

**Supplementary
Submission
No 30a**

INQUIRY INTO THE PROTOCOL FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE IN PUBLIC PLACES

Organisation: Homelessness NSW

Date Received: 28 August 2020

Ms Wendy Lindsay
Chair
Inquiry into the Protocol for Homeless People in Public Places
Parliament House
Sydney NSW 2000

28 August 2020

Inquiry into the Protocol for Homeless People in Public Places – supplementary information

Homelessness NSW thanks the Committee for the opportunity to present a supplementary submission.

As discussed when attending the Inquiry, there have been significant changes to homelessness service delivery due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to the information already provided to the Committee regarding increased demand and service adaptation would also like to emphasise the outcomes achieved via the collaboration between the Department of Communities and Justice, NSW Health, the NSW Police Force, Local Government and homelessness services in responding to rough sleeping during this period. In particular, the Inner City Taskforce, chaired by the Department of Communities and Justice, has provided an excellent model around planning and responding to rough sleeping during this period. We would recommend that a similar group is established in all areas with a high number of people sleeping rough in NSW.

Secondly, ending homelessness will take a multi-pronged approach. In our conversations with Members of Parliament the issue of information for their staff is often raised and during the COVID-19 pandemic we have provided information to all Members of Parliament regarding information on what is being done to keep people at risk of homelessness healthy and well during COVID-19 and how to provide information and referrals to constituents regarding this. We note that this matter was also raised with the Committee during its hearings. Homelessness NSW would add a recommendation that all staff of MPs be offered training in homelessness, including how to refer to appropriate services. As the peak body for homelessness services in NSW we believe that we would be best placed to liaise with the Department of Parliamentary Services to see this as an addition to its current training and staff development.

We hope this additional information is useful.

Yours sincerely,

Katherine McKernan
CEO