

**Submission
No 159**

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

Name: Rev Dr Brian Powell and Ms Julie Stone

Date received: 27/02/2014

26 February, 2014

The Director

Select Committee on Social, Public and Affordable Housing

NSW Parliament House

Macquarie Street

Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Sir or Madam,

I was a lecturer at Morling College, the Baptist Theological and Bible College of NSW, 120 Herring Road, Macquarie Park (opposite Ivanhoe Place) for thirty years, concluding in January, 2013. During this time I became conscious of the public housing in Ivanhoe Place, chiefly through the reports of some of our students, who worked alongside the Salvation Army in that community. I formed the strong impression that this was a supportive community, and very conducive to the welfare of the residents. It is my conviction that many people would suffer considerably from the closure of this community, and I appeal to the Select Committee to give great weight to this consideration in their deliberations.

Yours faithfully,

Rev. Dr Brian Powell, BA, M.Ed., Ph.D.

26 February, 2014

The Director

Select Committee on Social, Public and Affordable Housing

NSW Parliament House

Macquarie Street

Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am a therapist in the local area. I am Rev Dr Brian Powell's wife. I have had occasion to work with members of this specific local community with mental health problems, whom I'm seeing for Medicare only. All have reported increased stress reading not only the fact of the impending move, but the manner in which the Housing department has variously communicated with them, and the manner in which the move will be handled, often suggesting that the resident will be moved completely out of area.

All of these clients have had exacerbation of their mental health problems. The most severe has been temptation to suicide, and one to commit murder suicide if located well out of area.

I have got to the point that Housing are closed to any form of empathic negotiation and I have told my clients that pending on further Housing action I will support and facilitate application to the Anti-Discrimination Board, as I believe that Housing are not even following their own guidelines and by laws. Certainly I find their actions and words discriminating

Yours faithfully,

Julie Stone BSoc Studs, M.S.W.