

Inquiry into Homelessness in Victoria

Ms Annie Rivera

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,Services,Indigenous people,Family violence,Housing affordability,Employment

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

Concerned citizen

Are there any additional themes we should consider?

the current move to privatise public housing and transfer into community housing stock. This means that the rules for 'choosing' tenants change and so does their security of tenure and support. This is particularly important for those who most need housing and support, creating a category of people destined to live in the streets

YOUR SUBMISSION

Submission:

As a tax payer, I would like to see my taxes going to funding real efforts to provide public housing to those people who need it. All research shows that having secure shelter is a pre-requisite to be able to effectively access services, such as mental health, detox, training, and re-integrating to society as a useful member.

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?:

a proper, independent review of the impact of the public housing renewal program should be carried out. Comparisons should be made as to the cost/benefit of the program compared to the cost/benefit of using the earmarked sites for just public housing.

Another matter of importance is the DHHS creating de facto single ghettos at the estates, as only 1 and 2 bedroom apartments are being planned. Where will families go? all social research says that a mixture of tenants is the best. DHHS is going against all that.

FILE ATTACHMENTS

File1: [5e66eef615258-submission to homelessness inquiry.docx](#)

File2:

File3:

Signature:

Annie Rivera

Submission to homelessness inquiry

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I reside in Molesworth Street, North Melbourne, immediately opposite what used to be the Abbotsford Street Public Housing Estate (ASPHE).

The residents of the ASPHE were forced to move to other areas by the state government to facilitate what they called the Public Housing Renewal Program, since renamed Social Housing Renewal Program. More than 100 family units have stood abandoned for over two years and are now derelict.

In the process, the great community that existed on the site was broken up: older people went to nursing homes, one died, others went to the country, others to outer suburbs, kids had to move schools. Only a handful of the original residents were provided housing in the area.

As of June 2019, there were almost 83,000 individuals on the waiting list for public housing, many of whom are children. We need more public housing, not less. Many people through no fault of their own find themselves homeless – they are victims of family violence, mental health issues or often, a combination of many complex factors.

The government privatisation of public housing by transferring it to community housing is not a solution – in fact, many of those people who need it most are excluded from community housing. Further, community housing does not provide the security of tenure that people with complex needs have.

The parliamentary inquiry into the sale of several Melbourne public housing estates in 2018 found that the sale was not justified and did not provide an adequate benefit to public housing tenants or the state.

While the state government has found enough funds to provide 'grants' to commercial enterprises such as the AFL and the Grand Prix, it has been particularly deficient in providing appropriate public housing.

As a tax payer, I would like to see my taxes going to funding real efforts to provide public housing to those people who need it. All research shows that having secure shelter is a pre-requisite to be able to effectively access services, such as mental health, detox, training, and re-integrating to society as a useful member.

Victoria has the lowest amount of social housing units per capita of all Australian states. The government should show leadership and establish real programs to create more, not less, public housing. Also, I would hope the state government stops obfuscating and confusing the discussion by using terms such as 'social housing', which most people believe is public housing, but is actually community housing provided by private providers.

Annie Rivera