

Inquiry into Homelessness in Victoria

Name: Kristine Shephard

Organisation:

Organisation position:

In order of priority, please rank the themes you believe are most important for this Inquiry into homelessness to consider: Housing affordability,Public housing,Services,Rough sleeping,Family violence,Indigenous people,Mental health,Employment

What best describes your interest in our Inquiry? Concerned citizen

Are there any additional themes we should consider?

Submission: I feel there is an opportunity to close the housing availability gap and help home owners that are relying on Newstart and/or are long term unemployed and/or over 50 and/or transitioning to retirement.

There are many homes with three or four bedrooms being occupied by one person, who may be struggling to make ends meet financially and without additional finance they may also end up homeless.

I believe there is an opportunity to earn some 'penalty free' income from subletting a room. Something like Airbnb, to vetted individuals, connecting people and the dual concerns allowance to have living challenges to be elevated.

Home owners could advertise availability and interview candidates from different vetted categories of age group, health or cultural relevance and select a co-tenant.

Once the candidate has an address they will be able to access independence, government services, dignity, employment and the home owner will benefit from receiving rent, continued welfare and companionship or support.

This is my concept simplified.

But as Airbnb and flatmate websites exist it is doable. And by relaxing declarations of income by low income individuals, two groups of underprivileged could be assisted.

This would come with a warning regarding mental health checks,
National police checks and disclosures of past issues of violence.

**Do you have any
additional comments or
suggestions?**

Signature: Kristine Joy Shephard