

**Submission
No 143**

**INQUIRY INTO SOCIAL, PUBLIC AND AFFORDABLE
HOUSING**

Name: Ms Elizabeth Donnellan

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The Director

Select Committee on Social, Public and Affordable Housing

NSW Parliament House

Sent by email: socialhousing@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir or Madam,

Submission regarding Social, Public and Affordable Housing

My family and I have lived in a Department of Housing (DOH) townhouse in Macquarie Park for 25 years. During this 25 year period, is our home. Our two children went to school in this area and have now moved away and my husband and I still live at this address.

We moved into DOH premises as my husband was diagnosed with Schizophrenia. Financially this made our life easier. For the first ten years the area was fraught with danger as there were many children living in the estate and also it attracted undesirables. The Police were down every night. The Salvation Army moved in and the difference they have made has been unbelievable. The DOH moved the troublemakers out and the Salvation Army moved into one of the houses. The support they have given the community is measurable as they have supported families and have a range of activities for children who need help. There are a range of families living in our estate. We have immediate neighbours, on one side is a Chinese family and the other side there are two mentally challenged men. We all get along and it is comforting to know that they are there. Having such a mix of people makes life interesting. There is a community spirit at Ivanhoe Place and I know that if I did not work that there are activities I could join in if I wanted to. One of my neighbours is South American and English is her second language. She often comes to me and asks me to explain something to her. I was taken to hospital a few years ago and this lady and her family came to the hospital to see me. When I arrived home from hospital several people stopped me whilst I was going for a walk to enquire how I was and if they could assist me at all. This was very comforting to our family.

In 2012 my husband and I were watching the Channel 9 news and they announced that our estate was going to be demolished to make way for a new development. The reason they gave was that it was old style housing. There are a couple of issues here. Announcing this on the news is disrespectful to the tenants plus our families and then our family received a couple of calls asking us what was happening. Secondly not another word has been mentioned since 2012 where a public meeting was held where this was discussed and we were told we would be

told if this demolition was going to happen either before Christmas 2012 or early 2013. As of today I still do not know either way. Thirdly is not old style housing we all have easy access to our houses and when you see the old unit blocks they have around Sydney does not look too bad.

My husband and I are settled after 25 years. I am concerned that if we do need to move that this will upset my husband as he is much better when there is stability. I am unsure how he will go if we do have to move and this concerns me.

We may not own but it is our home and we could live here forever.

If you need to speak to me I am available on

Kind Regards

Elizabeth Donnellan