

Inquiry into Homelessness in Victoria

Mrs Bridget Koc

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

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:

For about a year, before I left my job, I spoke most days to a homeless person I would encounter on my way to the office. I gave her a significant amount of money each week for accommodation, but then wondered if it was in fact being spent on accommodation (although she gave me no reason to doubt her and I never believed her to be under the influence of drugs/alcohol). I phoned Melbourne Council at least twice to seek their advice about the best way for me to help this particular person who told me a sad story of domestic abuse and extreme violence. On each occasion I was told politely that they couldn't provide me with any information or advice because of confidentiality, but that Melbourne Council policy is not to give money to people on the streets.

If a member of the public strikes up a rapport with a person on the streets and wants to do more for them than buy them a sandwich, there should be a mechanism to coordinate that offer of help. It is terribly hard to deny someone who gives every indication of being in chronic need of a roof over their head and a helping hand. Unfortunately, the number of people in this condition seems to be increasing exponentially in Melbourne to the point where a stroll around the city is a distressing experience.

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?:

FILE ATTACHMENTS

File1:

File2:

File3:

Signature:

Bridget Koc