Inquiry into Homelessness in Victoria

Ms Rhonda Pryor

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

What best describes your interest in our Inquiry? (select all that apply) :
Working in the mental health sector ,An advocacy body ,Working in the health sector

Are there any additional themes we should consider?

YOUR SUBMISSION

Submission:
The need for public housing must be accelerating as people continue to face a greater risk of homelessness; local factors contributing to this include wage stagnation and or a decline in real terms and the increasing casualisation of the workforce, against a backdrop of rising property prices and rents. The inequity of Newstart has also increased people's inability to find affordable housing or any housing, which has disproportionately impacted on older women.

Other recognised factors contributing to homeless include:

A history of childhood and/ or complex trauma and people who have experienced single traumatic events.

People experiencing mental health challenges in particular psychosis, acquired brain injuries and personality disorders. A disproportionate number of people who face these challenges have histories of surviving violence and the nexus between the two cannot be underestimated. These labels are often just an expedient way for mental health professionals to categorise and 'other' people who have been deeply traumatised. Drug dependency, which includes dependency on alcohol, is frequently a form of self-medication for victim/survivors of violence, abuse and neglect.

Losing employment and/or the breakdown of domestic arrangements and partnerships.

Many people are constantly on the cusp of homelessness which leads to situations such as couch surfing or remaining in dangerous domestic arrangements because there are no alternatives and this may be particularly so for women because of the need to protect children and or pets.

The growing number of people having to resort to living in rooming/boarding houses is extremely concerning. The tenure arrangements in such settings are questionable and regulation is patchy and less than optimum. In these situations, people are rarely aware of their rights and even if they are, they are fearful of eviction. Bathrooms and kitchens are usually shared in these settings which again increases the vulnerability of all tenants, but particularly women and children.

Insecure housing makes it impossible for people to imagine a future or to make plans for a future which result in despair. For adults experiencing despair, mental health issues start to emerge; for children their lives become fractured and the building of confidence and peer friendships becomes difficult and sometimes impossible, particularly if the family becomes itinerant because of the need to constantly move.

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?:

FILE ATTACHMENTS
File1:
File2:
File3:

Signature:
Rhonda Pryor