

# parity

## A Call for Contributions – August 2020

### The August 2020 *“Supporting and Sustaining Tenancies in Community Housing”* edition of *Parity*

#### Introduction

Since the 1980s community housing has played a growing role in providing housing to people seeking to exit from homelessness

This growth has been driven by a range of government funding and property transfer initiatives across the country, as state governments have tried to find more cost effective models of delivering housing for low-income households. Funding for community housing growth has increasingly been contingent on community housing organisations (CHOs) contributing equity and/or taking on debt to deliver new social housing dwellings, and state governments have used this as a way to bring outside investment into social housing.

While this is not the appropriate place to discuss this here, the increased and enhanced role of community housing in responding to homelessness has taken place alongside the ongoing decline, across all jurisdictions, in the provision of public housing.

As the community housing sector has grown, there has been increasing concerns that access to social housing has become more confusing to navigate. This led to developments in many jurisdictions of a single waiting list for access to social housing, that is to both state provided public housing and community housing provided by not-for-profit housing organisations (CHOs). This has eased access to housing for many who were on the “priority” waiting list, and reduced the complexity in applying for social housing.

While there are many arguments for and against the policy of growing the stock of community housing, rather than public housing, one of the main perceived benefits of working through community housing providers is that as social landlords, they have a stronger engagement with tenants and a broader understanding of the social circumstances that impact on their tenancy, and likewise, have a greater commitment to supporting tenants to sustain and successfully maintain their tenancy.

This commitment is evidenced by the development and implementation of services and programs to support their tenants, and in particular, to support and assist those tenants considered most at risk of losing their housing for one reason or another.

These services and programs are either provided by community housing organisations directly or through external partner agencies and services.

Although in the past there was a clear policy aim of disconnect between the provision of housing and support, now there are a range of ways in which CHOs act to assist and support their tenants.

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The aim of this edition is to examine and discuss the work and the success of community housing providers in supporting and sustaining their tenants in their housing.

### A Framework for Discussion

#### Part 1: Community Housing as Social Landlords

*This section is devoted to discussing what makes community housing organisations as social landlords distinct and qualitatively different from other housing providers.*

- What are the benefits of being a social landlord in terms of how CHOs see themselves and their work?
- In practical terms, what are the benefits beyond being able to access Commonwealth Rent Assistance and some taxation exemptions?
- If government policy obliges CHOs to prioritise housing to tenants with notionally “high and complex needs”, what then are the implications of supporting and sustaining these tenancies for the CHO business model?
- Likewise, if there is a government subsidy for supporting the needs and requirements of tenants with “high and complex needs”, how is this subsidy determined in order to meet the varying and different needs and requirements of different client groups?

#### Part 2: Understanding Tenancy Issues

*This section is devoted to discussing the context of the issues that can lead breakdowns of community housing tenancies.*

- What are the main issues that can lead tenants in community housing being unable to maintain their tenancy?
- Do community housing tenants who have previously experienced homelessness have specific problems or issues that impact on their capacity to maintain their tenancy?
- Given that many community housing tenants are of one or another form of income support, to what extent are the problems and issues they experience due to poverty?
- Similarly, many community housing tenants who have experienced homelessness are sometimes characterised as having so called “high and complex needs”. To what extent are their tenancy issues the result of their health and other well-being issues?
- Issues facing the social housing sectors, including lack of growth/insufficient supply of housing, structural issues with NDIS and mental health supports, etc.
- Is the requirement for CHOs to fund their operating expenses through rent collection a suitable model for housing tenants with high and complex needs? What other funding models might support sector growth and improve client outcomes?

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- What are the tenancy and tenancy support issues experienced by the different communities that live in community housing; for example, older people, women escaping domestic violence, Aboriginal people, young people, refugees and people from non-English speaking backgrounds, indeed any group that experiences structural disadvantage and discrimination?

### Part 3: Responding to Risk

*The aim of this section is to provide all community housing providers the opportunity to outline and describe the programs and services they have put in place to assist and support their tenants to sustain and maintain their tenancy.*

- What are the main types of programs and services developed and implemented by community housing providers to assist and support “at risk” tenants?
- What are some examples of leading practice in delivering these programs and services? Are they best developed and provided by the community housing provider themselves, or are they best provided by external partners or agencies? What are the arguments for and against for both?
- What are some of the “community development” approaches and models for supporting and sustaining people in community housing? How do these approaches and models work to assist and support “at risk” tenants?
- Do “case management” approaches and models of support and assistance work for those tenants who fail to maintain their tenancies and are deemed at most risk?
- How are programs and services provided to tenants with particular and specific support and assistance needs, for example, people with a disability who have high support needs?
- What innovations have been successful in supporting complex tenants?
- What programs have successfully targeted chronic homelessness?
- Similarly, what are the programs and services provided to tenants who come from communities of specific and pre-existing disadvantage, Aboriginal people, people from non-English speaking backgrounds, members of the LGBTQI community and so on?

### Part 4: Keeping Home

*The aim of this section is to discuss the results of the programs and services designed to help tenants at risk sustain their housing.*

- What research and evaluation has been done on community housing programs and services designed to maintain tenancies? What are the results of these various pieces of research and evaluation?
- How is the success of these programs and services been assessed? How is success measured and compared between different programs and services?

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- What are considered by community housing providers to be the most effective and efficient programs and services that produce the best results in terms of sustaining tenancies?
- To what extent are tenants involved as participants in the assessment and evaluation of the programs and services designed to assist them?
- How can better programs and services to support and assist tenants be developed and designed?
- In what ways do CHOs involve tenants in designing and adapting programs and services and what are some of the success stories?
- What are some examples of collaborative partnerships and service innovation which have demonstrated positive client outcomes?

### Part 5. Opinion Pages

*The aim of the Parity Opinion Pages is to give sector leaders the opportunity to prepare “independent editorials” to advocate for the policies they think are needed and to set the agenda for the further discussion of the issues covered in the edition.*

### Contributing to the August 2020 August “Supporting and Sustaining Tenancies in Community Housing” edition of *Parity*

**Deadline:** The deadline for contributions: COB Friday, 7 August. Should additional time be required please contact the *Parity* Editor: [parity@chp.org.au](mailto:parity@chp.org.au)

**Submissions format:** All contributions should be submitted as Word attachments to [parity@chp.org.au](mailto:parity@chp.org.au)

**Artwork:** Contributors are invited to submit the artwork they would like to accompany their article. Inclusion is dependent on the space being available. If artwork is not provided and is required, it will be selected by the *Parity* Editor.

**Word length:** Contributions can be up to 1,600 words. This equates to a double page spread in *Parity*. Single page articles can be up to 800 words in length. Contributions of a greater length should be discussed with the *Parity* Editor.

**Questions:** If you have any questions at all about contributing to this edition please contact the *Parity* Editor by email [parity@chp.org.au](mailto:parity@chp.org.au) or ring 0466 619 582.

**Embedded media:** Contributors are able to make suggestions for the placement of relevant hyperlinks, video and other multimedia within their content which can be embedded in the *Parity* online edition. Any suggestions will be reviewed by and decided upon by the *Parity* editor.

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### Referencing

All works that are cited or referred to in an article should be referenced. *Parity* does not encourage contributors to list a bibliography of references used in the development of an article but are *not* cited in the article. There is simply insufficient space for the inclusion of extensive bibliographies. The *Parity* referencing protocol is as follows:

### In-text citations

CHP uses numbered-citation for all in-text citations.

- Number references consecutively in the order in which they are first mentioned in the text. The first reference you cite will be numbered (1) in the text, and the second reference you cite will be numbered (2), and so on.
- A number is assigned to each reference as it is used. Even if the author is named in your text, a number must still be used.
- References are listed in numerical order at the end of the document.
- If you use a reference consecutively assign the consecutive number and use *ibid.*
- If the same reference elsewhere in your article, assign the consecutive number and use *op. cit.* For example, Seung S 2012, *op cit*, p. 34.
- The number can be placed outside the text punctuation to avoid disruption to the flow of the text.
- If a single sentence uses two or more citations, simply identify the references one after the other.

For example:

International research has found that resilience in a homeless youth sample correlates with lower levels of psychological distress, suicide ideation, violent behaviour and substance abuse. (4) (5)

### Guidelines for Referencing in *Parity*

All references used in *Parity* articles should be listed using the following guidelines:

#### Books:

**Author's** surname, initial(s), year of publication, Title of book, Publisher, Place of Publication, Page number(s).

For example:

1. Seung S 2012, *Connectome: How the Brain's Wiring Makes Us Who We Are*, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Boston, p.90.

#### Journal Articles

Author's surname, initial(s), year of publication, 'Title of article', *Title of Journal*, volume number, issue number, Page number(s).

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For example:

Trevithick P 2003 'Effective Relationship Based Practice', *Journal of Social Work Practice*, vol.17, no.2, pp.163-176.

### **Newspaper articles:**

#### **With identified author:**

Authors Surname Initial Year of publication, 'Title of article', *Name of publication*, Date and year of publication, Page number(s) or <URL> if applicable.

For example:

Kissane K 2008, 'Brumby calls for tough sentences', *The Age*, 29 October 2017, p. 8.

#### **With no author:**

Use 'Unknown'

For example:

Unknown 2008, 'Brumby calls for tough sentences', *The Age*, 29 October 2017, p. 8.

#### **Webpage/document within a website or blog Post:**

Author's surname (if known) Initial, 'Page/Blog/Document Title', *The person or organisation responsible for the website*, Year of Publication (if known) <URL>

For example:

Greenblatt S, 'A special letter from Stephen Greenblatt', Australian Council of Social Services, 2017 <<http://acoss.org/media/greenblatt>>

#### **Audio podcast:**

Speaker/Hosts surname Initial, 'Title of episode', *Title of Podcast*, Year and date of Publication, <URL> (if available).

For example:

Todd B 2018, 'What homelessness looks like for women', Stuff Mom Never Told You, 14 March 2018 <<https://www.stuffmomnevertoldyou.com/podcasts/what-homelessness-looks-like-for-women.html> >

#### **Online video/film or documentary:**

*Title* Date of recording, Format, Publisher.

For example:

**Indigenous homelessness** 1992, video recording, Green Cape Wildlife Films.

#### **Personal communication:**

Personal communication may include (but are not limited to) email, fax, interview, conversations, lectures, speeches, telephone conversations and letters. Usually personal

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communications do not appear, as the information is not retrievable. However, due to the numbered citations used in *Parity*, we ask that they be included as follows:

**Author's** surname First name, Method of communication, Date and year of Communication

For example:

Johnson George, Telephone interview, 12 August 2018.

### **Citing the same reference more than once:**

When a reference is cited a number of times, use op cit. after the year has been given. If the page number is different from the first use, cite the new page number as well.

For example:

Asante K O and Meyer-Weitz A 2015 op cit. pp. 230-231.

### **Citing the same reference consecutively**

Use Ibid. when the same reference appears consecutively. If the page number is different from the first use, cite the page number as well.

For example:

1. Florn B H 2015, 'The cost of youth homelessness', *Journal of Adolescence*, vol.17, no.2, pp.163-176.

2. Ibid. pp.32-33.

### **Multiple Authors**

For every reference type, give all the authors Surnames and first Initials followed by a comma in the bibliography. The last author listed should be preceded by 'and'.

For example:

Sharp J, Peters J and Howard K 2002, The management of a student research project, Gower, Aldershot, England.

### **Content**

By providing your contribution, you confirm and agree that (except where you have referenced or cited any other's work) the contribution is your original work and has not been copied from any other source.

### **Use of content**

If your contribution is accepted, it will be published by or on CHP's behalf in an edition of the *Parity* magazine. *Parity* is available in hard copy and online.

### **Online copies of back editions of *Parity* can be found on:**

<http://search.informit.com.au/browseJournalTitle;res=IELHSS;issn=1032-6170>

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### **Assistance and Questions**

Feedback, input and assistance can be provided with drafts if required. The *Parity* editor is available at all stages of the preparation of your contribution to look at drafts and provide input and feedback. The earlier drafts are received for feedback, the better. If prospective contributors have any questions they should contact the *Parity* Editor, Noel Murray, [parity@chp.org.au](mailto:parity@chp.org.au) Ph: 0466 619 582