

24 June 2009

Ms Cathryn Cummins
Council Officer – Committees
Legislative Council
NSW Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Ms Cummins

Inquiry into homelessness and low-cost rental accommodation

Thank you for your letter dated 16th April and I enclose herewith the Witness Feedback Questionnaire as well as answers to the questions taken on notice.

I apologise that this was overlooked earlier and is now late getting to you, and I trust the information will be useful.

Yours sincerely



LOUISE VOIGT
CEO & Director of Welfare

Encs.
Witness Feedback Questionnaire
Questions taken on notice responses

Barnardos Australia questions taken on notice Wednesday 8 April 2009

I refer the Committee's attention to Barnardos' submission to the Inquiry which addressed some of these questions on notice.

1. *How is Barnardos Australia Funded?*

Barnardos is funded by both federal and state governments, as well as non Government Funds as follows:-

BARNARDOS AUSTRALIA

INCOME YEAR ENDED 30/06/08

Marketing

Fundraising	4,331,580
Bequests	1,349,279
Merchandising	179,186
	5,860,045

Government Subsidies

Federal	4,079,762
State (NSW)	15,701,870
State (ACT)	5,230,050
	20,931,920

Local	668,509
-------	---------

Other Welfare Revenue

User Payments	809,183
Welfare Product	94,948
	904,131

Recruitment Services	2,889,042
-----------------------------	------------------

Investment & Other	1,011,016
-------------------------------	------------------

Total Revenue	36,344,425
----------------------	-------------------

Barnardos needs all sources of funds to achieve our objectives.

2. *Outline what you would like government, federal, state and local, to do to assist the growth of community housing in NSW.*

Barnardos would like significantly enhanced funds to further develop community housing in NSW from all levels of government.

3. *What role do you think local government should play in the provision of low-cost accommodation?*

Local government has an important role in the provision of low cost housing and should assist both through community housing options and through provision of housing staff to support and assist both individuals and communities.

4. *What do you think is the most effective way of linking the provision of low-cost accommodation and the support services often needed by occupants of this housing?*

There are a range of models which could be used. What is important is that possible support agencies can access a source of specific funds not rely on scarce funding.

5. *What do you regard as necessary elements for the creation and maintenance of cohesive communities? What needs to be done to sponsor these?*

Cohesive communities are most likely to be created through equitable service provision and life opportunities for people in those communities. This involves resourcing by both federal and state governments for quality access to employment, health, education and services generally.

6. *Do you think it is possible to provide sufficient low-cost rental accommodation without creating 'pockets of disadvantage'? If so, how?*

Avoiding 'pockets of disadvantage' means disbursing low cost rental accommodation throughout communities, rather than in housing block developments.

7. *Needs of the Indigenous community.*

Outcomes for Indigenous people in housing could best be met by following the recommendations outlined by Inquiries into Aboriginal Housing, etc, in particular there is need for highly enhanced resources for partnership and participation with Aboriginal people, both in the cities, towns as well as in remote communities.