

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

**Organisation:** Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing NSW

**Date Received:** 1 June 2022

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27 May 2022

Chair  
Standing Committee on Social Issues  
NSW Parliament House  
6 Macquarie Street  
Sydney NSW 2000  
Via email: [socialissues@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:socialissues@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

### **Endorsing NSW Ageing of the Edge Forum submission**

The NSW Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing (MACA) is the official advisory body to the NSW Government on matters of interest to older people.

The MACA supports the NSW Ageing on the Edge Forum, and its collective action working towards ending homelessness of older people in NSW. The coalition is calling on the NSW Government to:

- 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% of which should be dedicated to older people.

In addition, the MACA supports the recommendations that NSW government:

- Adopt concrete measures to address ageism, sexism, gender and disability discrimination in government services, finance institutions, including banks, and private rental markets.
- Remove unnecessarily burdensome requirements, such as, completion of 'seeker diaries' to maintain temporary accommodation imposed on older people who are already in challenging housing situations.
- Increase transparency and accountability by increasing availability of data including –
  - Social and priority housing waiting list data broken down by age, gender, disability status and geographic area,
  - The number of social and affordable housing dwellings available in NSW, including age and gender breakdown of allocations,
  - The number of dwellings assigned under State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing for Seniors and People with a Disability) (Seniors SEPP) and Public Housing Seniors Communities (PPOPH), and



- The number of dwellings built under the commitments in different housing commitments including the *NSW Homelessness Strategy 2018-2023*, Social and Affordable Housing Fund (SAHF) and Community Housing Innovation Fund (CHIF).
- Provide exemptions to strict documentary evidence for housing applications, including identity documents, especially for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, older people from migrant and refugee backgrounds and older women escaping domestic and family violence to ensure equitable access for all older people.
- Adopt the new mandatory minimum accessibility standards contained in the revised National Construction Code for all future constructions in NSW.

We urge the committee to adopt these recommendations highlighted above and welcome the opportunity to engage with the inquiry process where possible.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K Greiner A.O.".

**Kathryn Greiner AO**  
Chair  
The NSW Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing