Inquiry into homelessness in Australia Submission 16

There needs to be enough affordable housing.

This is not about building some more affordable housing. This is about building all the affordable housing needed.

Doubling Commonwealth rent assistance.

This is a fast and effective way to make places affordable.

Doubling rent assistance would still make rent assistance one of the lowest welfare expenditures. As the 9.2 billion or so price tag per year would be less than unemployment benefits, or the pension or many other benefits.

Expanding it to people on low incomes, but who do not receive government benefits.

Introducing a job guarantee, government jobs for people that struggle to find work.

As unemployed people are one of the groups that find it the hardest to afford places to live. This is according to Anglicare's rental affordability snapshot.

Critical-time intervention, the only homeless program I am aware of that was proven to be highly effective, based on results from randomised control trials {in the USA}.

The government could redirect some of its funding to the charity sector, to fund this intervention.

Boosting funding for health research.

Poor health has been shown to be a cause of poverty, and thus homelessness. The Australian Institute for Health and Welfare in 2018 noted about 5% of health expenditure was for administration and research.

This is too low, the money going to research should be much higher.

In the hopes that we will see the end to disease and disabilities. And the poverty and homelessness that can accompany disease and disabilities.

David Hale