

HOMELESS INQUIRY SUBMISSION

With no disrespect, the terms of reference are a little narrow and not broad enough, as this matter has many outside economic factors and causations involving population growth, immigration, and massive CPI cost of housing "a doubling over 18 months" and a new emergence of employed homeless, middle class homeless and family homelessness, but most of all, State Governments neglects of obligated housing portfolios which has become an unchecked national disgrace, whereby factually, suppositively punished criminals in comparison to homeless innocent persons with just the clothes on their back and no home,bed,power,washing,cooking devices, toilet,shower etc, and curiously no rent assistance to assist an occasional motel shower etc, thus Government proffer by the homeless via massive rent assistance savings, therefore another issue , but rent assistance is no answer. However, compare the sooner with this royalty of prison life luxury taking note these persons are classified as being punished and then lets determine within human rights whom are the real persons being punished. Just the clothes on your back or :

PRISON ROYAL LUXURY

- FREE SHOWERS
- TOILETS
- GYM
- TV
- VIDEOS
- CLOTHING
- WASHING
- SWIMMING POOL
- FOOD & COOKING
- POOL TABLES
- WATER & HOT WATER
- STORAGE SPACE
- BEDDING
- WARMTH
- HOUSING SECURITY

etc etc ,AND, jump the housing queue on the homeless when they are released.
and, recent news article, "*homeless man commits crime in order to get a bed*"

Any honest person would agree this is a national disgrace, and this is why I so highly commend the Prime minister Mr Rudd and Ms Tanya Pilbersek on opening this can of worms before it gets uncontrollable, however, it shall require big decisions to be made over several portfolios and even consideration of taking housing control out of the states hands.

Also, I believe as a proven successful business woman and in her capacity as a homeless advocate/ambassador, that Ms Therese Rein could also be of great help to this cause.

Why this submission is one of the most relevant and important, is because I have factually as an ALP member experienced homelessness in housing crisis situation now currently on 7th month-STATE DISGRACE homelessness living in vehicle on a Disability pension with several near death incidents caused by homelessness not assisting my memory impairment problems. Not only have I seen the causes, the neglects, the State bias and discriminating systems by facts, but met all types of homeless class, saw the rental market destruction how it occurred, saw the illegal rent bidding have a blind eye turned by the states, saw how new house sharing profitability started massive scale tax evasion for cash in hand room leasing, and all sub-housing area's jump on the gravy train such as motels, caravan parks, boarding houses all double their prices, and State Govt ASSISTANCE for owners to breach leases using vacate notices so as they can get higher new bidding prices faster, this explains statistics of record amounts of property lease-change rates this year, Also to be noted, a new report stating caravan park usage had a massive jump in demand, not realising this was due solely to homelessness.

We need to do simple grade 2 maths and the sum is: can one fit 10,000 eggs into a 12 egg carton ? if no, then we are extremely overpopulated and need to address it with extreme urgency inclusive for economic grounds, and the FACT is, that each new arrival creates a new homeless person and compounds the whole vast problem and economic recovery.

We all know equation no2, that transport is overloaded, hospitals, schools, housing, water shortages, etc etc again the 10,000 eggs into a box of 12, however the real problem is we are letting it grow bigger daily rather than stop everything, inclusive of no longer tempting births via bonuses etc, and this population overgrowth is now global thus comes global downturn and the only ones to emerge shall be those whom address population to resources ratio's.

A recent poll in main media gave 90% yes to slashing migration due to these concerns, and daily almost, persons are writing in saying to the State Govt , hey you know our resources via your neglects are too low to take more population so please stop deliberately increasing population, and yes it shall be a big election issue, and the Federal opposition secretly saw his stand on boat people as promising for fixing overpopulation problem with his attitudes, thus he got a very warm backing, but this needs to be done non party but on core mathematical facts that we CANNOT sustain any more population growth due to no resources, therefore keys are: population curbing, building only core resources such as transport housing water etc, thus creates many jobs also as well as gaining the new asset. However, some State Governments cant be trusted on housing, for example, factually, in Victoria, homeless disabled with life at risk left homeless 7 months ongoing, then to be told its needs-based not client type, only to see the only persons getting housed are all of client type, And first hand as an ALP member assisting citizens, I behold confidential first hand evidences of client types where they did not qualify, had no urgent situations but had them housed by housing Dept within a month solely due to being client type female, and I'm not anti female as it was I whom assisted them, but it showed policy abuse by the department, gender bias and discrimination, and unfair qualifying, and evidenced factually the states

outreach services have been deliberately stalling selected applicants, and I stand by my facts and can evidence confidential material only via a commission able to treat the clients contacts with confidential privilege.

Also the Disability Act, that too is ignored, let me example a few self facts,

I showed the State a picture of a pot fire caused by cooking in vehicle and burning things due to no power to run computer alarms and reminder programs which act as replacement memory for memory impaired, and told of several other near miss incidents, and on the day 300 persons died due to bushfire period heatwave, I was found collapsed in vehicle and minutes to live, luckily found by female passer-by and that saved me.

My GP ,as everyone including the State PREMIER HAS BEEN INFORMED, upgraded my disability to the following:

condition worsening, homelessness needs urgent attention, poor diet poor hygiene and heat prostration living in vehicle , therefore with all state departments knowing this, and meanwhile unqualifying persons getting transitional independent houses within a month, and were still privately housed which is a disqualifier, what sort of housing policy is that?.

The human rights commission especially State HREOC have had the backbone to note State neglect of human rights articles 11 and 25 on the rights to be housed, and I have been playing a role in that process also, and likewise over many years prior to becoming homeless had been inputting on social housing policy for a long time federally.

If we do not rectify this issue of homelessness correctly, it will backfire, and currently concealed but growing so fast like wildfire, such as recent visit, met old friend, always motor mechanic still is, but homeless with 2 kids so stressed in 30's that he had heart attack ten years my junior, and that man was a walking depression mural.

I decided to become a voluntary homeless organisation to assist and represent the nations homeless persons, whilst not tying ALP membership to it, therefore this submission is a core element of that representation but better still, im fully first hand experienced at this homeless plight.

State Govt was granted \$billions in federal monies, I saw words, plans, and a few tiny smokescreen projects and feel the money "as predicted" will vanish, and a recent herald sun article showed whilst persons need housing and whilst the state committed to federal Govt to create more housing, it was caught kicking out pensioners merely as they looked after properties so they were most saleable, and SOLD STATE HOUSES, not reblocked them to put multi homes on but sold off for cash as I had forewarned the federal Govt to look out for. I then saw suburbs of state houses which Govt DELIBERATLY let go into neglect knowing they will be vanded and torched, plus all state assets are compulsory to be insured, so where does the insurance monies go, why not rebuild, and why leave vacant so as can be vanded in the first instance and not earn rents, why refuse me to fix up a damaged home free in exchange for faster housing, why? because it has other plans, and urgency of building new housing is a farce.

We are populating even faster than the new amount of housing that is supposed to be getting created and people are saying it is madness.

I also saw how a state homeless legal clinic "pilch" was doing a brilliant job for the homeless persons, and some very high level lawyers from top law firms putting in much free time in assistances but need to be able to fully fund cases to the end, but also raised interesting point on RIGHTS TO VOTE even again prisoners won such but the homeless whom voted as workers last year now cant vote although is their right and compulsory, however, the homeless I believe if tested, can vote in one suburb and say they reside there homeless 7 days per week and an independent representing them in that electorate, "such as myself" preferably state premiers electorate, and create an overseer advocate for homelessness.

Do anyone realise it is illegal to be homeless ? breach compulsory voting, not allowed to steal water, not allowed to dump garbage, fined for not changing license address as PO boxes are not accepted, not allowed to urinate in public whilst state closed all public toilets, and, indecent exposure bathing in public waterways, nowhere to place a bed without being illegal, etc etc, so, this soon will start breeding crime as already has to get a bed in the regal 5 star prisons whom the state governments seem to rank those inmates as upper class to the low-life homeless their policy inactions created.

The federal Govt has an obligation on population issue, but the true culprits were States whom did not follow constituted housing policy on population to housing supply growth, which had that been done, we could have sustained the increases.

People are getting rightly angry and saying hey there's no housing its in crisis, and due to have the state run out of drinking water in 8 months how can any maths capable person justify bringing in more persons where will they live ? and why give them preference, and state its a human rights breach to bring persons into a homeless land into homelessness, and why make this country become like theirs, and many saying it solves no problems they claim to run from and that we should instead be assisting only by intervening in solving their countries woes, even via international coup, surround a corrupt "eg" african parliament for example letting none out and cut phones and divert lines to nearby newly setup temp govt office.

Let the world decide by global referendum on such international dictatorship woes.

Ask yourself, as homeless and only the clothes on your back, jobs shortage via too much competition, flat broke, and nowhere to go, where will you stay how do you shower or wash clothes, how do you cook and where, what do you do for a bed and safe sleeping area? how do you sleep in freezing temperatures, will you survive pneumonia or heatstroke, where do you toilet when states breach obligation to open public toilets, where do you get drinking water etc and where to dump rubbish, how can you carry things with you, why don't you get rent assistance when the day before homelessness you were getting it to pay a private investor. why cant you afford a motel once per month? and why are prisoners treated better than all this, so please be honest within yourselves, these are disgusting matters and a credit that this process is going to tackle it.

States cant be trusted, esp Victoria, therefore how do we at least meet bare human rights? There is a cheap way, temp, to semi permanent and can even incorporate permanent housing or needs.

However i rather not give the state my ideas as they can be used contrary to abuse obligations, and will settle for the cheap way out, thus best federally ran, and states must be

monitored for its performance obligations to state housing portfolios rather than cash grabbing.

Such as, any auditor general would have to have a fit to note how 48,000 state homes were allowed to go into total neglect and disrepair and state admitting it will now cost \$140 mill to get them back to normal, and what happened to compulsory govt asset insurance? and, it then complained druggies and natives trashed \$5mill worth in a year, whilst itself neglected \$140 mill of housing and allowed many to get vanded and burned down at far bigger lost/cost.

One disturbing thing i saw, was some homeless are so angry and not your regular homeless client type and their anger seemed a big danger to politicians whom go out into the public streets, and some seemed quite a dangerous threat, therefore another reason why States must be more careful in hurting persons via serious policy neglects as thats a risk they run and hopefully never occurs as violence solves nothing.

My organisation, a no frills unprofessional design website is at <http://www.homeless-persons.org>

It has some actual articles, images and very good survival informations for your perusal. As you shall read online, the state neglect of disability dangers whilst housing safe select client types "EVIDENCED", had forced me to borrow large sums of money to make myself safe.

It gets better, I put in tax after a state organisation refused to give me my group certificate as a reprisal, and suddenly \$850 much needed dollars went missing so i had to guess it was child support trying to starve and kill their dad of starvation.

There was never any child support agreement as we always had legal mutual private agreement, and no need for me to inform a non relevant place of changes of address, thus not even told the monies were going to be in my view STOLEN, and when i questioned them, my obligation was supposed to be 3 months and at DSP pension rate \$12 per fortnight thus \$850 was not even justifiable, whilst on the other hand, even when paying partners a big amount when employed they still get a massive slice of family payments A&B , Thus she was working full time had family payments of \$200 per child plus I voluntarily signed over my half of fully owned home to her 8 years ago thus massive rent savings and a massive asset in value, and here people are in a system that needs serious costing educations, trying to stave a homeless person with no rent assistance to death plus they still get the \$12 of course. So, just another homeless pitfall, and told them before hanging up on them that its not in the children's best interest to starve their dad to death, but really, WHO CARES.

The rental crisis caused house prices to unduly go out of control therefore out of reach with 70% loans destined to fail soon. I must admit our businesses were in good shape to absorb the missing average spending per household of \$250 per week taken via rent rise of \$250 pw, but slowly now taking its toll. Why protect private investors and banks ahead of citizens ? that answer will never be figured.

So where is the key homeless fault ? the State neglect made federal migration policy look like a causation, but in fact it was solely State neglects not keeping up its duty to raise taxes

to suit population expansions FOR TOO LONG, However the State neglects are so big and so many, that it is CRITICAL we have a good hard look at what the State of Victoria has done as our best extreme example, and all irrelevancies will become relevant after you add things up.

As an ALP member more federally affiliated i must give credit to the State opposition housing minister for a very genuine concern in these matters and hope she participates that energy and commitment into this inquiry, Ms Wendy Lovell.

There's no housing, no crisis housing left either, so where are new arrivals fitting in ? its not possible without making some poor person unduly homeless, and many rental fires are from power overloads etc from up to 20 people sharing a few rooms in rentals thus breaches insurance policy also, therefore dangers, and Coburg council was forced to close some of them, plus, why are assurances of support on new arrivals not being made to be honored? I witnessed a visa scammer with evidencable scams and lies to immi Dept, plus, didn't declare prior deportations, and actively smuggling using carbon paper, but got housed here Immediately and used intervention order process abuse to scam it all with immi sucked in like a Hoover vac, and whilst Im homeless, they house such persons / fraudsters, I feel added insult about being homeless in my own country as original settler descent, but many are queue jumping with such scams and these visa and housing scams must be closed off, inclusive of new common one requiring no court evidences, couples desperate so jump the queue by pretending their partner committed dom violence, the get instant housing queue jump and again continue living together and succeed fooling the system, but housing crisis is so desperate people cant be blamed for adopting such tactics.

Im told all one needs do, is pretend to be an alcoholic a druggie or a native, and I will get fastest priority for certain, so easy to invent such and most those persons proved less worthy to be housed in preference, and, are the ones known to mainly destroy state houses, but as i recall, the state seemed to want houses to be demolished and lands as valuable if cleared as a house and land to sell.

Lets say, rents and home loans paid to banks and private investors and assume they are added together 10.000.000 houses 10 mill times \$250 rent raise in just 18 months , therefore, per WEEK at \$2500.000.000 per week is not only CPI history in excess, but look what its taking out of the economy and spending in local businesses and only investors and banks lap it all up, this is why for many reasons the rental prices need to drop, even if regulated on a rent limit to valuation system. Therefore, house everyone and it drops rents only if population stabilises.

Just look at how big that weekly figure and reflect a moment on how excessive it is.

The rental bidding was the final straw, its unseen but detectable whilst State Governments and housing industry watchdogs failed to enforce it knowing bidding is illegal, and they all still can be caught via matching advertised price with whats currently being paid, and also consumers have no idea they are wasting their time applying without bidding and knowing how high the bid rates are, thus currently about \$100 pw extra is the common bidding figure, or exploitation whichever preferred name to use. Regardless still a big jump on its own and tips the homeless out of the market as well as low income workers.

My main issue is why there is no housing and as to why its critical to have a good look at the Victorian State Government as the best example of why it cant be trusted to fix or assist to fix this crisis, in fact cant seem to manage contracts for projects let-alone projects themselves.

Would you trust the following reputation ? would the reasonable lay person trust it?

16 preventable child deaths in their protective care, and hundreds of what an auditor report listed as preventable hospital deaths, injuries and overstay of hundreds of persons per year via cutting infection procedures seen first hand by me, power line poles leaning over roadways soon to start falling on people and cars, cheaper to fix than to let fall. main shopping strip footpath with 4 in deep by one foot wide chunk out of it right across been there 6 months with prams and pensioners maneuvering over it, trains so overloaded that their brakes fade skipping stations and a go-slow over it has thrown network into turmoil, and cheapest answer to over crowding was to pull out all seats but they held no more extra people but secretly was to lighten carriages. water infrastructure 8 months of water until biggest ever state disaster, all rains as i told them 2 years ago are going down the big dry reservoir cracks and zero into supplies and runs out faster than their estimates due to the basin affect being so small once down to it, 2 years after saying to me in witting it will build desal plant, it still has not commenced from what i see, and wont be made within 8 months when i say we will run out, and people are so annoyed, and no new state housing for many years to obey constituted obligation to housing and keeping up with population growths, and neglect of current houses plus allowed many to needlessly get totally destroyed but the insurance never rebuilt them, the list goes on as to portfolio neglects, but my point is, that, no matter what their response, as words are easy to say without enacting, it must not be trusted to be involved in housing of the homeless, and look at the state govt Myki ticket machines contract blowout, the Billion dollar global joke of a contract and still failing and was not needed in the first place.

State treasurer's name is John Lenders appropriately if one thinks they are having a lend of us. Sadly as myself an ALP member I garrantee the premier will be ousted at next election if the whole upper ministry is not replaced, and never in my life got an election result wrong.

MEDIA

The media seems to oddly hush up the homeless crisis and its issues, however I did write directly to Mr Murdoch at his NY chairman address and await a response, however his mother the WOULD BE the ideal person to convince him as its one of her causes she assists. As we need the media if not getting paid off via Govt Advertising bribes.

Most homeless are single persons but Im not seeing them build any single accommodations, and that must be urgently addressed nationwide, moreso if there are 115,000 homeless persons to which the projects alleged amount to be built will fall way short of that plus add 250,000 new arrivals per year needing housing, thus creating 200,000 homeless per year unseen ever before.

I did put before the highest relevant levels of the federal ALP a zero population growth migration plan which swaps global applicants, someone from USA wants to come here and someone from here wanting to go there meet at top of lists and are swapped, thus still a migration policy minus the current practices everyone on the streets are questioning.

Lets say Victoria by itself has 40,000 of the 115,000 homeless persons and admitted it had 48,000 properties it had left to go out of action, at a repair cost of \$140 mill, yes fast to fix and would house all homeless right? but just as prisoners are treated far better, the Government instead, self-decided, to spend more than the needed \$140 mill on just two un-required projects which are not resources nor state obligations nor urgent!!, a tennis court upgrade and a new 2nd city sports stadium not even any urgency to have, and such issues are things we need to tackle states over in regards to giving priority to resources which are not holding up to population growth.

How can we bring rents down whilst most Govt Ministers have vested interests in rental properties likewise grabbing the new \$250 pw increase, no way will they legislate to change that windfall nor can I blame them, but does open a conflict of interest theme when policy needs scrutiny, however if not lowered, mark my words, they will totally collapse soon instead, and in 3rd world it all goes down to being worthless.

It is totally pointless for any reader to hear how badly the homeless live, as there is only one way to do it and that is to live it as I have, and no professor can even dare to say they are that qualified unless they themselves have done it in a modern city, nor can social workers and the like, therefore, as said, no point going into that part, and more wiser to use my full experience to formulate fixes to the area's I have exposed and witnessed first hand via experiencing and observing what has been submitted.

Lets just say, I gave the federal Govt a housing plan which will very fast comply to basics of housing needs at cheapest cost of all ideas, but unwise to let the State know its design as it will use it and abuse it in contrary purpose of usage.

I also suggest the Commonwealth take over national housing, or, oversee the states with a team of auditors to ensure they are expending as much as they should per head and actually doing the constructions and getting the best tenders rather than its usual mates theme, also my suggestion to the State was that it claims most state houses in need of repair to get them livable is \$16,000 each on average, mainly wall or door fills and paints / carpets, the homeless can do it all for free and instantly fix the 48,000 homes and govt only need fit the carpets thus saving almost a 100 mill in their estimate figures, plus homeless can live and be housed whilst they repair the homes, or even if generous govt might even throw in a temp reduced rent.

State housing is not a federal responsibility, its a neglect by States and no excuses because states estimate yearly the sums needed to maintain each portfolio plus allow for growth, and they have been increasing what they raise but not spending it on the relevant portfolios.

So in a nutshell, this inquiry can only end up forcing states to act, or getting the commonwealth to take over housing policy as a national policy, IN FACT seriously considering to rid states and become a sole federation.

This week, many persons wrote again to the media in disgust over the State ignoring disabled persons, thus ignoring them in housing contrary to recent international charter we signed, and daily this failure to fund portfolios continues, such as newborn waited 6 months

for tests showing severe pain, only to find out when now listed as incurable, a brain tumor, its not just the wait but the pain it endured waiting. Therefore, I believe an outcome of this inquiry should canvass for the Commonwealth to finally decide to take uniform control of states, cut duplications, keep all state laws and services in equilibrium.

And as for disabled or mentally impaired, my time employed in hospitals etc saw me into a few of our mental wards to which was the biggest ever disgusting thing ever seen, whilst we close elderly homes for far less neglect, but take note, inmates of mental homes are homeless, upon questioning 20 most said they try stay there as its secure housing, but drugged up daily so as not to notice the boredom, and many there as victims and not via bad deeds, and this was their life which i can evidence any day:

all walls, no television or computers, no games or game materials, absolutly nothing but wals and strange persons via no cause by themselves, nothing to do but walk up and down the room all day waiting for evening drugs with only interaction being asking staff for smokes.

One a mid aged woman whom seemed to have revenged her partner for prior abuses, which the revenge act seemed to have flipped her over the edge but in there its not conducive, and most all simply needed either housing or simple supports.

If i took a human rights commissioner there, they would go berserk as caged animals are treated better, but relevent nonetheless as they also are homeless persons.

Also noted the Victorian charter of rights is not even enforcable, just hot air, but did note that the new international human rights charter organisation has made a complaints avenue for individuals against States to which I shall be testing out in the interim at CP@ohchr.org.

WHAT WE DO NEED TO GET FROM THE INQUIRY OUTCOME:

- **ENACT LAWS** which empower and protect the homeless and their human rights per the charter, see too: PILCH homeless legal clinic for closer ideas for your perusal to submit, <http://www.pilch.org.au/hplc/>
- **Create or enforce creation of suburbs** with basic essential services for the homeless such as toilets, power supply, showers, rubbish disposal, water, and maybe even meals
- **Get a more accurate figure of how many persons are homeless** via using centrelink data plus combined homeless services data for the employed homeless.
- **Figure out and commence urgent permanent or transitional solution** for the "above" figures, but must close out State Governments from any projects.
- **Create an open binding policy for disabled persons at risk** being mandatory as already is but not adhered to.
- **Seriously consider a full cut of migration** until resources are topped up to sustain more
- **Fund the PILCH homeless legal clinic** to assist enforcing these persons core rights, as they do not rip off the systems as most other services do. A good example test was to phone all local services to the disabled only to find they do noting but raise funds which are not used for their causes, and only issue state printed booklets supplied by

the state to steer people to State services in which do not likewise do anything. thus raising funds plus receive Government grants with no scrutiny, therefore an insult to the disabled and the taxpayer, moreso how they can afford constant radio adverts to seek more donations.

- Due to the above, i feel centrelink can be set up to start operating national services needed for these persons and must not be client type, and per current allowances to that rule has always been priority for the disabled and the aged.
- Loss of rent assistance when needed the most, rent assistance is not the answer as it creates rent rises to swallow it up, therefore there must be a specific centrelink qualifier to get a new created benefit called homeless benefit, which can at least fund as rent assistance a private investor motel or boarding house investor to allow a brief stay to do basic essential "human right essentials occasionally.
- Can Australia afford the cost of abiding by the international charter we are now signed to? If left too late, NO, if done now via very effective streamlined plans it can be done via using a cheap plan I submitted to the federal housing Minister.
- Make it illegal for States or any Governing body to grant housing via client type as currently exists but breached, with exception to stronger charter rights of the disabled and the aged.
- The construction of housing in tiny fragments on many small blocks is costly compared to high rise on a single block housing hundreds, be them used as urgent transitional or whatever but overall cheaper to construct by far than current type housing if used to accommodate the same hundreds of persons.
- If the States are allowed to still be involved, then per human rights and other rights and powers, the Commonwealth must create in each state, overseers of the portfolios, to check on breaches via client type, and ensure the states have budgeted for raising taxes ,enough to cover population expansions, and current amount of homeless, and if any Commonwealth grants, to be overseen that it is all wisely spent requiring overseer to give the green light, and to ensure its all accounted for and not perish without the aimed result

I am prepared to do any role in which rectifies the homeless issues in Australia, and as a bare minimum, they must be treated better than prisoners whom are supposed to be getting punished.

Also States **MUST BE ENFORCED TO DO ITS CONSTITUTED OBLIGATION IT COST SAVES ON**, and open all public toilets including all closed rail station ones, this is also why petrol stations have now closed theirs in protest over the state passing toileting load onto them **AND** also why massive urinary ward increase due to serious damages via urine retention due to lack of toilets.

State Governments **MUST** budget all portfolios and allow for growths within such as well as any current deficiencies, and whilst doing so, cease all non essential expenditures like sports funds and cultural funds and giving casino's 100 year \$1 rent deals, making state housing rental look outrageous, and as predicted even fire victims having two thirds of donations withheld by the state, well pointed out by Greg Norman, including rebuilding state assets which insurance should have paid for.

Lastly, **ITS TIME** for the Commonwealth to take over the States via referendum.

To write this submission whilst homeless required me to grab electricity for PC over varying days wherever i could if my solar power I made was inadequate, just another full-on hurdle we face day to day.

This submission carries full consent to be published in any sphere . June 30 2009

BRIAN WOODS

And Principal of :HOMELESS-PERSONS ORGANISATION