

## A Call for Contributions – June 2019

### The June 2019 “Criminalising Homelessness” edition of *Parity*

#### Introduction

Experiencing homelessness and living life in public space inevitably brings increased contact with police and the criminal justice system. As Australia grapples with a growing rate of homelessness and an acute housing shortage, law enforcement mechanisms are frequently being used in response to poverty, resulting in more people entering the criminal justice system.

While the criminalisation of homelessness through laws that regulate public space are the most obvious examples of this process, the criminalisation of homelessness is by no means limited to those sleeping rough. For people experiencing homelessness and complex vulnerabilities, the lack of access to affordable and safe housing often forces them into various forms of marginal accommodation, which can result in fines and charges due to their circumstances. People experiencing homelessness are at greater risk of criminalisation through the enforcement of low-level ‘poverty’ offences, including “move on” laws, public nuisance, offensive or anti-social behaviour, begging, shoplifting offences and fare evasion, as well as breach of bail and welfare fraud breaches. The recent Centrelink ‘robo-debt’ controversy is only the most recent example of a long history of punitive social policy responses to the manifold issues that arise as a consequence of poverty.

Once people have a history of interactions with the justice system, homelessness is more common, lasts longer and is more likely to reoccur. (1) Former prisoners are also twice as likely to return to prison within nine months of release if they are homeless. (2) The cost of the revolving door between homelessness and prisons goes beyond the financial cost and includes the social and personal costs of using enforcement-based responses to homelessness.

This edition of *Parity* will examine the factors that lead to enforcement-based responses to homelessness, the impact of criminalisation on people experiencing homelessness and constructive responses to reduce and prevent the criminalisation of homelessness. This edition will examine and discuss both Australian and overseas examples and responses to the criminalisation of homelessness and poverty.

#### A Framework for Discussion

##### Chapter 1: Enforcement-based approaches to homelessness and poverty

- What are some of the legal and regulatory frameworks that impact on people experiencing homelessness (both laws and local government regulations)?
- What is the intent, rationale and purpose of these laws and regulations?
- How do these laws and regulations “respond” to homelessness?
- How are these laws and regulations enforced?
- How does the justice system deal with people experiencing homelessness who have been held to be in breach of these laws and regulations?

##### Chapter 2: Homelessness and the regulation of public space

- What are the social, political and economic factors that underpin enforcement-based approaches to homelessness and poverty?

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- What is the role of police and other enforcement officers as frontline responders?
- How do law enforcement and support services work together to respond to homelessness, and what are some the tensions inherent in this approach?
- Understanding rights: what rights do people experiencing homelessness have in public space?

### Chapter 3: The impacts and consequences of criminalisation

- What are the main legal or regulatory issues that impact on people experiencing homelessness and poverty?
- What are the consequences for people experiencing homelessness of entering the justice system?
- How does criminalisation affect a person's capacity to exit homelessness and secure safe housing?
- What is the role of homelessness services in supporting people to access the criminal justice system?
- What is the role of legal help in supporting and assisting people experiencing homelessness, particularly those who have received fines or charges?
- What are people's lived experiences of policing and enforcement-based approaches?

### Chapter 4: Alternative responses to criminalisation

- What are some of the alternatives to enforcement-based responses to homelessness and poverty?
- What is the role and place of enforcement-based responses in the wider social policy response to the causes and consequences of homelessness?
- How can laws and regulations be reformed to reduce the disproportionate impact on people experiencing homelessness?
- How can the justice system better respond to people whose offences are caused by homelessness?

#### Endnotes

1. See, for example, A Bevitt et al (2015), *Journeys home research report No. 6*, at: [www.melbourneinstitute.com/journeys\\_home/assets/pubs/2015/Scutella%20et%20al%20Journeys%20Home%20Research%20Report%20W6.pdf](http://www.melbourneinstitute.com/journeys_home/assets/pubs/2015/Scutella%20et%20al%20Journeys%20Home%20Research%20Report%20W6.pdf).
2. E Baldry et al (2006), *Ex-Prisoners, Homelessness and the State in Australia*, 39 *The Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology* 20, p. 24.

### Contributing to the June 2019 edition of Parity

**Deadline:** All contributions need to be submitted by Friday June 7 2019.

**Deadline:** All contributions need to be submitted by Friday, 8 March 2019.

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

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(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 then be selected by the *Parity* Editor.

### 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 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

### Guidelines for Referencing in *Parity*

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

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### **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.

### **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:**

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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.

### **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**

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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>

### **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: 03 8415 6201 or 0466 619 582