



Dr Ian Winter, Executive Director

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**Evidence-informed policy development:  
what role the media?**





# Purpose

- If you are an organisation that exists to undertake evidence-informed policy development what range of channels can you use to achieve that and where do the media sit within that range?





# Structure

1. Who we are
2. What we do
3. How we influence policy development
4. Role of the media?

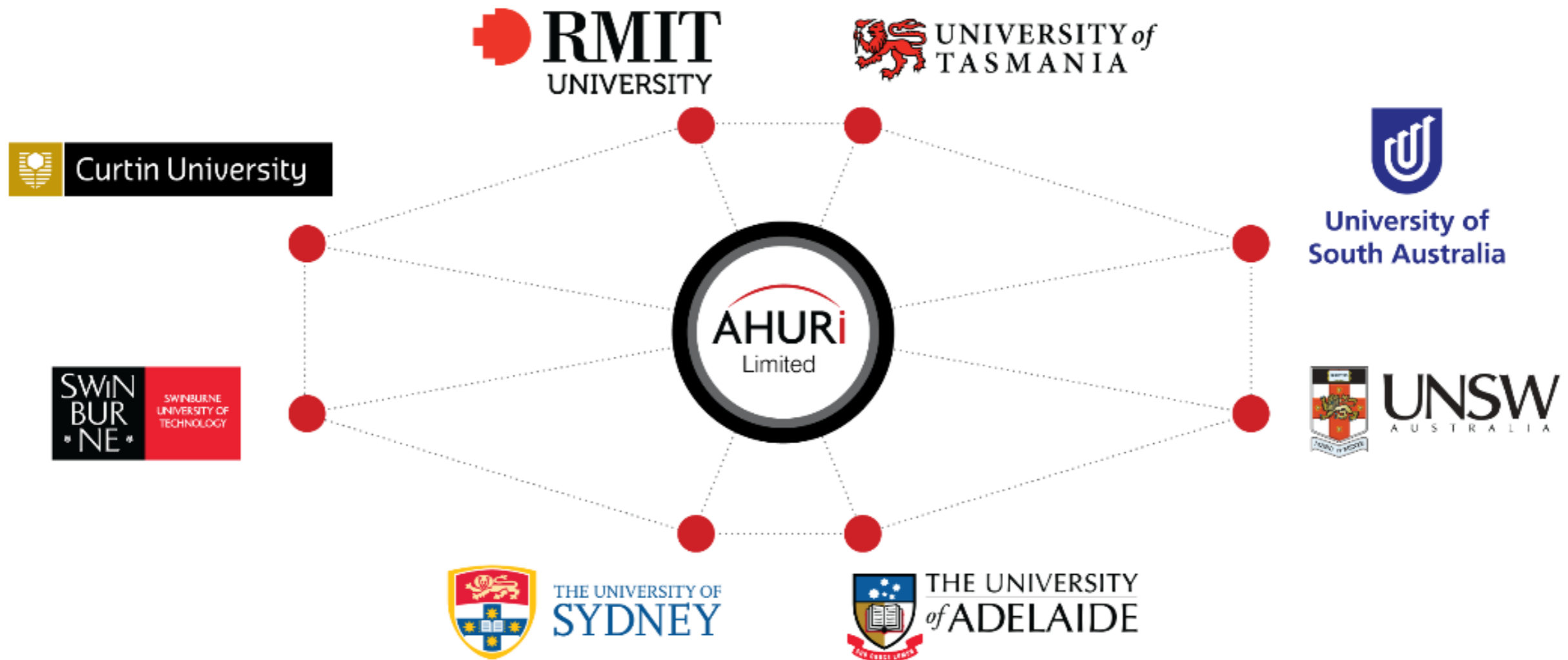




# WHAT IS AHURI?

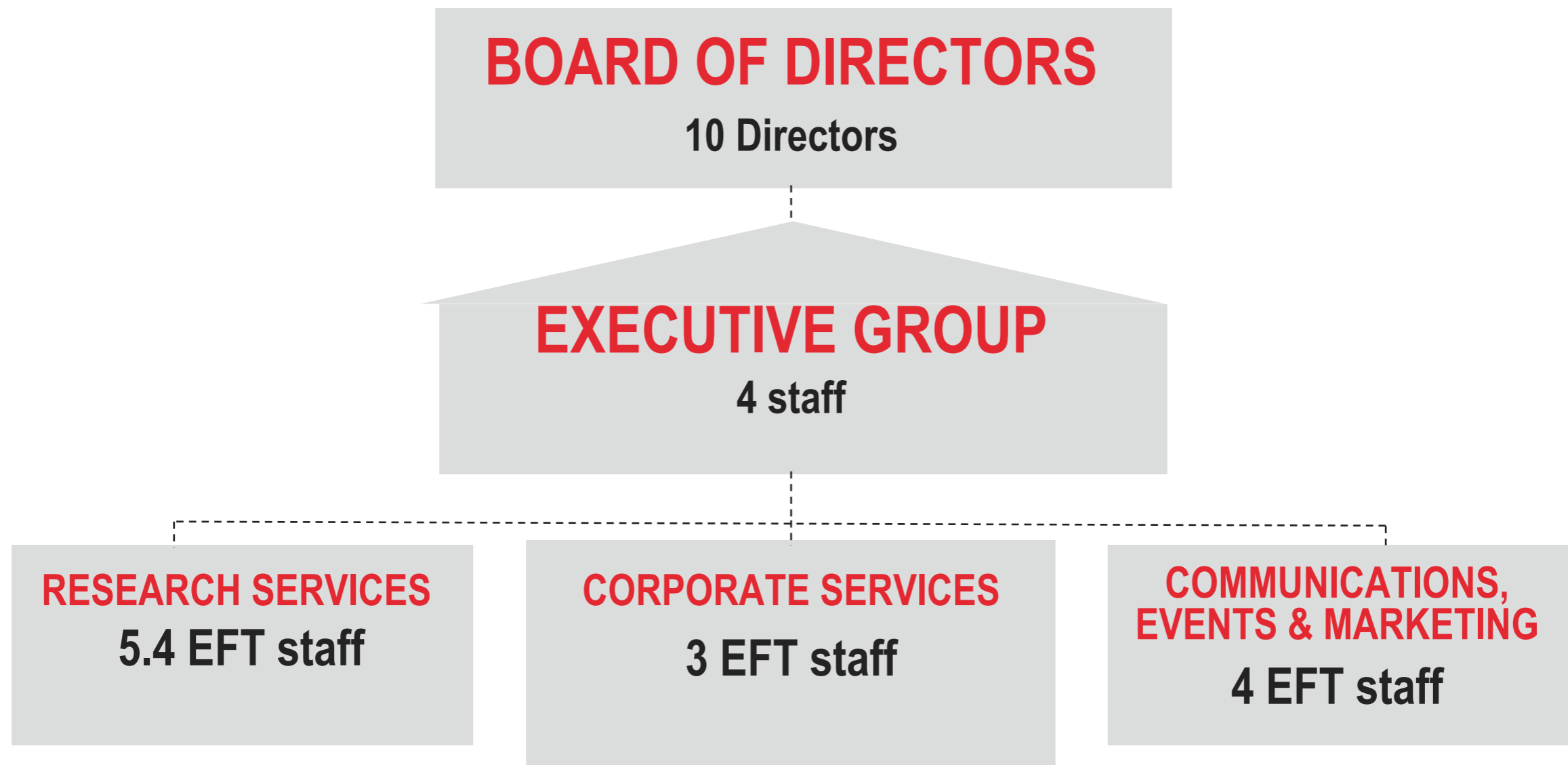


# Institute structure





# AHURI Limited organisational structure





# AHURI programs

Funding	Activities	Content
<p><b>Long-term program funding</b> (National Housing Research Program)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary research</li> <li>• Website publishing</li> <li>• Events</li> </ul>	<p><b>Housing Homelessness</b></p>
<p><b>Short-term project funding</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program evaluation</li> <li>• Research synthesis</li> </ul>	<p><b>Housing Homelessness Cities</b></p>
<p><b>In development</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary research</li> <li>• Web portal</li> <li>• Econometric modelling</li> </ul>	<p><b>Cities</b></p>



# National Housing Research Program partners



Australian Government



**GOVERNMENT PARTNERS**  
FEDERAL AND STATE



**UNIVERSITY RESEARCH PARTNERS**



# NHRP governance features

- ▶ AHURI Limited, independent company, not part of university or government, constitution dedicated to specific purpose.
- ▶ Legal agreement with universities - formal partners, collective annual fees of ~AUD\$1m per annum plus in-kind support, 2 x Board Directors.
- ▶ Agreement university-wide to enable access to diverse skills.
- ▶ National network of universities for national presence, state government 'buy-in' and research capability in diverse geographic regions.
- ▶ 'Category one' research funding - for every AHURI \$ earned, Federal government provides 25c in block funding.
- ▶ Legal agreement with all 9 governments, \$3.5m per annum, 4 year agreements, 2 x Board Directors, in-kind commitment to Inquiry panels.
- ▶ Participate in and support intergovernmental meetings of Ministers and senior officials.



# Influencing Policy Development

- ▶ Evidence building and policy development as one process.
- ▶ High degree of collaboration between research and the policy and practice communities.
- ▶ Collaboration occurs through an AHURI Inquiry - an integrated suite of research activities.
- ▶ Supported by an expert panel to focus the relevance and value of the research.
- ▶ Panel members are policy makers, practitioners and industry professionals. Not members of the research team or authors of research outputs.
- ▶ Communication is outwards facing. Attuned to external policy conversation rather than internal research management timetable.
- ▶ Trusted adviser role - Ministers meetings; senior officials meetings

## 3 speeds of AHURI

### Evidence-based policy inquiries

- Multilateral  
*National policy  
issue driven*
- 15-18 month  
research programs

### Stand-alone research projects

- Multilateral  
*Specific national  
research question  
driven*
- 6-9 month  
research activities

### Professional services

- Client need  
driven
- Rapid response



# What role the media?

- ▶ Organisational purpose = support policy development and promote public debate
- ▶ Organisational context = stakeholders 9 governments
- ▶ Spectrum - evidence; evidence informed policy development, commentary, advocacy
- ▶ Formats - media releases, social media pushes, relationships with journalists, media coverage of events, little success with opinion pieces
- ▶ One of a range of channels and not the most important given trusted adviser role

The logo for AHURI features a red curved line arching over the text. The text 'AHURI' is in a bold, white, sans-serif font, with the final 'i' being red and lowercase.

**AHURI**

Australian Housing  
and Urban Research Institute