

A Call for Contributions – October 2018

**The October 2018 “Mental Health, Disability and Homelessness”
edition of *Parity***

***This edition of *Parity* has been sponsored by the University of Melbourne, NEAMI
National and Wellways.***

Introduction

It has long been acknowledged that for many people who experience homelessness, particularly those who experience chronic or long-term homelessness, there is a greater incidence of mental health issues. Likewise, it is increasingly acknowledged that these mental health issues can be best understood as both a cause of, and as a consequence of, homelessness.

Similarly, there is a near universal acceptance that the having safe, secure and affordable housing is the foundation of well-being and that programs and services designed to assist and support people experiencing homelessness as well as people experiencing mental health issues need to have housing at their core.

Moreover, it has become increasingly clear, that despite the progress that has and is being made with the roll out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, (NDIS) that the needs and requirements of people with a mental health disability are not being sufficiently acknowledged or adequately covered by the scheme.

People who are homeless or who are at risk of homelessness and who have a mental health disability are in effect excluded from the remit of the NDIS because their disability is not afforded and given the same status as other forms of disability. As a result, people in this situation are experiencing multiple levels and forms of disadvantage and discrimination.

The failure to meet the housing and support needs of people with mental health issues and people with a mental health disability has implications and consequences not just for the discussion of the work and role of the NDIS; it is also central to the work of mental health services, specialist homelessness services (SHS) and social housing providers.

The aim of this edition of *Parity* is to bring these issue of the needs and requirements of those people who have a mental health disability who are either experiencing, or who are at risk of homelessness, to the foreground of public policy discussions.

*This edition of *Parity* will be published in collaboration with the University of Melbourne's School of Social and Political Sciences, NEAMI National and Wellways.*

A Framework for Discussion

Chapter 1: Mental Health Issues and Homelessness

People who experience homelessness are much more likely to experience, or to have experienced, mental health issues. However, not all people who have a mental health issues become homeless or are at risk of homelessness. Nevertheless, there is a large number of people with mental health

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issues who experience homelessness who have a need for housing assistance and support for their mental health recovery.

- How is the connection between the experience of mental health issues and the experience of homelessness best understood?
- What is it that makes having mental health issues a risk factor for homelessness?
- How and in what ways does homelessness put people at risk of developing and experiencing mental health issues?

Chapter 2: Service Responses

People who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and who have mental health issues or a mental health disability often have to navigate many different institutional and service response frameworks to have their needs and issues attended to and met.

In addition to the wider social welfare and larger health systems, people with mental health issues who are homeless or at risk of homelessness often have to work through different service systems and frameworks when seeking assistance for their housing and support needs. For example, the mental health system, the homelessness sector and the social housing sector, to name only the most obvious, can all play a role in responding to people with a mental health disability.

- How has the mental health system attempted to meet the housing and support needs of people with a mental health disability?
- How have social housing providers sought to meet the needs and requirements for housing and support of people with a mental health disability?
- How has the homelessness sector worked for people with a mental health disability to help them exit from homelessness or prevent them from becoming homeless?

Chapter 3: Mental Health Disability and Housing

Some governments have sought to make assisting those with both housing and mental health issues a priority. This has happened through 'whole of government' approaches and targeted programs driven by their housing and mental health departments.

- What are the existing housing options for people with a mental health disability?
- What are the issues for people who have a mental health disability who live in:
 - private housing (with family/independently)
 - private rental
 - social housing
 - institutional care (mental health services)
 - specialist disability housing and support services
 - other, for example, nursing homes/SRSs
- What housing and accommodation options are available (if any) for people with a mental health disability for funding for housing being facilitated through the NDIS?
- What are the limits and constraints on the capacity of the NDIS to meet the housing needs of people with a mental health disability?

- How are people with mental health disability, their families and carers responding to the options (or lack of options) provided through the NDIS?
- How has the existing social housing system, both public and community housing, responded to the housing and support needs of people with a mental health disability?

Chapter 4: The NDIS and Mental Health Disability

The recent University of Sydney and Community Mental Health Australia Report made clear that the needs of people with a mental health disability are not being met by the NDIS.

“Current participation in the NDIS of people with a primary psychosocial disability is low and indicates multiple difficulties in the implementation of the Scheme. Latest NDIA figures show that only 6.4% of Scheme participants have a primary psychosocial disability which is less than half the expected numbers. To date, 81.4% of people with psychosocial disability who requested access were accepted into the Scheme compared to over 97% for people with cerebral palsy, autism or intellectual disability. These figures reinforce that people with psychosocial disability are missing out for many reasons and the NDIA is failing to engage appropriately with people experiencing psychosocial disability.”

- What changes are needed in the operation and work of the NDIS to meet the needs and requirements of people with a mental health disability and in particular, what changes need to be made to assist people with a mental health disability who are homeless or at risk of homelessness?

Contributing to the October 2018 “Mental Health, Disability and Homelessness” edition of *Parity*

Deadline: All contributions need to be submitted by COB Friday October 12th 2018.

Submissions format: All contributions should be submitted as Word attachments to parity@chp.org.au

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

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.

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.

Questions: If you have any questions at all about contributing to this edition please contact the *Parity* Editor by email parity@chp.org.au or ring 03 8415 6201/0466 619 582

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 very simple.

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.
- Identify the references using superscript. For example:
Trauma is one's lifetime is virtually universal in homeless populations... (1)
- 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 the same reference is used more than once, it is given a new number each time it is used. Use *op. cit.*
- The number can be placed outside the text punctuation to avoid disruption to the flow of the text, or be placed inside the text punctuation.
- If a single sentence uses two or more citations, simply identify the references one after the other. Use a space, not a comma to separate the references.

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)

References

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).

For example:

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

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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 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

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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.

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Assistance

Feedback, input and assistance can be provided with drafts if required. Please remember that I am available at all stages of the preparation of your contribution to look at drafts and provide input and feedback. Obviously the earlier I get drafts, the better. If prospective contributors have any questions at all they should contact the *Parity* Editor, Noel Murray, party@chp.org.au
Ph: 03 8415 6201, or 0466 619 582, or 0438 067 146