

## Inquiry into Homelessness in Victoria

Ms Angela Zhang

**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::**

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

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

Concerned citizen

**Are there any additional themes we should consider?**

### YOUR SUBMISSION

**Submission:**

As a resident of the Melbourne CBD, and an immigrant from a city dealing with similar issues (Vancouver, Canada) I think it is disgraceful and negligent of the government to allow the extent of current homelessness to exist. I believe that much of the homelessness (and housing insecurity) we see today are due to factors like mental illness, domestic violence, intergenerational disadvantage, and institutional racism against indigenous peoples. While adequate affordable housing goes a long way for the lower middle class, what we truly need to tackle "homelessness" as we see it on the streets are adequate resources and responses to tackle the factors named above. This includes shifting the responsibility of responding to mental health calls from the police to trained mental health workers, covering mental health treatment under Medicare, a harm-reduction perspective towards substance abuse and addiction, providing additional support to victims of domestic violence, lowering barriers to housing (bond, rental history) for housing insecure people, and above all a deeper understanding of the institutional factors that influence how homeless and housing insecure people end up in their situations. From an economic standpoint, it costs the city and the state less to house a person than it does to address the health and social issues that arise from inadequate or lack of housing. Housing is a fundamental human right, and particularly in a wealthy country like Australia, we must recognize and act on that.

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

### FILE ATTACHMENTS

**File1:**

**File2:**

**File3:**

**Signature:**

Angela Zhang