

**SUBMISSION INTO THE PUBLIC HOUSING RENEWAL PROGRAM****Paul McCourt aka Smiley**

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**my thoughts regarding 'terms of reference' 9 august 2017**

**intro** im a public housing tenant & have been for several years now,after being homeless for so many years,in 3 different states of this country (qld nsw vic). im in no rush,want or need 2 be going backwards or returning 2 the streets and that lifestyle. that lifestyle and years were long difficult times of survival,that are in my past and can stay there. im willing 2 support and help anyone,any organization that can/will help me and other residents,not 2 lose our housing.especially re government sell off 2 private developments/developers.

i like my flat,neighborhood & the people in it.we all dont want 2 lose what weve got. and thats why i attend all rallies and hope many others do also.I tell many of my friends in public housing/homelessness about the current situation.(governments plans for privatisation of 11 walk-up estates)

my public housing community is like a jolly/happy/lovely family -I tell them all "keep ur chins up everyone!" NUMBERS IS STRENGTH.TOGETHER WE ARE UNITED.

**10% increase of PH/Loss of open space/third person appeal rights/aboriginal land**

i believe that government legislation of proposed 10%increase is straight forward bollocks and bullshit,government needs 2 sort their heads out/have a word with themselves.10% way 2 small.we want at least 80-95% minimum.and thats just 2 deal with the existing tenants/waiting list/homeless.typical australian government destroying heritage and native land just 2 put money in their own pockets.as usual.

the loss of open space/gardens/play areas/children and family zones is not being considered.instead labor/most governments want 2 just develop new dwellings and developments for private/executive pockets.

also showing no respect for native aboriginal land or people or their cultural beliefs. speaking of which,we all recognise/apologise/ appreciate the original people of this land at all meetings,yet still walk all over them by not actually asking them for permission 2 use their land in any way. land was stolen once and we are stealing it again,again and again and they are still not getting anything out of it. instead money is intended for their pockets(government and private developers ) talk about a lack of respect.history has a tendency of repeating itself. **WHERE IS THEIR APPEAL RIGHTS???**

## **HOUSING IS A HUMAN RIGHT AND NECESSITY-NOT A PRIVILEGE**

Australian government is the biggest organised crime. I really believe that high wage packets for pissweak work they don't deserve to be paid such large amounts. They should take a cut and the money could be used for housing and other necessities. The country needs the money more than they do. What gives the government the right to abuse human rights of public tenants/homeless people by selling off public land and public housing and public communities???

### **effects on current public housing tenants**

Public tenants currently living in 3 bedroom flats will be moved out but can't return due to the fact that 3 bedroom units will not be built/constructed. Many of our ethnic communities and families reside in 3 bedroom flats. How can they return to their homes/communities which the government has stated that they can, if there's no such thing replaced? The government's words seem to contradict. There might not even be enough 2 bedroom units to suffice requirements.

### **WHAT IS GOING ON???**

### **transparency and genuine community consultation with affected residents/neighbouring communities/ and broader vic community regarding short, medium and longterm implications of PHRP.**

We know from past projects that promises were made and broken (Kensington and Carlton) since the government broke their promises to public tenants at that time, how are we to believe that they will not break current promises to public tenants on several estates now? (2017/ongoing). In Kensington/Carlton many public tenants believed they'd be returning, only to discover that they were relocated to areas far away from their former homes, schools, amenities, communities, routines which evidently caused them severe problems.

From what I've read/learnt is that my possible future housing as a public tenant will be changed to 'community housing' with different rules/contracts/higher rents. Martin Foley has stated that public housing is to be transformed into community housing. Myself and other tenants don't fully understand the terms and conditions of these future dwellings. Different landlords/different rules/regulations which aren't being explained clearly enough. If changed to community/social housing that means there is no longer any **PUBLIC HOUSING** which is owned by the people and taxpayers. **WHAT IS MARTIN FOLEY REALLY UP TO???** As said earlier things just don't add up.

My opinion is, yes some estates need to be revamped and tidied up, but don't need to be bulldozed/demolished/sold off to developers and not stay as a public asset. Public tenants need public housing/as do the homeless. Realistically we can't NOT have public housing. People on low income and pensions can't afford to live in any other way. I and others already struggle and we don't need/want changes leading to higher rents, different communities and problems. It would be a shame to break our communities up, I have many friends I don't want to lose or see them struggle either.

I am already disabled physically (hereditary spastic paraplegia) and been to detox and rehab programs/institutes in the last several years due 2 my past drug/alcohol problems. But since having my own unit/home I have stayed clean/sober, and doing well on the government program.

I dont need any changes 2 my living situation, due 2 possible repeat of past years negativity/ which would certainly lead 2 emotional problems/depression. Homelessness was a very bad state for myself and others, I don't want to repeat that history and lifestyle. Nor would i want anybody else 2 experience/suffer like i did. **I AM CONTENT WITH MY LIFE AT THE MOMENT.**

From what ive read on the world wide web other countries are having the same problems such as in UK, Europe/US so why are we following their lead? We should be solving the housing/homeless problem our own way. public housing system has been working for many years/ if its not broke it doesnt need fixing.

The government is pushing 2 get their way. Many public tenants are just allowing them 2 do so.

i believe the government should not be doing this. all public tenants have 2 work together and unite 2 stop as many estates from being closed as possible.

These are my honest words/feelings/expressions and i hope my submission is read/understood and government takes notice and correctly solves this present crisis situation in public housing.

Yours truly

Paul McCourt