

**Submission  
No 1**

## **INQUIRY INTO THE PROTOCOL FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE IN PUBLIC PLACES**

**Name:** Mr Grant Mistler

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**14 November 2019**

Dear Committee on Community Services

**RE: Inquiry into the Protocol for Homeless People in Public Places**

Thank you very much for taking time to consult and focus on the needs of homeless people.

For this inquiry, I wish to add the experiences of people with disability who are homeless, and the NDIS. The newly established NSW Ageing and Disability Commissioner defines an older adult as a person who is aged 65 years or over, or the case of an Indigenous person, 50 years or over. For people who are homeless, comorbidities exist, and all people who are homeless at around the age of 50 years may need to be recognised here as an older person, as their presenting needs are probably higher.

The current 2013 Protocol for Homeless People in Public Places does not mention disability, or the NDIS, and there is also a need to acknowledge that people with disability who are homeless are at higher risk of coming in to contact with the justice system or entering correctional centres. Naturally, entering correctional centres is the worst outcome for most people, and for people with disability who are homeless, entering correctional centres can damage them further.

Focusing on the NDIS, many homeless people may be eligible to receive NDIS funded services and programs, but are currently inadvertently excluded as they do not fit the current NDIS intake pathway model. Although there is a line item in the NDIS payment system about homelessness and housing support, this is rarely included in plans, as those questions are not asked. We need to ask how the NDIS is catering to people with disability who are homeless or who are at risk of homelessness, and how we can reach these hidden populations to increase the number of NDIS participants.

I warmly welcome this vital consultation process, and I look forward to receiving your final report.

Yours faithfully

Grant Mistler