

**i) The impact of homelessness on the health and well-being of older people and the related costs to the health system**

- Health deterioration; both physical and mental health
- Reduce life expectancy,
- Increase cost to the public health system,
- Increase self-medication with alcohol and drugs
- Homeless older adults are more likely to be assaulted than the average person,

**Case Study from SydWest:**

84 years old a bedridden man, and his 76 years old carer partner from Sri-Lankan background were sponsored to Australia 3 years back by their daughter. They became homeless after their same daughter expelled them from her home. The couple were referred to SydWest by a friend as primary homeless for housing assistance; the case manager conducted a holistic assessment to determine their multiple complex needs. Stable housing stood as a priority, followed by an adjustable bed, medical toilet chairs and others.

The case manager contacted Link2home for temporary accommodation, and a three-day TA was secured for the couple. SydWest arranged transport for the client to their Temporary Accommodation, and appropriate cultural food was also organised. In the meantime, the application for Housing NSW was prepared and submitted. On the last day of TA, the couple was transported and presented to the local Housing office for an assessment and possible extension of TA. During the assessment, the client was found to be eligible for the priority waiting list for housing; however, for the couple to remain eligible for TA, they must maintain a case plan which requires the applicants to actively search and apply for a minimum of four private rental properties every three days. The case manager strongly advocated against this policy and that this rule must be relaxed considering those individuals' age and medical conditions. However, the client's Housing service officer insisted that the case plan be maintained; otherwise, the applicants won't be eligible for TA. Circumstances forced the case manager to obtain consent to search, inspect and apply for properties on behalf of the clients.

The couple could not secure any private rental property after exhausting all 28 days of their TA entitlement but continued to advocate for them to stay in TA until the offer was received after three weeks of the expiration of TA. All medical equipment was requested through Westmead Hospital and delivered to the clients' homes. Unfortunately, the bedridden man has only lived in that property for about seven months before passing away.

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