

INQUIRY INTO HOMELESSNESS AMONGST OLDER PEOPLE AGED OVER 55 IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Supplementary questions: Ms Annabelle Daniel, Chief Executive Officer, Women's Community Shelters and Ms Simone Parsons, Chief Operating Officer, Women's Community Shelters

Answers are to be returned to the Committee secretariat by Monday 22 August.

1. *We have heard that many women's shelters take in transwomen.*
 - a. *Is that the policy of all women's shelters?*
 - b. *How far in the transformation process does a transwomen have to progress to be eligible to enter a woman's shelter?*

WCS Response:

Women's Community Shelters would like to express concern at the supplementary questions, as we believe that they are inflammatory and potentially detrimental to the safety of women who identify as transgender or gender diverse. All women who identify as women are legally welcome to approach women's services for access.

2. *Many women who are experiencing homelessness come from domestic violence situations or have been sexually abused. Many of these women don't feel safe or comfortable sharing accommodation with transwomen. How are these situations managed?*

WCS Response:

Women's Community Shelters are long-standing experts in the provision of services to women to this group. The response to domestic and family violence was pioneered by diverse women from its earliest days in the 1970s, and women's services were the initiators of best practice in safety, support and recovery. As with all situations, we manage according to these best practice principles.