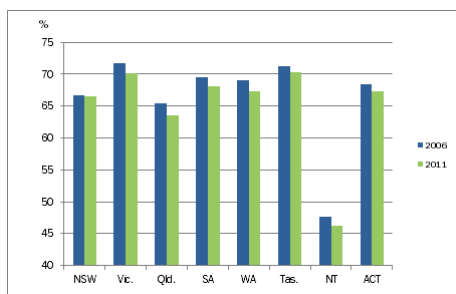


Housing Affordability

It is well known that home ownership is increasingly beyond the reach of younger lower income households of the kind that might once have settled more easily in the City (though housing stress is rising for all ages¹). WA has also registered the greatest decline in home ownership rates in recent years.

HOME OWNERSHIP RATES(a) BY STATE AND TERRITORY - 2006 and 2011



Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing, 2006 and 2011

Local authorities may be limited in what they can do about housing costs but they are far from powerless. Worldwide, strategies supporting relevant innovation (whether design, building, finance or management innovation) initiated by municipal authorities include:

- direct land and property development
- joint venturing with partners committed to constructive innovation – where partners might include other government agencies, technical and tertiary education institutions, community and not-for-profit housing associations, charitable foundations and the private sector
- innovative demonstration projects
- facilitation of innovation through research, professional development and information dissemination - see report on “Making apartments affordable: moving from speculative to deliberative development” at Australian Policy Online, for example.

<http://apo.org.au/research/making-apartments-affordable-moving-speculative-deliberative-development>

If elected to Council, I will propose that the City moves, if only modestly, to take some initiatives in this important area.

¹http://www.ahuri.edu.au/downloads/publications/EvRevReports/AHURI_Final_Report_No192_Housing_affordability_housing_stress_and_household_wellbeing_in_Australia.pdf p 44.