

**Submission  
No 1**

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

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In NSW, there are more than 50,000 people on the waiting list for social housing, with 1 in 3 being over 55 years old. Accessing affordable housing within the public system should not be this difficult. We need a system that is designed to be accessible and supportive for all who engage with it, not one that makes it so much harder for people who are already struggling with the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and the climate crisis.

Homelessness and housing insecurity is not a choice made by individuals, but one made by Governments that prioritise profit over people in their decision-making.

Everyone deserves housing that is affordable and accessible.

But right now, older women are the fastest growing cohort of homeless people in Australia. So many women in our communities are falling through the cracks because of the Coalition Government's continued failures and lack of support and services, especially in regional and rural communities.