Title: Take action to address older people’s homelessness

I am a resident of your electorate. As a constituent and a voter, I am writing to bring your attention to an issue that is of concern for many people in our local community.

With a decline in home ownership at retirement age, unprecedented increases in house prices and a reduction in social and affordable housing stock in Australia, older people are experiencing significant housing challenges and are at increased risk of homelessness. Older women are the fastest growing cohort of people experiencing homelessness in Australia. This is a national issue that is affecting older people across the country, including older people in your electorate.

Multiple changes are required to our housing, retirement, social services and income support systems to address this issue meaningfully. If you and your colleagues take action now, we can reduce future social and economic costs and avoid additional pressure on already stretched health, homelessness and crisis response services.

I support the recommendations of Housing for the Aged Action Group (HAAG) and reiterate that the Federal Government must:

1. Increase the availability of safe, affordable and appropriate housing for older people at risk of and experiencing homelessness.
2. Invest in service systems to support older people before they reach crisis.
3. Address ageism and gender inequality in Australia.

More information about these recommendations is available on the HAAG website https://www.oldertenants.org.au/.

I look forward to hearing from you on this important community issue.