

24/6/09 *me*

MIKE JESSOP

QLD

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Committee Chair on Family, Community, Housing and Youth, Inquiry into  
homelessness legislation  
House of Representatives  
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**Friday June 26 2009, 11:13 AM**

G'day Annette

To anyone that deals with the plight of homeless people a knowledge of housing legislation is indispensable and not only for the extra insight that this brings to housing.

Being a successful Landlord brings an experience of housing legislation "from the ground up" that has witnessed an unnecessary increase in the number of homeless people eg on the Sunshine Coast and Australia wide

The necessary imagination and drive to change all that actually comes from landlords and former landlords

The more restrictive the legislation relating to housing the less places that will be available to house the homeless in the kind of accommodation they are more likely to otherwise occupy eg backpacker / dormitory accommodation / one room accommodation using shared facilities

If you legislate to turn every such house into a fireproof establishment the cost of upgrading can be in the tens of thousands at private expense

Compared to the extremely low returns and management intensive nature of running such accommodation the landlord is just going to sell up and take the real estate agent option and sell to the property developer who will take the same living accommodation and reduce the available living space by a factor of five eg childers backpackers 100 people accommodating down to 20 in the same space

Such people are far more at risk from the effects of homelessness (eg lack of hygiene, disease, alcoholism, drugs, illegal prostitution, social pariah, social and ostracisation everything that goes with not having a fixed abode – eg lack of access to health benefits medicare joblessness ) which far outweigh the risk of attack by pyromaniacs and arsonists against which one can never be adequately protected in the normal course of events

Arsonism can occur anywhere at any; time why penalise those who provide the

kind of accommodation that homeless people are more likely to otherwise occupy by saddling them with all this expense

A 500% decrease in this type of accommodation in the last 10 years has occurred since the introduction of restrictive housing legislation here in Queensland alone

Do not be deterred and confused by the post traumatic distress statements of firemen and former firemen describing their experience of the results of fire which victims may or may not have been the result of fire in houses in multiple occupation and other such circumstances

Rather be concerned with the more objective assessment of the actual figures compared to the risk of homelessness eg lack of hygiene, disease alcoholism, drugs, illegal prostitution, violence directed to social pariahs, ostracisation and everything else that goes with not having a fixed abode

Local Authority, Federal and State government finger pointing is the only enemy in the fight against homelessness

There are people sleeping rough here on the Sunshine Coast and Australia wide – just try it for one night

The formula is not complex and can easily be redressed by a relaxation of the rules and or the provision of this type of accommodation – immediately!!

Abolition of Homelessness is a stated Whig Party Policy

Item Y. Homelessness: declare food shelter clothing as a basic human right reviewing legislation that militates against

<http://www.whigparty.com.au/state.htm>

Why isn't it one of the Labour / Liberal Party's

Yours sincerely

Mike Jessop

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THE WHIG PARTY

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