

HELPING GOVERNMENTS AND COMMUNITIES RESOLVE HOUSING DENSITY DISPUTES

2-DAY WORKSHOP | 16-17 JULY 2012

HOMING
INSTINCT



 **Griffith**
UNIVERSITY

HOMING INSTINCT

*A hands-on workshop
linking housing density and
community engagement and
helping participants chart
a way forward to resolve
neighbourhood conflicts.*

WHAT IF...?

What if we could achieve our sustainability and housing density goals without causing community unrest, dissatisfaction – even uproar? Could communities respond positively to density increases under the appropriate conditions? Dr Wendy Sarkissian believes all of that is possible. But we must understand more about the psychology of housing to be effective.

Griffith University is proud to sponsor the inaugural two-day hands-on workshop with social planner, author and commentator, Dr Wendy Sarkissian, MTP, LFPIA. She will be assisted by Dr Jason Byrne, Senior Lecturer, Griffith School of Environment.

WHO IS THE WORKSHOP FOR?

This workshop is for community leaders, local and state government planners and other professionals, developers and others who want to help communities come to grips with the complexities of housing density. And to help them understand its significance in the Australian planning landscape today.

It will provide an understanding of why community members express concerns about increases in density in urban and rural areas and why housing is such a 'hot-button' issue for many people. And what we can do about it.

WHAT IF *CARING* GUIDED OUR ENGAGEMENT?

Everyone cares. Governments who care about the future of communities are alert to the many signs that automobile dependence and urban sprawl are expensive and ecologically unsustainable artifacts of a bygone era. We cannot afford low-density suburbs.

Community members who care about the future of their communities worry that clumsy and ill-considered initiatives will make neighbourhoods unliveable cauldrons of noise, traffic congestion, parking problems.

...WE MUST
UNDERSTAND MORE
ABOUT THE PSYCHOLOGY
OF HOUSING TO BE
EFFECTIVE

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand the deeper meanings of housing
- Target community engagement to resolve density disputes
- Select engagement approaches that will succeed
- Build community capacity about density

SO, IF EVERYONE CARES, WHAT CAN WE DO?



THE KEY...

A key to understanding and resolving these conflicts is to understand more about housing. It's not merely 'product', as some developers say. It's more than a 'commodity', as economists say. For some, it's everything: a haven, a nest, protection, security... qualities that have little or nothing to do with density, tenure or whether one's name is on the mortgage document....

Home is a deeply archetypal concept. It's complicated and that's partly why people's responses to what they see as a threat to their housing often are very 'complicated'. Our **Homing Instinct** is a deep-seated desire to protect what is personal, precious and 'home'. Knowing this, we can target our engagement approaches more effectively.

COURSE COORDINATORS

The course coordinators are **Dr Wendy Sarkissian** and **Dr Jason Byrne**.



Wendy is a social planner and author. She holds a doctorate in environmental ethics. She is a Life Fellow of the Planning Institute of Australia. She is co-author of eight books on community engagement and a classic book on housing design, *Housing as if People Mattered*.



Jason is a Senior Lecturer, Griffith School of Environment. His research expertise is in urban nature parks and greenspace planning, equity and fairness in planning, open space and healthy cities, ecological modernisation and sustainability, and climate change adaptation and urban resilience.

COURSE DETAILS

The course will be held over two days (16 & 17 July 2012) at the Gold Coast campus, from 9 am to 5 pm. Lunch and morning and afternoon tea are included.

IN ASSOCIATION WITH SARKISSIAN ASSOCIATES PLANNERS PTY. LTD:

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AIM OF THIS COURSE

This innovative course provides an understanding of basic principles and practical tools to enable practitioners to use community engagement effectively to increase housing density.

It provides the foundation for deeper inquiry into housing density, social planning and design and community engagement. The approach is illustrated by lectures firmly grounded in evidence-based research on planning, housing, social design and community engagement. It is designed for external students, especially practitioners, but is open to Griffith University students. The format is both informative (illustrated lectures of case study examples) and hands-on (exercises to strengthen participants' skills).

FEES & HOW TO REGISTER

The tuition fee for the two-day workshop is **\$1000** (GST inclusive) (\$700 for Griffith students). Enrolment is limited to 40 participants.

**Closing date for registration is
2 July 2012.**

FURTHER DETAILS

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