

Inquiry into Homelessness in Victoria

Ms Kate Hamilton

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

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

Working in Homelessness services

Are there any additional themes we should consider?

YOUR SUBMISSION

Submission:

In my work as a social worker/case manager with homeless people over the past 10 years I have heard many stories about the situations that led people to homelessness. many times it is due to irretrievable breakdown of family relationships and when this occurs, no matter what the age of the person, a quick response is needed from service providers. Unfortunately due to funding constraints, the complete unavailability of affordable housing makes this response impossible. The rise of rooming houses in the region I work in has seen unscrupulous behaviour on the part of landlords and impossible conditions for tenants. many service providers have complex safety policies and therefor services cannot get into these rooming houses.

With waiting lists for AOD and mental health services blown out of proportion it is difficult to see how a rooming house could provide anyone with safety or affordable security.

While the silos between mental health, AOD and child and family services continue to grow it is hard to see where to go next in service delivery. Family violence, AOD and homelessness do not stand alone. It is in understanding the interconnection f all these issues that our community services will start to work together and produce positive outcomes for people.

The sector has been talking about this for forty(40) years. I am yet to see it happen. meanwhile the privacy and OHS and technology policies have burdened organisations to the point where more funding and time seems to go into these than into the real work.

Please change this before it's too late.

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?:

Work out whether AOD and mental health services can break down the silos and start offering people a good service instead of discharging them into homelessness. It's not a choice.It's an obligation to the social contract.

FILE ATTACHMENTS

File1:

File2:

File3:

Signature:

Kate Hamilton