

In response to the.....Productivity Commission's Review.....of the

Housing & Homelessness Agreement Review

By Evan Bichara...

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What we need doing is to Open Avenues for further collaboration on the Homelessness Crisis. We need to involve People experiencing Homelessness in Finding these Solutions, Answers & The Way Forward with this true Pandemic.

Every Human Being , Young or Old, deserves Safety, Support & Opportunities to reach their Full Potential. The Solution to Homelessness is Simple.....it is "**Housing**"and even though how simple it is in finding an answer we still grapple with it year after year.

We should envisage keeping the local Community of any area informed through Open Forum events encouraging Residents to interact openly with their Local Community on this very important topic...and not to brush it under the carpet when it gets too difficult to handle. However though face to face gatherings are deemed a no-no at these current times but virtual connections are always at hand and may occur easily and very openly with the wider Community of interested People.

Addressing the root causes of Poverty Homelessness & issues of affordable Housing have important structural factors that will solve Homelessness through our vast land.....but we need to speak more on this, act more on this and encourage others to doing the same.

We have governments deployed to this task. Bilateral Schedules between State / Territory governments with the Commonwealth Government have been designed. A Housing & Homelessness Policy created. Individual Strategies / Priorities put in place through State / Territories throughout Australia, and yet we cannot eliminate this pandemic of Homelessness from our Continent...let alone reduce it in scale.

What has gone wrong?

Maybe the Agreement on this topic needs to reflect better at what is actually happening on the ground level of Homelessness People. We need to encourage more of these People to voice their concerns & improving their potential in getting them to speak up more.....generate the answers from these People who might exactly have what we are attempting to grasp at for a long-long time.

WE should aim to allow only short periods of Homelessness and not allow it to escalate to becoming chronic Homelessness for the individual. We should allow People to access accommodation at their own choice by increasing rent supplements to match market rents as they stand today. We should introduce Tax Incentives to the Landlord who took a Homelessness Person as a Tenant & provide greater security for the Homelessness Tenant by regulating their rent through additional government subsidies.

We definitely need to revisit our Agreement to allow it to reflect on some of those current issues pointed out in my submission raised earlier. I do not have the magic wand and I am sure none of us do in eradicating this Homelessness completely but considering a different angle, a different approach or even listening more to those who have experienced Homelessness more; those who have lived the experience of rough living we may find ourselves with different results more viable more honorable and less futile in removing our Homelessness from our Community as a whole.

I forward this submission with great respect that something gets done for our vulnerable community the Homelessness People of Australia.
