

Dear Select Committee,

24/07/19

We are writing this submission on behalf of the recently established Housing with Dignity Reference Committee, to request an opportunity to present from our group, to your committee. Our Housing with Dignity Committee wants our community, the business sector, and Government to unite and connect on this issue, and work together and create meaningful solutions.

"I have spent most of my life living in insecure housing and some of it homeless. I am now housed in a functional and social mobility raising social housing cooperative in Hobart. I cannot articulate the multiple ways that my life has evolved from a place of lifelong trauma, poverty, and crisis based day to day living and hyper vigilance, into a place of safety and functionality.

This has come directly from now having a safe and secure place to live; and fundamentally- a place that is a 'home', and functions in the myriad ways a home is defined and needed by us human organisms to function.

It is a foundational place, in which I am a valued and contributing part of a caring, safe community, somewhere I have opportunities to elevate myself out of poverty and disadvantage, and have supports around me so that I may do more than simply survive." - Kate Kelly

Housing is so much more than shelter.

We cannot assert this strongly enough, and the absence of it induces a state of trauma and dysfunction that is detrimental to people and communities.

A lack of its provision, costs a lot of money, through serious negative ramifications from the ground up, and hampers the provision of health and human services.

This knock on effect impacts everyone in our community.

Good community and social housing makes good economic sense, both in the short and long term. Not to mention the positive social impacts.

It is not an exaggeration to say people are dying from this housing 'crisis' and we personally know victims, one who died only last week. Housing insecurity was directly linked to her death.

It is for these incredibly marginalised people that our group advocates, and of which its members are comprised. We are a group of diverse lived experience.

Numerous housing models internationally and nationally are springing up to tackle these very same problems we are, with dignity and direction.

Cities who invest in sustainable and functional transitional, and long term social housing, reap community and economic benefits at every level.

All the data supports this.

Cities who care for the most marginalised citizens, and provide shelter and services to keep rough sleepers safe, are the kinds of places we need to emulate in our own planning and policy directions.

We request that delegate members of our group present to the select committee, at a time in the very near future.

We wish to draw attention to, and garner support for initiatives and priority actions we have set as near term targets, and inform the committee of our agenda and mission.

We are actively pursuing these targets that will aim to immediately create at least 10 beds per night for rough sleepers from all cohorts, across our CBD.

We have a vision for Housing action that is informed by the direst of lived experience and represents the concerns of over 3,500 Tasmanians across numerous cohorts.
We welcome an opportunity, at your earliest convenience to present it to you.

Warmest regards,

Kate Kelly
Co-Chair. Housing with Dignity Reference Committee
Founder-Hobartians Facing Homelessness-Rental Crisis Action Group

Alderman, Damon Thomas
Co- Chair of Housing with Dignity Reference Comittee