

**Submission
No 6**

**OPTIONS TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO EXISTING AND ALTERNATE
ACCOMMODATION TO ADDRESS THE SOCIAL HOUSING SHORTAGE**

Organisation: Hope Haven

Date Received: 21 July 2021

Our association is keen to facilitate improved access to affordable housing for older single women.

For the past 20 years our association has run a women's refuge in Ballina and we are aware at how difficult it is for this cohort to access housing. In our area there is a huge untapped resource in rural property.

However current legislation makes it difficult to utilise this resource. If appropriate changes to the legislation were made, our association or others like ours could facilitate the placement of relocatable housing on these rural properties for social housing. We believe that many rural property owners would be open to agreements to allow a tiny house or relocatable pod to be placed on their property.

While provision already exists for family members to stay in a caravan on their family property - there is no specific provision for a tenancy arrangement that is longer than 3 months. If appropriate changes were made by planning departments at both state and local council level - then a large supply of low cost housing could be released.

Our organisation or others like ours would be able then to facilitate sites, manage the tenancy and remove the relocatable accommodation when it was no longer appropriate.

Please consider changing planning legislation to allow for relocatable, low-cost housing to be placed on rural properties where it could add to the stock of low cost social housing.