

## **Inquiry into the provision and regulation of supported accommodation in Queensland**

**Submission No:** 131  
**Submitted by:** Table Eight  
**Publication:**  
**Attachments:**  
**Submitter Comments:**

Table Eight - Michael Fitzgerald, Ron McBean, Andrew Cotis, Stuart Keay, Noel Stewart, Milan Lazarovic, Grant Kelly

PO Box 324 Mermaid Beach Qld 4218

2nd February 2024  
Committee Secretary  
CSSC  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000  
CC: cssc@parliament.qld.gov.au

RE: INQUIRY INTO THE PROVISION AND REGULATION OF SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION IN QUEENSLAND

Dear Committee Secretary

Subject: Submission to the Community Support and Services Committee Inquiry into Supported Accommodation

Dear Community Support and Services Committee

This submission comes from Table Eight, a social group that morphed through the committee of a large Gold Coast Surf Life Saving Club and meets regularly for **social and intellectual support and discussions**.

The **Public Advocates Report** makes 17 recommendations. All 17 recommendations have merit. Additionally we agree that there needs to be separation between accommodation provider and humanitarian care. In reviewing Supported Accommodation there is **potential** for unwanted or **extremely negative outcomes**. To be appropriate the provision of accommodation to people needing a framework to live independently in the community must recognise that the **'accommodation model' is not isolated to its individual components**; hotel or domestic services like room, food, laundry and cleaning. The client cohort place great pressure on maintenance and cleaning along with staff. They need a caring embrace (metaphoric) **in an ad hoc way, but not on a schedule**.

Specifically, we have several concerns – firstly, the status of people living in their chosen residence defined are **'homeless'**. Secondly the model of care and accommodation that **utilises a congregate living scale to deliver an efficient affordable worthwhile care service is superior and appropriate**, and finally, **the cost to our society must be considered** - if it is appropriate for your mother or my mother to go to a communal or congregate age care home why is it not accepted as optimal for some people living with disability ... or if we consider our childcare system funded to world class why is a similar approach not being pursued for those living with disability and choosing to live in Level 3 Supported Accommodation.

**Homeless Definition**

PO Box 324 Mermaid Beach Qld 4218

The definition of the status of people living in Level 3 supported accommodation as homeless is entirely wrong as the majority of residents seek out Level 3 accommodation as suitable for their long-term needs.

#### **Distinction from Transitional Housing:**

The internationally accepted definition of homelessness, as outlined by authorities such as the United Nations and the US Department of Housing and Urban Development involves,

... lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate night-time residence.

However, the definition includes transitional housing but further states,

... is specifically designed to provide temporary shelter and support, with time limitations, support service requirements, goal orientation, and an eventual move to alternate accommodation.

Level 3 supported accommodation, in contrast, offers a permanent solution with features like collegial support, community framework, domestic support, medication assistance, and organizational support.

Clients of Level 3 Supported Accommodation **are not homeless people** and should not be recorded as such. They choose to live in Level 3.

#### **Communal Living vs. Community Isolation**

We believe that **the communal living model has intrinsic value**, promoting social engagement and shared resources. Smaller group homes and single living units can be preferable for some people however many living with **psycho-social disability have lost their family support network**. The isolated group home fails to recognize the individual's desire for a community framework which plays a crucial role in addressing socialization factors.

<b>Level 3 Accommodation</b>	<b>Smaller Group Home</b>
Smaller social groups within the home allow <b>social variety</b>	<b>Difficult to match</b> cohabitants
<b>Shared</b> resources and expenses bridge the <b>affordability</b> gap	Extremely <b>expensive</b>
While not always suiting some people, communal living allows social interaction when sought. Many have lost their family support network	Social <b>Isolation</b>
Built in flexibility	Rigid timetables or routines
Generally located within access to services	Generally located in affordable remote locations

PO Box 324 Mermaid Beach Qld 4218

### Group Service Delivery V Individual Focus

**Australia has taken the group approach** to delivering age care and childcare. Both recognise the importance of an acceptable building standard. Both systems subsidise and monitor building standards through their accreditation.

Like Age Care and Childcare Level 3 Accommodation is not just the building. It is the Management of the Building in concert with the People.

For example:

<b>Industry</b>	
<b>Building or Accommodation Problem</b>	<b>Building / People management component</b>
<b>Childcare</b>	
Building access problem recognition	Door handle height / lockable safety zones / vehicle onsite movement along with sufficient staff, processes, procedures and training
<b>Age Care</b>	
Emergency problem recognition	Call buttons in the bathroom and at the bedside wired to nurse station and sufficient staff, processes, procedures and training to attend.
<b>Level 3 Accommodation</b>	
Domestic cleaning problem	Inflated domestic hours due to the need to give the typical client counselling support as a routine

When it comes to a building to accommodate physically disable people, building design and staffing are created and funded appropriate to the need. **Physical disability is recognised and catered** for through building design and capital investment and ongoing subsidy for affordability.

### Cost to the Queensland Taxpayer.

A final comment on **equity**. We as a group of average Queenslanders commit to fairness when it comes to the **distribution of wealth, resources and the living amenity in Queensland**. Each of us are responsible for who we are and how we live. As a result of the choices we have made, our efforts and commitment to our values but also ... *the lottery of life ...*

Table Eight - Michael Fitzgerald, Ron McBean, Andrew Cotis, Stuart Keay, Noel Stewart,  
Milan Lazarovic, Grant Kelly

PO Box 324 Mermaid Beach Qld 4218

Some of us **would prefer** not to live sharing with others, not to have to live regionally or an hour from work by train ... but that is just the way it is. Supported Accommodation Level 3 is a **high quality humanitarian accommodation** and care model that through **competition** and our **'free market'** delivers a **dynamically evolving residence** to people who otherwise could be at the mercy of well meaning charities that pay themselves first and broadcast their effort louder than their deed.

In summary, we advocate for the **preservation of the communal living model** within Level 3 supported accommodation and the agility of Private and Free Enterprise to deliver it.

We humbly ask the Community Support and Services Committee to recommend our Government that **funding be appropriated to create sustainability and improve the accommodation supply at a fraction of the cost of delivering the service through government, the Charities;** through the acquisition of hotels or the expansion of hospital beds.

Table Eight  
Grant Kelly