

Inquiry into Homelessness in Victoria

Ms Sian Priya Woolston

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::

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

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

Working in the mental health sector ,Concerned citizen

Are there any additional themes we should consider?

YOUR SUBMISSION

Submission:

My submission comes from my sincere concerns as an ordinary citizen of Melbourne.

Whenever I see homeless people on the street my heart breaks.

Men and women, young and old on the street because: perhaps unable to satisfy this society's requirements for mental and emotional stability, perhaps not having had a stable and loving home in which to grow up, perhaps lacking a certain level of abilities to be employable, perhaps never having had a stroke of luck in their lives, perhaps having had to flee a dangerous and violent family situation, perhaps abandoned by their parents when they were difficult teenagers.

I live in public housing provided by the DHHS for which I am eternally grateful and for which I feel blessed. When I was 62 my only son was diagnosed with terminal cancer and I left my home and small market business in northern NSW to come to Melbourne and be his carer until he died in July 2010. Due to the kindness of the staff at DHHS who could see my predicament I was able to stay on in his house until it was transferred to me. If not for that I could easily have become homeless myself, just an additional statistic in the growing number of homeless elderly women.

I strongly urge this inquiry to recommend vastly expanded access to safe, secure housing for the many who need it. From my own experience I can tell you of the enormous sense of relief it brings. It doesn't have to be big or fancy; just safe, warm and secure.

In looking for the best use of public money to stimulate the economy after this Covid19 lockdown, creating public housing where people can have better access to supportive services and where the scourge of homelessness can be a thing of a dark past would be the top of my list.

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?:

FILE ATTACHMENTS

File1:

File2:

File3:

Signature:

Sian Priya Woolston