

**Submission
No 12**

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

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I am hoping (probably in vain) that this inquiry on housing will not be yet another useless and expensive process.

We have seen over the last few decades a dramatic increase in the number of people who are homeless or who are barely hanging on to their housing.

Housing policy in NSW and indeed across Australia has been an utter and abject failure.

If we continue on the current trajectory, more people in this state will be homeless than those who are in housing.

Certainly we will see a majority of NSW residents who rent their homes from an ever shrinking minority who have the privilege of property ownership.

Never in the history of this state has housing been so unobtainable. In fact, the term 'failure' does not do justice to what passes for housing policy.

Ageing on the Edge has three key asks of the NSW Government: Fund a specialist older person's housing information and support service that targets early intervention and crisis responses for individuals at risk of homelessness or experiencing homelessness.

Lower the priority age for social housing eligibility from 80 years. Build 5,000 social and affordable homes per year for 10 years, 20% of which should be dedicated to older people. The above points which I support are a bare minimum.

Housing in NSW must stop being an exercise in speculation and profit and actually housing human beings without sending them broke and ultimately into homelessness.

David Skidmore, Council on the Ageing NSW member