



The Salvation Army Australia Territory

Territorial headquarters

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Ms Arizona Hart
Senior Council Officer
Upper House Committees Legislative Council
Parliament of New South Wales
Parliament House, Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Ms Hart

Re: NSW Parliament Standing Committee on Social Issues Inquiry into homelessness amongst older people aged over 55 in New South Wales

Post-Hearing Responses – 18 July 2022

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Standing Committee on Social Issues on 18 July 2022, to provide oral evidence to the Committee concerning The Salvation Army's experience of supporting people experiencing homelessness in New South Wales.

This response has been prepared with regard to one transcript correction and one question taken on notice, as recorded in the uncorrected transcript of evidence.

Transcript Corrections

1. Petra Jenkins: (Opening Statement): *'We also provide community connection and spiritual support through our core of churches in every State and Territory.'* (page 19).

This statement should be amended with correct spelling of 'corps' as follows:

'We also provide community connection and spiritual support through our corps (or churches) in every State and Territory.'

Questions on Notice

1. Reverend the Hon. FRED NILE: *'This is just a general question. In the Salvation Army submission there seems to be some confusion over how many homeless people there are in New South Wales or Australia. Have you done some estimates on those figures?'* (page 21).

Homelessness figures for New South Wales

The Salvation Army's submission provides the following figures:

Founders **William & Catherine Booth**
General **Brian Peddle**

*Wherever there is hardship or injustice, Salvos will live, love and fight
alongside others to transform Australia one life at a time with the love of Jesus*

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New South Wales has the highest number of people experiencing homelessness of any Australian state or territory (6,411 at 2016 Census night) or 34 per cent of the total older homeless population in Australia. (page 8).

This sentence can be clarified to read:

*New South Wales has the highest number of people experiencing homelessness of any Australian state or territory, **with 6,411 people aged 55 and over experiencing homelessness in NSW** at 2016 Census night or 34 per cent of the total older homeless population in Australia.¹*

Homelessness figures for Australia

The Salvation Army's submission provides the following figure:

Homelessness is a well-known, persistent and widespread issue with well over 100,000 people estimated to be homeless in Australia. (page 8).

This figure remains correct. The above figure is sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2018). [Census of Population and Housing: Estimating Homelessness](#). The source figure reads: 'There were 116,427 people enumerated in the Census who are classified as being homeless on Census night (up from 102,439 persons in 2011).'

Additional Information: Nil

We hope this response helps to clarify the questions that have been raised by the Committee and we would be happy to provide further information upon request. Further information can be sought from Major Paul Hateley, Head of Government Relations, at government.relations@salvationarmy.org.au or on

Yours sincerely,

Paul Hateley, Major
Head of Government Relations
The Salvation Army Australia

August 2022

¹ Homeless NSW. (2022). Older People Experiencing Homelessness in Australia. *NSW Census Data and HNSW Factsheets*. <https://homelessnessnsw.org.au/resource/nsw-census-data-and-hnsw-factsheets/>.



The Salvation Army acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands and waters throughout Australia.

We pay our respect to Elders and acknowledge their continuing relationship to this land and the ongoing living cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across Australia.

We also acknowledge future aspirations of all First Nations peoples. Through respectful relationships we will work for the mutual flourishing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and non-Indigenous Australians.

We commit ourselves in prayer and practice to this land of Australia and its people, seeking reconciliation, unity and equity.

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General **Brian Peddle**

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