

Inquiry into Homelessness in Victoria

Mr Robert Heron

Organisation Name:

Your position or role:

SURVEY QUESTIONS

Drag the statements below to reorder them. In order of priority, please rank the themes you believe are most important for this inquiry into homelessness to consider::

Housing affordability, Rough sleeping, Services, Indigenous people, Family violence, Mental health, Employment, Public housing

What best describes your interest in our Inquiry? (select all that apply) :

Concerned citizen

Are there any additional themes we should consider?

architecture. please ignore the ranked themes as these are all red herrings.

YOUR SUBMISSION

Submission:

We've gotten ourselves into a bit of a pickle with the architectural style preferred for new construction. The multitude of solutions the committee listed are already sufficient and well funded. Ultimately any increase in public housing or affordability will crash the property market and will not be supported by the poor saps who bought into 30-year mortgages when they were told "the equity is just going to keep going up!" It's an Us-vs-Them mentality. The low income wage earners vs the slightly more poor, while ignoring the obvious elephant in the room. The architectural style of public housing is the only issue of concern. Being somewhat impoverished myself, I am fully aware that public housing is absolutely forbidden to me. It is reserved for single mothers, migrants, the severely mentally ill and ex-cons. the generally poor and disadvantaged but well adjusted, better life choice making persons and lawful citizens are neglected and ignored.

look into the allocation of public housing and the connections between residents and public servants who allocate those places. You will find a surprising amount of nepotism.

The solution to housing for the poor will come from public-private ventures. A new investment opportunity. Something to stimulate the economy and create some long term stable futures, investment opportunities and prop up the construction industry.

The most needy, the most disadvantaged and poor, I have seen from vivid experience, are homeless not because of a lack of weatherboard shacks or rental prices but simply because they are suffering so terribly from some sort of mental illness that they are repeatedly allocated housing but struggle to cope and act rationally. Campfires in the lounge room that burn out the house, a tap leaks and instead of replacing the washer, they put a plug in the sink and flood the house, litter the carpet with cigar burns, urinate around the house or have ten cats do it for them, smear the unspeakable across the walls. For these people, those who consume and destroy the housing stock at such rapid pace, a new style of architecture must be employed. One incorporating brutalism and industrial elements to produce housing that is both comfortable and can be washed down with a hose. modular Concrete panel construction coated in industrial graffiti resistant, self-sterilizing coatings. Something easy to quickly mop down and clean.

In terms of modular construction, as we move towards a circular economy, reusable solid light weight

insulating concrete panels in a standard size will last forever and never need to be remanufactured, just simply moved. The houses could be fitted with modular solar generation units. a small selection of standard door and window units.

A substantial cost of construction is the labor cost of what is often treated as completely custom artisanal work even in housing developments where there are perhaps two or three designs but everything must be completely hand made. What I am suggesting is the development of a building standard or rather a standard building. A true standard, not simply codes and regulations. I wouldn't mind living in a default house.

A major problem in rentals is the DIY cheapest option, "renovation." Housing with the cheapest, flakiest laminate flooring that can be scratched with a feather and improperly painted interior walls where the paint simply rubs off as it delaminates, decaying drainage tile that causes the house to sink and crack, DIY rendering without expansion gaps that causes the whole layer of render to just fall off the first time the wind blows causing the landlords to scream and cry about their precious house being ruined by those terrible tenants.

As an additional issue, there are many homeless people who simply have no desire to pay any money at all when it could be spent more appropriately on drugs. Housing is not needed at all when there is a park bench and heroin. For repeatedly vagrant drug abusers I would support involuntary income management being proscribed by law enforcement but not in the ridiculous indue way. A standard weekly food package, bills and rental management to be extracted from their allocated funds.

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?:

FILE ATTACHMENTS

File1:

File2:

File3:

Signature:

Robert Heron