

**Submission
No 63**

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

Name: Mr Alex Greenwich

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Chair
Standing Committee on Social Issues
NSW Parliamentary House
6 Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Ageing on the Edge (NSW) Forum Submission

I write to support the Ageing on the Edge (NSW) Forum submission to the inquiry into homelessness amongst older people aged over 55 in New South Wales.

As the member for Sydney reducing homelessness is a key priority for me. The inner city is home to large numbers of people who are living on the streets, in crisis accommodation and boarding houses. I regularly seek opportunities to work with peak bodies, support services and the government to establish policies and plans to address homelessness. A lack of social and affordable housing and rising cost of living has resulted in a sharp increase in older people facing homelessness. I have seen an increase in older people at risk of homelessness seeking help from my office as they struggle to navigate complex support and accommodation systems unsuited to their circumstance.

I have previously called on the government to lower the priority age for social housing, to fund a specialist service for older people facing or experiencing homelessness and for the provision of new social and community housing.

The NSW Aging on the Edge Forum is a coalition of service providers, peak advocacy bodies and organisations working on the frontline of homelessness among older people. The research and data informing their submission demonstrates an undisputed need for urgent intervention into growing homelessness among older people.

I support all of the forum's recommendations including the following key recommendations;

- Fund a specialist older person's housing information and support service that comprises both an early intervention and crisis response, similar to the HAAG 'Home at Last' model in Victoria.
- Lower the priority age for social housing eligibility from 80 years as a matter of urgency.
- Build 5,000 social and affordable homes per year for 10 years, at least 20 percent of which should be dedicated to older people.

Could you please consider the report made by NSW Ageing on the Edge Forum submission and adopt its recommendations to help reduce homelessness in the state's ageing population?

Yours sincerely

Alex Greenwich
Member for Sydney

Ground Floor, 21 Oxford St Darlinghurst NSW 2010

T 9267 5999 E sydney@parliament.nsw.gov.au alexgreenwich.com.au

