

**Submission  
No 3**

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

**Organisation:** Disability Council NSW

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D20/275430

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Dear Sir/Madam

On behalf of the Disability Council, NSW I submit the following feedback in relation to the inquiry into the Protocol for Homeless People in Public Places.

**(Provided by Disability Council Member Ms. Casey Gray)**

**2.1 - Homeless definition**

*"Government organisations should use their own discretion to identify whether a person may be homeless or not."*

The Disability Council member questions this statement, particularly when you hear statements come from members of the public service such as "I assertively encourage homeless people to..." The member thinks that the option to arbitrarily define the term places the homeless person in a vulnerable position thus there should be firmer guidelines around this.

**4 - Legal status of the Protocol**

The use of the word *discretion* should be made more direct e.g. '*Must consider*' the complex needs, this way it is not optional.

**7 - Use of the Protocol during major events**

How are security staff informed? How is this monitored? Who is responsible for oversight to ensure the protocol is adhered to?

Yours sincerely



**Mark Tonga**  
**Chair, Disability Council NSW**