

At Risk: Older women facing homelessness in Australia, 4 August 2020

References, questions, suggestions and ideas from the Chat function:

(these have been loosely sorted for ease of reference)

- I think it's important to tell more stories as Emma (Power) is doing, it enables us to relate more. Related comments included:
 - There are the older single women who can't afford to rent and live with friends and housesit [except covid has crashed housesitting opportunities]. I live in Australia as a NZ citizen so I can't get any benefits or go on housing lists. I can't afford to rent and have no home. I'm trying to do something to reimagine home and have been doing research on the range of options for home including collaborative housing [hi WINC] and multi tenure housing options that are beautiful, affordable, connected, sustainable and powerful. Shelter WA and Connect Vic Park have supported my research and we hope to launch it and a look book of examples by November. Marie Ann's story is so true. I did retail work - poorly paid and part-time so I experienced high rental stress and had to eventually leave. Had to choose between shelter and food. My issues are about income and not intelligence or social capital. This is a wicked problem that requires strong government [at all levels] will and resources.
 - I too have lived experience of being without a home. I am fascinated how many Uni graduates/professional women end up in this cohort.
 - I'm Anna, 55, homeless
 - I am Jane Mears, an older woman, Zooming in from the RPAH COVID positive Virtual Hospital. Well housed, safe and comfortable at the moment.
 - I also have lived experience of homeless over my life course due to multiple risk factors.
 - The lived experience stories from women from all walks of life are so critical to growing community understanding and awareness. This project informed by community volunteers also identified the impact of family violence on leading to housing risks and the importance of protective social support networks so women are visible
https://issuu.com/familylifeau/docs/catch_up_report_online?e=21986870/70265660
 - I am a professional woman aged 62yrs - currently on Jobseeker - and have personally been on this same insecure housing journey too!! High rents over 40% weekly income; regional tourist location with disappearing permanent rentals (due to AirBnB); already used up \$40,000 of my equity in a HL and Superannuation to survive before CentreLink granted me JobSeeker (4 mths). Multiple life setbacks of sole parenting, illness due to high stress, chronic disease, faced age discrimination in employment as I get older.....I have approached multiple sources for assistance to get some Co-Housing options available in Qld regional areas but every organisation - Govt, Business, Community say it is just too hard - major reason given is high land and development costs.

- I'm finding myself getting quite upset & angry about the impact of all of this on this mass of vulnerable women. We need to engage progressive women (middle class women) into this discussion.
- Crisis centres often don't feel safe.
- It is hard to get support, hard to find, fobbed off by so many organisations.
- I'd like to ask "where is family support in all of this" . I had a wonderful father who helped me at certain points. But the rest of the family zero! I think we need to education THE IMMEDIATE FAMILY who may suspect they have a member who is at risk of homelessness. signs to look for. My family are middle class, some very wealthy.....never an offer of help (except my father, who drove with a trailer in a storm 2 hours to help me find a bed.
- As another woman with lived experience I did go to my local housing department office when I was first homeless - and was told that there was nothing available (I was not considered at risk) and wouldn't be anything for years if I went on the housing list. This "official message" As I understood it gave me the impression I was on my own. So started 3 years of transient, insecure, housing situations.
- When I left my marriage I had nowhere to go, I spent all of my time raising a family and so I was out there, confused and lost, friends stepped in and assisted and we managed to get me to a safe place
- Our elderly women are suffering especially after losing a partner and finding themselves all alone and looking for affordable housing
- I spent half a dozen years living a 'glamorous' lifestyle, travelling the world, because I could not afford renting somewhere to live. It worked because I had many friends and a big family around the world, so I only had to pay for the round the world ticket. Making myself useful cooking, babysitting, gardening, repairing clothes, etc. But it is a hard life having suitcases in many countries with a change of clothes and no place to hoard my own things.
- My immediate family are wealthy with investment properties and AirBnB properties. At the beginning of the COVID lockdown one brother offered me three weeks in his AirBnB rental if I painted it while I was there.
- I'm the 'black sheep; i.e. the victim of childhood family abuse.
- I'm talking about women's housing crisis in every social group I'm connected to.
- Sometimes older women get very tired of living in housing stress. no energy left sometimes
- Thanks for the inspiration to keep working on my ideas for how to create better options for women like my mum, who have worked hard their whole lives but have no superannuation and now live on the pension, to secure quality, safe housing in good areas.
- Mary-Anne Wright, thank you so much for giving this topic a story and a face. The story of anyone who works hard in insecure labour - which is the story of too many women.
- Awesome thank you. Well worth taking time out of my work day. I'm looking down the barrel to homelessness so just the resources will be of great assistance to me.

- Ideas and projects:
 - Wendy, Housing Research Officer from Connect Victoria Park, currently researching affordable, safe, secure, housing in the south east metro area of Perth. We will be soon gathering together a small group of women in housing stress to assist them in finding suitable housing. We are running a program "Connect with Home" to assist older single women in housing stress to find safe secure housing in the areas of Belmont, South Perth, Canning and the Town of Victoria Park. Women living in housing stress in the Perth area, please contact <https://www.connectvictoriapark.org/>
 - Sisters Support Business Together: empowering women over 50 at risk of homelessness by building their skills and confidence and taking them through a small business journey. www.sisterssupportbusinessstogether.com
 - Anyone interested in doing research on this issue in the Jewish community, contact president@ncjwa.org.au / National Council of Jewish Women Australia
 - What about an online noticeboard for offering accommodation auspiced by a good organisation/s so people needing somewhere to live and people who have space and want to share their homes with older homeless or at risk of being homeless women. Responses included: We have a new Project launching in the first week in September that will provide resolution to much of what is being discussed. This is an Australian first. We were held up due to COVID but are near launch now. If anyone is interested in knowing more, please email me on KarenR@theequanimityproject.org.
 - Is it possible that the participants here can be a loose network where we can share work in this area with each other? I'd love there to be some sort of bank of women available to talk on this issue so we can offer lots of community groups - even rotary, lions, apex, ncwa, churches, local governments - if everyone can put it on their agenda that would help
 - Hub idea: that is a great idea Kay Patterson. Collaboration and sharing of knowledge and resources is the way forward. We need a list of everyone involved state to state so we can work together effectively and efficiently instead of reinventing the wheel every time; great idea; I would love to be in any network that is arranged please; agree with the hub idea; send us all an invitation to be on a group mailing list, on an email address; It would be great if all the ideas have emerged through this chat could be brought together and shared. It would be a great resource; Could we create an Ideas and Solutions network as a product from this presentation. If the numbers are great enough, government becomes attentive; Is there a Facebook group that we could all continue this discussion in and share more resources and info, collaborate, etc?!; Thank-you to the organisers and the great speakers. It would be great to have regular check-ins via Zoom to support local and regional work happening everywhere. We have a long way to go.
 - My name is Caroline Valente and I'm a PhD student at UTS. My PhD research is looking at energy poverty (inability to pay energy bills, restricting energy use at home to reduce bills or spending a high proportion of income on energy costs)

among older Australians on the age pension. I'm aware many older women in the private rental sector also struggle with their energy bills mainly due to the very tight budget.

I'm doing interviews to investigate how energy poverty affects their health and wellbeing.

I wonder whether you would know some older women in the private rental sector facing energy poverty and/or would be willing to be interviewed in the case that you have been experiencing these issues.

If you'd like to know more about my research, I'm happy to provide more information. Email: caroline.portovalente@student.uts.edu.au. Phone: 0406 671 148

- There is something that can be done immediately to alleviate utility bills, particularly with covid and people locked down. The State could support energy concessions ie. gas bills for more than the 3mths of winter. in Victoria I found out that concessions on gas are only for winter months (from AGL). Lobbying state govts to apply rebates for covid period where concessions not applied and implement ongoing concessions for gas for 12mths.
- An angel type service to put women in touch with other women to learn and access buying houses under tenants in common arrangements. In my work I have met people who are on Jobseeker and may have inherited a small amount, not enough to buy and get out of rental but could link with others, combine for a deposit to buy under the tenants in common arrangement. Response: mortgagemates.com.au
- We need a program of identifying Ethical Landlords, ordinary landlords who do the right thing. a program that encourage better behaviour, something that becomes a badge of honour.
- In addition to homelessness, there is the additional need for free wifi access and mobile phone access. Everything is now only searchable via the internet and public phones are non-existent. Access to all the resources everyone is talking about requires a reliable phone number and emails the homeless can be contacted on. I know there have been some actions along these lines, but please also please continue being proponents for digital access for the homeless as well. Response: Better Life Mobile is a great program set up to provide safe and secure mobile phone service for people experiencing homelessness and disadvantage.
- I think it is time that the very profitable Housing Development & Construction / Real Estate & Property sectors in Australia stepped up to assist older women - eg. key message to ALL the blokes in those industries is: "Think about your own Mum - what can you do to assist the nation's older women"?
- If there is a way to partner with Helen Conway or anyone else that wishes to partner with us. We have Agape Outreach Inc. serving the homeless and needy from Byron Bay NSW to Runaway Bay QLD we provide food support, clothing, case management, psychologist, alcohol and drug support classes. We are looking to access housing or raise the funds to open housing.

- Melissa Holmes: I work for Stepping Out Program, supporting survivors of childhood sexual abuse to live in the community - we see a lot of older women at risk of homelessness. I have two questions: 1) can we share recorded session on social media and 2) will we be sent all the amazing links coming through on chat?
- For access to free digital skills programs for older Australians check out the Be Connected program and look for a local community group to support you <https://www.goodthingsfoundation.org.au/projects/be-connected-network#:~:text=Be%20Connected%20is%20an%20Australian,coordinates%20the%20Be%20Connected%20Network>.
- We at Women's Legal Service Vic are working on improving financial outcomes after relationship breakdown. see our Small Claims, Large Battles campaign and final report: <https://www.womenslegal.org.au/creating-change/small-claims%2c-large-battles.html>
- Hello everyone, thank you for this forum. I am making a documentary about this crisis - older women and homelessness. If you or anyone you know would like to share your story/ideas/solutions with me, please do. Email thommosue@bigpond.com or under.cover.doco@gmail.com
- We are looking for 1-2 new Board Directors to join Baptcare Affordable Housing, which has a focus on older women. If you are interested in joining our Board, please get in contact with me at jfleming@baptcare.org.au. Baptcare Affordable Housing has approximately 100 units of housing and several developments underway in Victoria with a handful in Tasmania.
- Reality is there has to be a RANGE of options available to suit the diversity of women at risk - in terms of actual housing need/ caring requirements/ financial models/ housing design/ socio-cultural needs/ personal preferences for privacy vs social activity. Maybe Think Global/ Act Local!!
- I'm working on developing ways to make sharing easier for older women to help them financially and socially.
- Hi Everyone. The Australian Centre for Social Innovation is looking to catalyse change at many levels of Australia's Home and Housing systems. Please have a look - if anything sounds relevant to you, please get in contact. <https://www.tacsi.org.au/future-of-home/>
- Sunshine Coast has Better Together Housing - a national award-winning program for older women that connects older women living alone in their own properties with potential female co-residents. Run by Sundale (aged care provider) and Coast2Bay Housing (a Tier2 community housing provider). Work like a "dating service" for older women.....it's one option only, but it does work for some.
- Housing design / options:
 - Mignon Mukti: I have drawn up a prototype for a sustainable women's wisdom eco village that I would love to talk to someone about.
 - We're working on something similar in Daylesford. do you want to get in touch? president@winccohousing.org.au. Older Women In Cohousing (WINC) a 30 unit women's cohousing community being built in Daylesford.
 - Angela Ballard: As a rental housing researcher I have codesigned a model based in co-living,, shared equity, CHP rental and community land trust. feel free to connect. We need to move beyond existing offerings. Ensemble model designed to do that but needs CHP and government support. angela.m.ballard@gmail.com

- Is there anyone in Brisbane/Queensland interested in working towards an older women's cohousing project in the area? email me on aussidi@gmail.com
- Hi, Anzara here. I am on the Steering Committee of Living Tiny in the Valley. We are an (in development) intergenerational eco village using the 'tiny house' model to establish a sustainable, low impact community. Unsurprisingly, there are a number of older women who aren't eligible for social housing but don't have enough to purchase a home outright, in this community.
- Hi all, it's Wallace here. I am a strategic finance specialist with a deep interest in solving social issues such as, homelessness especially for the older women. I am interested in learning more about various housing models for this cohort and see how I might be able to help drive capital into new developments. Please feel free to connect with me via email wallace.fan@fidenspartners.com.au
- Anyone here interested in bringing TinyHouse communities as one of the solutions? Excellent point about Tiny Houses... it IS one of the many possible solutions. How can I get council to agree???
- Don't forget high rise and dense housing is a contributing factor in the spread of covid....less fortunate in our hotspots
- Co-housing is very expensive!
- Would love to hear about examples of build to rent models if anyone can share. Response: The Build to Rent model is fine.... but the current proposal in NSW will NOT require the resulting dwellings to be allocated to lower-income people. Will likely go to employed, key workers (relatively well off). Check out the rents on current units being rented under these models. They are NOT affordable
- My research has found retirement villages have rentals!!
- We also have some people that are living on their own in larger properties that are socially isolated and lonely so there is also an additional solution for home sharing for some people that it suits
- How about council change regulations on what defines a home? I thought I'd buy some land and put a granny flat on it. Not possible because of housing regulations.
- Houses for multiple occupancy HMOs are a new thing in Australia..... developers and real estate folks need to get on board.....
- Meanwhile use/transitional housing:
 - Community Shelters is making 'meanwhile use' of properties in the planning cycle in NSW to provide transitional housing for up to three years for women over 55 with a guaranteed path to permanent housing with community housing providers on exit. Our Beecroft House project is housing 20 older women and we're about to double that in another property. Here is our Beecroft House Project: <https://www.facebook.com/BeecroftHouse/>
 - <https://housingallaustralians.org.au/> is the organisation Helen mentioned that has partnered with YWCA in the Pop-Up Shelter in Melbourne. We are really passionate about the work we do in this space and our pop-up shelters have been accommodating women over 55. We are always looking for empty buildings for more pop-ups.
 - We need to convert all those empty retail, office and unused real estate spaces into living areas for women. What about all of the empty public service buildings

that are now available in Canberra? Is anyone looking into this, does anyone know?

- Dignity Ltd would be very interested too. We offer safe and good temporary accommodation for two weeks with a guarantee to find suitable safe and affordable housing after that time
- Canterbury Bankstown LGA requires a transitional house for women over 55 yrs old for 3 years? Womens Community Shelters... great work... establishing the DV crisis home in our area.
- There are 1000's of empty buildings around Australia which we can use for short term shelter while we build more housing.
- There is a ninety bed three floor building that was a student hostel in the nineties. Perfectly able to be provided as temporary accommodation or short-term affordable accommodation to those in need of affordable accommodation. No action has been taken to find a community response to make this available. Given the crisis in accommodation and more importantly to older women why can this not be accessed.
- Services:
 - I cannot stress the importance of using bicultural and bilingual community workers to assist the CALD women experiencing vulnerabilities and being at risk of homelessness!
 - How are the disparate homelessness services in regional areas connected? Are they?
 - As one of 9 Diversity Advisors (Commonwealth Home Support Program) in Victoria - our focus is on intersectional lens - how broad is that! Within service provider organisations workers may not have connected meaningfully with the homelessness service on the next office or building
 - I am working with the Seniors Enquiry Line's Housing Chats Helpline. This is a telephone-based information and referrals service. We can provide tailored information and support to Seniors around their housing concerns. This line is currently operating 8am-8pm seven days a week - 1300 135 500 - <https://seniorsenquiryline.com.au/>
 - Building better links between women's support services and the Aged care sector is incredibly important. We are working with Twilight Aged Care, who started 120 years ago supporting what were then called 'women who had fallen on hard times'. Working with values aligned organisations creates such great solutions!
 - HAAG's Home at Last:
 - Yumi Lee: Mary-Ann is highlighting the absolute need for 'Home At Last' service run by HAAG - an information and case management to support older people to find secure housing. We're trying to get the NSW government to trial this model in NSW through Ageing on the Edge Coalition. Response: Yumi - we at Shelter NSW would like to learn more about that... to support you. how do I contact you?
cathy@shelternsw.org.au
 - ...and to extend into rural and regional areas

- In Qld we are also trying to persuade all parties in the leadup to state election that a Home At Last call centre/service is vital (affiliated through Q Shelter)
 - Thank-you Mary Ann it is clear how important personalised support is essential on a continuum of the transition to a safe and affordable housing option is available, when a place is found that meets your needs then to move, and settle and navigate a range of services and community supports as well as the opportunity to give back. The HAAG model of service and support needs to be replicated across Australia. We are keen to see this model at work in Qld.
 - In WA, we worked with HAAG on their Ageing on the Edge working group and launched our report in 2019. We launched it in WA parliament, and you can see a copy and my speech on the HAAG site.
<https://www.older tenants.org.au/national-action/western-australia> It reiterates so much of what's being said here. The WA working group, I'm cochair with Luke Garswood of Connect Vic Park, has decided to keep working together to see if we can make the recommendations real. We've put together a proposal for a Seniors Housing Information and Support Service based on HAAGs home at last service. We're meeting with Dept of Communities and relevant ministers to get it funded.
 - It costs nothing to become a member of HAAG and keep this great organisation going and growing.
- Ref social/community housing:
 - I'm currently in the housing NSW system for 8 yrs. This is the second transfer I'm in this time due to neighbours being drug dealers and severely anti-social hoarding issues this unit is unsafe. I have been waiting for an emergency priority transfer for 10 months now. I suffer from severe PTSD due to domestic violence as an older woman.
 - This situation is prevalent in for those living in Social Housing too. It is not as affordable as people think
 - Some Tenants in Social/Community Housing are struggling and living in inappropriate housing too. I am seeing "Affordable Housing" that is very Unaffordable too.
 - I was in Public Housing NSW and the Estate I lived in was sold off by the NSW Govt and many of our Tenants were over 55, the bullying and harassment that happened there was awful. I fought as hard as I could but eventually went over to Community Housing. I still do not know where my elderly Neighbours are so Seniors are being treated badly everywhere!
 - I have lived experience similar to the stories Emma has spoken about but this is within the housing system.
 - Suggest: we need dedicated social housing just for women ONLY
 - I moved into public housing earlier this year with NO support. After 4 months I have not been offered any support from anyone. I have met with other tenants and the stories are disturbing. Why would they put vulnerable older women in housing next door to sex offenders and murderers? Why is there no support at all? It is not easy to find help, especially during Covid. Response: Dianne Hill, we have homeless older women who told us that they would rather sleep in Central

Station than stay in the type of accommodation you mention because of the exact problems you outlined.

- I feel safer about transient insecure housing than the prospect of public housing.
- I'm living in Social Housing with my 13-year-old. The rent takes most of my JobSeeker payment. We live on the edge constantly with nothing much left over each week for basic necessities
- There are many housing stock that are empty because they need major maintenance.
- They say they spend a lot of money on maintenance, but I know for a fact they send several sub-contractors to quote then nothing gets done. two years plus later.
- Many places empty in my area and CHPs are trying to get them ready but contract problems with FACS. Broadspectrum is causing hold ups...one house empty for 9 months
- Social Housing model in Austria is amazing. Hardly any homelessness. People have homes for life with support services
- Finland has a very good program, housing and money for everyone
- Here in NSW we are put with some dangerous Tenants, it is very scary and some of them do not appear to have support
- If you do take inappropriate housing, you just end up on the transfer list sometimes for years and you're living with these drug dealers and severely antisocial neighbours.
- I have advocated for many Tenants with my CHP and they do listen, quite a few people have been moved for safety and been put into appropriate housing. At least I have a voice as I became an actual Member of my CHP.
- Are women classified as SENIOR at 55? I have been told it is 80 in NSW.
Response: 80 is the age that you qualify to be put on the priority waiting list for housing in NSW; Yes, Older Women's Network is working with other organisations to persuade the NSW govt to lower the age.
- Advocacy, the role of governments and proposed action:
 - There is a large amount of Social Housing needed, families are waiting for up to 15 years in Sydney and there needs to be purpose built Senior Housing as a matter of urgency. there is far too much talk and not enough action and this wonderful Forum can hopefully get some action happening!
 - An innovative solution - build social housing - make sure you all sign up to the National campaign - <https://everybodyshome.com.au/>
 - Building social and affordable housing can support the construction industry, employment and the economy. Please get onto your local Federal MP and tell them it's important. And, of course, many more thousands will be tipped into marginal housing or outright homelessness due to Covid.
 - I hope everyone sends the links to this event to their local, state and federal members.
 - If you are going to wait for government, we will be waiting for ever!!!!
 - The increasing need for social housing combined with the lack of federal government action in this area is concerning

- We cannot afford to wait for governments to solve this problem - political will isn't presently there. We must innovate our own solutions on the ground and then bring Governments along with us. Private Sector partnerships, philanthropy and community can all play a part.
- It's now a scale because it's been pushed aside for a very long time.
- Please go to <https://bit.ly/OWNHome> to find a brief outline of the roles of state and commonwealth in housing. It also provides the Older Women's Network's policy recommendations on addressing homelessness of older women.
- Maybe instead of relying and waiting on the gov't to solve the issues, involving philanthropists, applying for grants, and combining citizen power and churches will address the issues at grass-roots levels!
- Huge government buildings; churches with huge buildings and carpark.....
- The polities making decisions about this should be living on the income of our aged care workers or childcare workers for a year. Their financial security puts them so far out of touch with this issue.
- What is the name of the federal minister again please? Response: Luke.Howarth.mp@aph.gov.au or other contact details available here: <http://lukehowarth.com.au/contact-luke/>
- Good idea to write to Luke Howarth. At the launch of National Homelessness Week yesterday, he said he's wondering "How to get the figures down" He said he is "not opposed to investment in social housing". We need to move him from 'not opposed' to 'fully support' investment in social housing.
- Is the issue that dollars for poor people is too "lefty"? The optics don't work that well for LNP?. Response: It will take an ideological shift, but we can help it along
- Helen I totally agree with you about government wanting solutions but heavens there are so many public bureaucrats and consultants that get paid to actually try to come up with solutions and are failing miserably.
- In NSW, developers are making a lot of money out of building high-rise (sometimes on public land). We need mandatory inclusionary zoning to ensure that the public gets a fair share of the extra value (\$\$\$) the development creates. And that value is a greater number of social and affordable housing. We need a mass response. the small programs - while often innovative, don't add up to bridging the current gap. Response: Developers here in my area usually allocate 6 units (out of sometimes 3,000 units) to Council then put forward for Affordable Housing
- Don't encourage private developers what we need is public housing
- The Community Housing Industry Association (CHIA) is currently advocating strongly for Federal investment in social housing. See <https://www.communityhousing.com.au/> for details of the Social Housing Acceleration and Renovation Program (SHARP). It addresses a number of the issues that have been raised in this forum.
- I think that sectors do work well together and have been putting the solution to federal and state Govt for years however the priority just isn't there. Response: I agree. The PWC Constellation project & their 'Unlocking Private Investment' for social and affordable housing is one example - I think the Private sector is quite amazed that the Federal Government does not pick this up. CHIA SHARP

proposal is another example of the sector working together. Government has never seen provision of social housing as a priority - we get some scraps as stimulus funding to address a crisis & provide employment & assist economically - its never seen as vital infrastructure - it needs to be given this status!

- Kay Patterson, I like the suggestion that you have provided about local governments pressuring developers to create space for social housing
- Following on from Kay's comments, urban planning policies and practices need more social housing requirements. It needs to be featured in all strategic plans, especially at local government levels
- Government CAN fund solutions and invest in public housing. Look at the COVID stimulus package for an example, or their subsidies of extractive industries.
- Womens Electoral Lobby NSW is currently campaigning on older women's housing and homelessness.
- In Qld Zonta is writing to all candidates in upcoming state election (oct) to ask for their specific policies on homelessness in older women
- ACT elections in October. Victorian Council elections in October. probably others. we should be asking candidates what they propose to mitigate risk of women and homelessness if they are elected
- HAAG has a national project attempting to connect people on housing justice for older people - you can join our email list and keep up to date by joining our e-list <https://www.older tenants.org.au/ageing-edge-national-action-project>
- Hi Helen, Industry Super Funds have looked at how the sector could meet fiduciary responsibilities while working with others to assist with investment in affordable and social housing however there is always a need for commitment from and partnerships with all levels of Government as well as working with community organisations.
- One of the big barriers to solving these issues is how parochial Australia can be. So many of these issues are funded and discussed at the State Level, and people are oblivious to initiatives happening outside their own state. We also need to reach outside the 'sector' to help solve this.
- Emma Power these are great points and we should remember the demise of social housing back during Margaret Thatcher's term in Government in the UK. Australia just follows some of these extremes. I was appalled when I heard the Federal Treasurer referring to Thatcher and Reagan on social housing. Interesting that the UK Government has a Minister for Loneliness and this appears to be a significant social issue for older women living on their own. Suzie Riddell, I think we not only need to keep talking about we need to be making appointments with our local elected members and tell them that we want action NOW.
- I think every politician should have to undertake an women's homelessness program that is mandatory. priorities might change if they truly understand the barriers that women face ...
- I worked for a State MP for over 4 years. Nothing focuses your mind more (as a MP or staffer) than having a woman in your office telling you her story and asking for help. We need to support women to front up and demand support. especially when the 'system' has failed them.
- Could local councils reduce rates of private homeowners if they provided housing to vulnerable women (even one)

- Also, give developers height/density concessions if they commit numbers of properties to transitional/affordable housing for 10 years.
- Need advice on how to overcome negative community responses. Our council is trying to build on 'spare land' and getting NIMBY backlash.
- To Emma's point about 'value capture'. this was my point about requiring 'mandatory inclusionary zoning'. we the people are NOT getting the public benefit from this. and some of the development is on public land!!
- Anyone on the chat interested in supporting the work of improving housing insecurity in NSW should join Ageing on the Edge. Contact me - manager@ownnsw.org.au
- In Victoria, state govt is selling land "surplus to requirements" that could be used for public housing. For a list of the land for sale <https://www.older tenants.org.au/build-public-housing-public-land>.
- Yes we have a local builder (loaded) who is always interested in supporting 'social projects'
- Homebuilder. What a wasted opportunity that is. Don't let a politician tell you it has been a good program. total dud.
- I read something yesterday about asking the government to fund social housing which would employ tradies to help with the economy and build much needed housing for society. 30,000 houses was mentioned.
- I am a member of Soroptimist International as well as Older Women's Network and I see a huge opportunity for both these organisations to advocate for this very important issue.
- <https://everybodyshome.com.au/>
- I think that over the next 10 years the older population, being the predominant voters will have a voice that might finally be heard by government.
- Just a suggestion, I am a member of The Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) and a quick google search shows membership data I have just pasted in here "Our membership of more than 45,000 includes directors and senior leaders from business, government and the not-for-profit sectors. We are a national organisation with seven state and territory divisions. Our national Board, which consists of up to 12 directors, is our governing body." If you want the content of this Webinar to reach the most influential leaders in Australia, could I suggest we reach out to the leadership of the AICD to access this audience?
- National Alliance for Senior's Housing, www.older tenants.org.au/nash
- <https://web-eur.cvent.com/event/e076c7aa-5aac-4c1d-8648-c3d4c1a553ec/summary?environment=production-eu> QShelter is offering a focus on local govt and housing related matters in these Zoom sessions held over three sessions in the coming weeks.
- Gender inequality:
 - This is a big issue with the factor of women's participation in the workplace, women doing the lowest paid jobs in the economy and jobs being mostly access to casual work with no benefits or certainty
 - Income support and age/gender discrimination in the workplace are critical issues regarding older single women at risk and experiencing homelessness.

Older single women are often seen as invisible, silent and well behaved - time to change that folks

- We need far more women in policymaking positions
 - Perhaps an intersectional lens - that goes beyond the broad 'women' identity. Response: an intersectional gender lens - that includes the increased risk and disadvantage experienced by LGBTIQ+ people
 - Also, many women don't wake up saying 'my housing stress is the result of structural and gender inequity'. They think it's their fault and the poverty shaming culture in Australia doesn't help
 - Women are so used to being the carer and find it difficult to speak up when they need some care and assistance. Women are always putting others first. In our research we found it was like family violence - women were ashamed to speak up.
 - Very hard for many of us women to ask for help as we are the helpers and believe we must solve the problem ourselves.
 - We are amazing in our strength and resilience, and carry heavy loads
 - Need to address the cultural norms in early childhood care as well. Everyone should have equal access to substantial parental leave. The onus falls too much on women.
 - I agree Helen about the need to revise the social norms for women.
 - Gender Lens on policy (and practice) is the way to go - but do know that every time I raise this issue in the local govt setting, I get howled down by the white, middle-class, entitled men (and some women!) that gender disarm is a thing of the past.....
 - Women's party recently launched, to get more women elected
 - I wonder if it is a problem with our culture.....would other cultures allow their older matriarchs become homeless....
 - Re family support, in my experience I have seen that the family is nowhere to be seen when mum needs them the most... but once mum is back on her feet - the kids come back - its horrible to watch - especially if they get any kind of money from a family court settlement
 - Perhaps traditional women's orgs like CWA, ZONTA etc, can take up the cause - they have some influence with this current Federal Govt and in regional areas....
 - Hi Helen, thanks, I would love to talk to you more about how we change social norms for women please. My email is joannetindale@gmail.com
 - Urgently need more women in councils, state and federal government because of the gender lens.
 - Tsunami and then younger women not able ever to buy a house.
 - All of the stimulus seems to be gendered towards male professions as wellquite interesting to look at where the money has gone on stimulus and what jobs were male dominated
- Other:
 - Re: older single women not turning up in the numbers - there have not been that many places available! Our shelters supporting women without dependents have been consistently full since they opened. You can't count the people you can't accommodate, except in 'turnaway' figures.

- On the point of the need for more data, there is a need for the translation and interpretation of the already existing data and move to action
- The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare define an older Australian as aged 65 years and older. Responses: There is a definition for "prematurely aged" as well; But employers classify 'older' as 50 and above; homelessness is one of the criteria for that "prematurely aged" label; Australia also has a relatively large population of its population aged 65 and older - 15% (2017); And Centrelink has policies for 55 and above, offering alternative options on mutual obligation when on JobSeeker; For Commonwealth Home Support prog eligibility over 50's (45 for ATSI)
- Diane Spicer: If there are any part-time jobs in this industry where I can contribute my experience and knowledge, I'd be happy to apply!!!(Victoria)