
From: Joe Rocco [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 22 January 2022 3:37 PM
To: Mental Health Select Committee
Subject: Parliament of Australia - Chapter 14 - Dual diagnosis 'The expectation not the exception'

Categories: Submission

ATTENTION:

Mental Health Select Committee

mhsc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Queensland Parliament

https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-Committees/Committees/Committee-Details?cid=226&id=4143&fbclid=IwAR12RyoHZHYNTAvs9rp51ZTjiv2YMNpQlpMT0hNs_v-IWONE7wYru8A

Dear Mental Health Select Committee,

The issue of **social housing** (after food security and climate change) is the most pressing area of social responsibility for governments at all levels.

When I was a child there were many housing commission suburbs in the Brisbane area which also created jobs and social stability. Now we have unacceptable levels of homelessness and food insecurity (refer to Food Bank website) in Queensland as a result of financial hardships largely attributed to rental costs for people on social benefits and pensions in particular.

NOTE: There is a demographic which needs special attention being routinely overlooked which I would like you to read, understand and include. I am referring to people with a mental illness and substance use problems (**Dual Diagnosis**). From first hand knowledge these people **are amongst the most marginalised and disadvantaged in our society**. Most have had a number of hospital admissions and have been discharged (on Mental Health Orders for instance) with little prospect of stable housing to help the long recovery process.

The following from the Parliament of Australia encapsulates the problem quite well:

Parliament of Australia - Chapter 14 -

Dual diagnosis 'The expectation not the exception'

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Former_Committees/mentalhealth/report/c14

I therefore plead that you act on the **dual diagnosis** plight of sufferers and provide social housing on their discharge from hospital or if they are or have been on a Mental Health Order for instance to provide a long term housing option and potentially break the homelessness despair and hospital admission and discharge cycle promoting recovery and a saving to the hospital system and government.

I pray that you will read, consider and act on the issues outlined above to safeguard a fair share of social housing for people suffering from dual diagnosis mental health issues. They are invariably locked out of NIDS afforded to the physically visible people with wheelchairs that the public can instantly sympathise with.

I wish you the very best and would like to hear from you.

Yours Sincerely

Joe Rocco
Justice of the Peace (Qualified)

References Include:

- **Parliament of Australia - Chapter 14 - Dual diagnosis 'The expectation not the exception'**
https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Former_Committees/mentalhealth/report/c14

- **Rental Affordability Index reveals the cost of rent now skyrocketing in some Queensland regions**
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-11-26/rai-rental-market-approaching-catastrophe-queensland/100651346>
- **Public housing in Sweden** <https://www.sverigesallmannnytta.se/in-english/public-housing-in-sweden/>
- **Foodbank** <https://www.foodbank.org.au/?state=qld>