

**Submission  
No 68**

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

**Organisation:** Women's Legal Service NSW

**Date Received:** 14 June 2022

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14 June 2022

The Hon. Scott Barrett, MLC  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Social Issues  
NSW Parliamentary House  
6 Macquarie Street,  
Sydney NSW 2000

By email: [socialissues@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:socialissues@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Chair

### **Inquiry into Homelessness amongst older people aged over 55 in NSW**

1. Women's Legal Service NSW (**WLS NSW**) thanks the Standing Committee on Social Issues for the opportunity to comment on Inquiry into Homelessness amongst older people aged over 55 in NSW.
2. WLS NSW is a specialist accredited women-led community legal centre that aims to achieve access to justice and a just legal system for women in NSW. We seek to promote women's human rights, redress inequalities experienced by women and to foster legal and social change through strategic legal services, community development, community legal education and law and policy reform work. We prioritise women who are disadvantaged by their cultural, social and economic circumstances. We provide specialist legal services relating to domestic and family violence, sexual assault, family law, discrimination, victims support, care and protection, human rights and access to justice.
3. For over twenty years WLS NSW has provided a statewide First Nations Women's Legal Program (**FNWLP**). This program delivers a culturally safe legal service to First Nations women, including regular engagement with communities across NSW. We provide a First Nations legal advice line, casework services including a specialised family law service to assist First Nations women access the family law courts, participate in law reform and policy work, and provide community legal education programs and conferences that are topical and relevant for First Nations women.
4. An Aboriginal Women's Consultation Network supports and enhances the work of the FNWLP. It meets quarterly to ensure that Women's Legal Service NSW delivers a culturally safe service. The members include regional community representatives and the FNWLP staff. There is a representative from the Aboriginal Women's Consultation Network on the WLS NSW Board.
5. WLS NSW is particularly concerned about the gendered impacts of homelessness as a result of domestic and family violence and abuse and the impacts on older women. These concerns are outlined in more detail in the DV NSW submission and NSW Ageing on the Edge Forum submission to this inquiry.
6. We have read and endorse in full the submissions and recommendations of the NSW Ageing on the Edge Forum and DV NSW.



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If you would like to discuss any aspect of this submission, please contact me or Liz Snell, Law Reform and Policy Coordinator on .

Yours faithfully,

**Women's Legal Service NSW**

**Philippa Davis**  
**Principal Solicitor**