

# **Pivot Cohousing Research**

Co-designing mutual housing solutions for Trans and gender diverse and non-binary (TGDNB) young people

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### context

- Australia has a youth homelessness problem, LGBTIQ youth over-represented
- Policy 'ineffective in reducing youth homelessness'...
  with 'fragmented support systems and deficits in
  service delivery.'
- (https://www.ahuri.edu.au/sites/default/files/documents/2021-11/AHURI-Prof-Services-Final-Report-Towards-a-Youth-Homelessness-Strategy-for-Victoria%20%282%29.pdf)





## further context



# Mental health outcomes for trans youth are 3-4 times higher than for non-trans\*

- Attempted suicide 48.1%
- Depression 74.6%
- Anxiety 72.2%

#### Why?

- Peer rejection (89.0%) and Bullying (74.0%)
- Discrimination (68.9%) and (unaddressed) family violence

#### A 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey revealed:

• 'Startling disparities' in finding a job, having a place to live, accessing medical care, and enjoying the support of family and community.







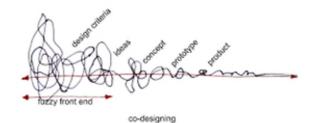
# cohousing as a solution?

- Secure housing is linked to positive outcomes for individuals and for society;
- Could provide a safe transition from homelessness/poor housing to a place of community belonging and cooperation;
- Structured and sociocratic decision-making processes could provide a positive template for personal decision-making.
- (https://www.ahuri.edu.au/sites/default/files/documents/2021-11/AHURI-Prof-Services-Final-Report-Towards-a-Youth-Homelessness-Strategy-for-Victoria%20%282%29.pdf)

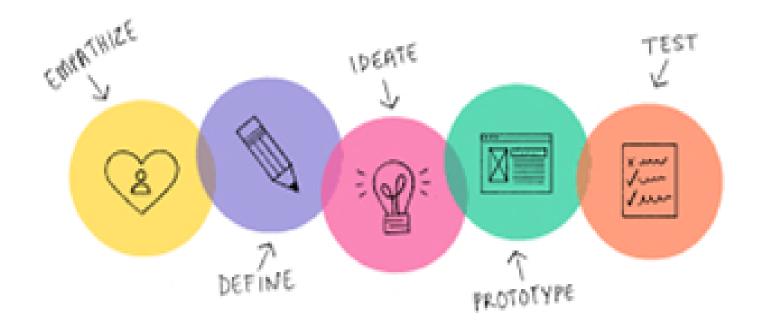


# the process

Housing System









H005179





## the research so far

- Model #1 Murundaka (social traditional rental cohousing)
- Model #2 The Village (smaller, youth specific model with formal support plus mentoring – but not collaborative decision-making)
- Focus on the social design with participants
- Housing/financial (policy) pathways from us (local govt)





<sup>\*</sup> Personas were based on real case studies on Trans Housing Facebook site, but anonymised. Images from web not the real people





## using a strengths-based approach



- 'STEP' LGBTIQ+ housing in Sacramento recognises the need to 'work through the trauma of all that'
- Pivot has identified high levels of emotional maturity, (mental) health literacy and acceptance of diversity; as shown in our first iteration of the Pivot Model...



Banyule City Council

> Soup kitchen – giving back

> > ASDfriendly design

Multiple strategies for conflict resolution

30 units of cohousing

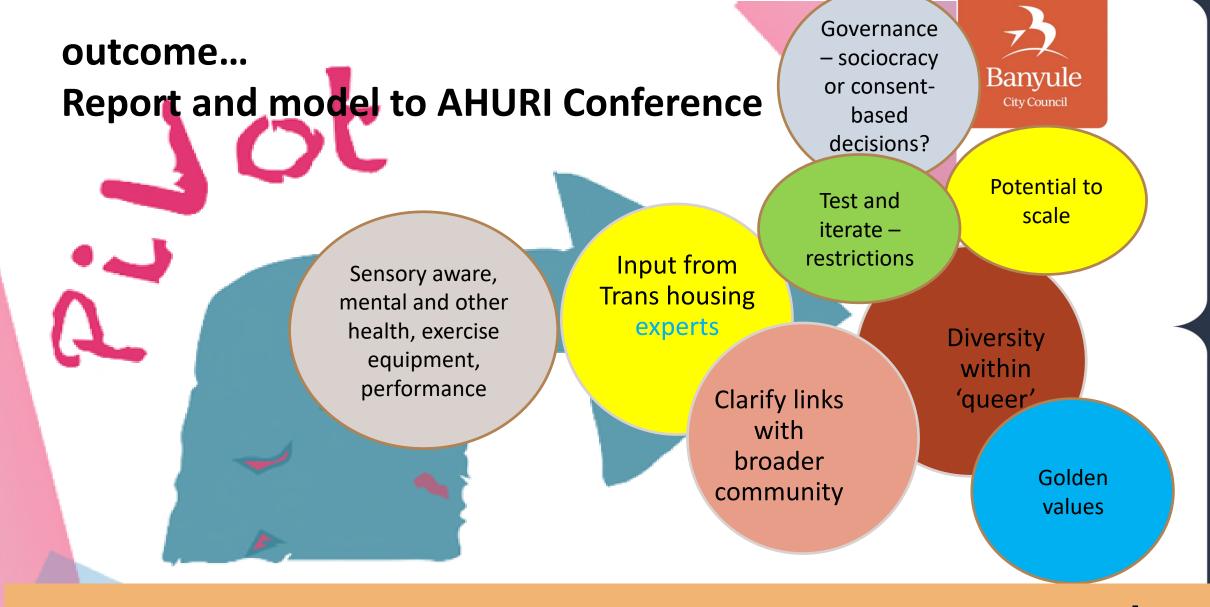
Some crisis housing

'gender queer youth'

Community tax/kitty

**Eco-focus** 





Hoping to pilot model with neighbouring council