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## Creating better evidence on the health benefits of improved energy efficiency

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# Measuring the link between health and housing



- The links between housing and health are complex.
- No high-quality local data available to shape health and energy policy.
- Do energy efficiency upgrades cause improved energy use, thermal comfort, health and quality of life?
  - For who?
  - For which outcomes?
  - By how much?
  - How much many can be saved in other sectors, e.g. reduced health care costs?



# Victorian Healthy Homes Program

- First in Australia randomised controlled trial to better understand the combined **health and energy outcomes** of household energy efficiency retrofit programs targeted at vulnerable householders.
- Program led by Sustainability Victoria in association with the Moreland Energy Foundation Limited and the University of Technology Sydney.
- 1,000 home energy upgrades valued at up to \$3,500 per home.
- Collection of health and energy data.



# Why does it matter?

- Randomised controlled trials (RCTs) are considered the “gold standard” of clinical research.
- RCTs are highly valued by policy makers.
- RCTs also provide the type of evidence needed to create **social impact bonds**:
  - Contract with the public sector where a financial commitment is made to improved social outcomes resulting in public sector savings.

