

House of Assembly Submission July 2019.

The following is a list of personal life events.

“Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are”
Benjamin Franklin

1969 Only Child. Born Devonport Tasmania
1975 Father passes (63) Civil Engineer
1978 (April) Almost completely sever 3 fingers
1978 (November) Grandmother passes
1989 (February) Move to Melbourne. Abusive Relationship
1989 6 months later, (August) Mother passes (53), return Tasmania
1993 Returned Melbourne
1994 - 2000
Worked/didn't, in various roles, more so in Mental Health and Welfare.
Studied, researched, learnt, taught. 9 miscarriages ('94 - 2008)
2000 Married a lovely man I had known 7 years
2004 Partner developed Bi Polar, endeavoured to kill me (twice). Divorced.
2004 - 2008
(2006) Moved Yarra Junction, worked Chemist, stalked 2 years, (law system let me down).
Head hunted for perfect job, 3 months later, (was set up/blindsided), sacked for first time.

Up until now, I had coped well.

Despite my time being married, *I had been on my own, no support, since age 19.*

2009 February Victorian Bush fires. 5 evacuations in 3 weeks.

THREAT OF LOSING MY HOME

2010 Diagnosed PTSD, Anxiety and Stress, put on DSP

2010 - 2012

Lived WA (hated it), became physically ill, Drs no help.

Lost a dog (a constant companion 8 yrs), also, lost a childhood school friend.

Worked/didn't. Sold car, bought Ute, drove 3500kms on my own, back to Victoria.

2012 Resided in Morwell, lost another childhood friend, purchased a rescue dog.

2014 February Morwell Coal Mine Fire. Gassed 24/7 for 7 weeks. Let down by Government.

Took their compensation of \$500 (declined the vacuum cleaner Govt also offered)

Started saving to move to Tasmania.

At this time, I am now completely exhausted and in the deepest part of trauma, brought on by events of last 5 years, with no support, on my own. No time to debrief/heal between events.

Aug 2014

I lease a 'shack' for 6 months in Petchey's Bay, in the beautiful Huon Valley.

With the view of being secluded, and the environment will help me to: 'properly and completely heal myself'.

My New Land lady knows my status and that I am vulnerable *before* my arrival to Tasmania.

The first 3 1/2 months: I am harassed, victimised, I have property vandalised.

The last month she trapped me for a weekend, at which time, in a final act of violation, she cuts phone, and electricity to the shack. I have no water, sewerage let alone electricity and she has disabled my car.

Rendering me helpless, no contact with outside.

I escaped on foot on the Monday. Later, with some help from an unknown man, I left with whatever could fit in the (Now going) car.

I AM HOMELESS FOR THE FIRST TIME.

I spent the next 3 nights living in my car, all the while trying to seek help and accommodation from law enforcement, tenancy union and emergency housing services. To no avail as I:

“Didn’t fit any Criteria”

I gave my dog (temporarily) to a stranger, to look after, while things got sorted out.

(During this, 4 half months, and by the end, I had contacted):

Colony 47, Police, Tenants Union, Consumer Affairs, and eventually Law Courts and was let down by all.

On the fourth day, of being homeless, I was approached by an unsavoury looking female wanting to buy my ute. (My 'now' home).

I ended up living with her and her partner.

For 13 weeks, my little dog and I lived in one room, in a filthy, marijuana growing/smoking environment.

The woman who had approached me, suffered from depression and bi polar, and was prone to violent outbursts.

This environment NOT conducive to my recovery.

May 2015 I find and move into a small, clean, quiet flat in Taroona. **Paying more money than ever before for rent. (\$220)**

2 years on, and I find myself trying to get help for my issues, and financial help, as I am finding it difficult to survive on benefits, here in Tasmania.

I had survived on benefits very well in Victoria

I **had** survived and healed myself 75%, (through Gods' good Grace, experience, knowledge and time).

A safe home environment with Support if needed, provided by my current Landlady.

Up until 2009 I was a high functioning adult, despite hardship and trauma.

2009 when for the first time my home was under threat, saw me enter the other side of mental illness.

I could cope with anything provided I had a place to call HOME.

2009- 2014 I endured an uncertain/unstable home life.

However, finding homes, in various states, that are conducive to my income, mental health and later physical health, had always (until 2014), been easy to find.

Now with, foreign investors, Air BnB and the greediness of home owners, and many other factors, going to a real estate agent and finding a house, is no longer as easy as it once was, for anyone, let alone a low income earner.

2015 – Present

I have enjoyed **existing** at my current address, despite (Now), being 42.6% of my income.

Since trying to secure affordable housing for **39 months now:**

I have written to many Politicians.

I have written to many Housing establishments.

I have met with half a dozen Politicians (No Liberals have returned calls or letters).

I have done many things, entered in to many ‘systems’ nothing has changed except my Mental and no physical health.

I believe a high degree of my remaining and ongoing recovery, would be fast tracked if I could find long term, affordable, safe and secure accommodation.

As a mentally challenged woman of initially 6 years, coping very well (financially) in Victoria no physical ailments or copious amounts of medication, needing no support or assistance to:

Now aged 50, I find myself worrying for the first time, about my future.

While ‘living’ with PTSD, Anxiety since 2009, I now experience fear, anger and helplessness.

I now exist with Diabetes, increased Agoraphobia and Anxiety, abnormal isolation, and an as yet, undiagnosed Thyroid condition, as I have not been able to afford the (2016) \$346 needed to see an Endocrinologist.

With rising costs of living, no family support, and little regulations, in many areas affecting many Australians, not just myself, I worry about what the future holds for me.

It is imperative I secure long term, affordable, safe and mentally conducive housing.

- I can then focus on the remainder of my mental recovery.
 - Then focus on my physical well being.
 - Arrive at a strong enough point where Disability Support benefit is a thing of the past, and I can earn a living as a therapy dog trainer, for others with a disability.
 - A position not mandated by retirement or age restrictions.
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- This was my goal set in 2014. NEVER did I see myself being the person I am today, 10 years on.
 - Existing not living. In 4 years my world has shrunk even more. More fortnights than not, I don't have \$6.95 for an antibiotic prescription, for repeat infections as my quality of 'Life' is a 10th of what it was.
 - Basic necessities are rationed out, as I no longer have the luxury of savings or spending more on items that are on special.
 - I could go on and on but I won't at this time.

NB When I first started meeting with Parliamentarians, I came with a 2015/16 budget of a single person on a DSP Benefit.

The expenditure, my money saving routine and the comparison of what is on offer assistance wise in comparison to Victoria.

If you think this would be useful (many parliamentarians have used this info for their own endeavours), I have been doing it every year to show the rises and where cuts are being made, constantly.

The one thing all the Politicians have in common, is they are all aghast at how I can survive on (eg \$780 a YEAR) for electricity. Most people think this is a quarter, and I repeat, it is annual.

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