

**Submission
No 181**

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

Name: Mr Garo Hekemian

Date received: 28/02/2014

My name is Garo Hekemian and I live at

Macquarie Park and I reside there

with my Wife Nora and my two sons.

I have lived here for 15 years I have always been happy and settled here for all of these years. I have joined the Ivanhoe Tenant Group and I help to translate to my Armenian Community and also I can translate Arabic and Turkish.

Since the announcement we live with stress and we have Meetings with Government once per month and these Meetings result in no answer. I am starting to feel that I am wasting my time in attending for all of these Meetings. We have a large elderly Armenian Community here and we are all very close and they need help with translation and transport to medical appointments, all of which I do for them. If the Government demolish this area what will happen to this Armenian Community and also my own family. My sons ask me every day what is happening and I have no answers for them. These boys have grown up in this area and they have long time friends and neighbours here.

The stress that this announcement has caused is causing my Wife Nora to be unwell with migraine, sinus (with all of the debris from buildings being erected around us) and she has been at the doctors and the hospital with this problem.

My own health is suffering as the stress levels are so high as I am worrying about the future for my family . I suffer from diabetes and I feel very unhappy about all of this. I am also suffering from sleep disorder as I am dreaming that the Government will send people to take our homes very quickly as this makes me feel powerless to help my family and friends. I pay absolute maximum rent (market value) and I feel that this is unfair. Tenants from this Estate come to me nearly every to ask me what is happening and I tell them to come to our Meetings and they answer "it is a waste of time, we never get any answers, why should we waste our time?"

I hope that this message gets across to the Inquiry that we need assistance and we need answers here.

Thank you for your time

Garo Hekemian

25th February, 2014