Case Studies from the Pacific Rim, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Newcastle, U.K., pp.213-245.

Memmott, P. 2007 Gunyah, Goondie and Wurley: The Aboriginal Architecture of Australia, University of Queensland Press, St Lucia.

Memmott, P., Birdsall-Jones, C., & Greenop, K. 2012. Australian Indigenous house crowding. Melbourne: Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute Limited.

Habibis, D., Memmott, P., Phillips, R., Go-Sam, C., Keys, C. and Moran, M. 2013. Housing conditionality, Indigenous lifeworlds and policy outcomes: towards a model for culturally responsive housing provision. AHURI Final Report, pp.1-108.

Memmott, P., Birdsall-Jones, C., and Greenop, K. 2012 "Why are special services needed to address Indigenous homelessness?". Evidence Note No. 10, Australian Homelessness Clearinghouse, Dept of FaHCSIA, Canberra

Memmott, P. and Keys, C. 2015 "Redefining architecture to accommodate cultural difference: Designing for cultural sustainability" in Architectural Science Review, Vol. 58, Issue 4, pp. 278-289.

Go-Sam, C. and Memmott, P. 2016 "Remote Indigenous settlements – more than tiny dots on a map", in Architecture Australia, Vol. 105, No. 5, Sept/Oct, pp. 53-54.

## Additional impact indicator information

### Additional impact indicator information

*(Provide information about any indicators not captured above that are relevant to the impact study, for example return on investment, jobs created, improvements in quality of life years (QALYs). Additional indicators should be quantitative in nature and include:*

- name of indicator (100 characters)*
- data for indicator (200 characters)*
- brief description of indicator and how it is calculated (300 characters).)*