

A Call for Contributions – July 2019

The July 2019 “Overcrowding: Too Much of Nothing” edition of *Parity*

Introduction

Severe overcrowding, where a household “needs four or more extra bedrooms to accommodate all the people who live there” is recognised as a form of homelessness, and included within the Australian Bureau of Statistics definition of homelessness.

People living in overcrowded spaces are considered homelessness because they do not have control of, or access to space for social relations. In fact, in overcrowded dwellings, people miss out on many of the characteristics important to the idea of “home”, including security, stability, privacy, safety as well as the ability to control their space.

Individuals and families end up living in overcrowded dwellings when they cannot find affordable housing alternatives, or when they need to accommodate family members or friends in their home, who lack other options.

Overcrowding is the most common experience of homelessness in Australia – with 44% of all people (51,000 Australians) counted as homeless during the Census living in overcrowded housing. The incidence of overcrowding is also increasing.

This edition of *Parity* will:

- seek to examine some of the conceptual and definitional issues of overcrowding
- discuss the effects and consequences of overcrowding
- look at the various types and kinds of overcrowding
- examine the different groups of people experiencing overcrowding
- point to what is needed to be done to end the homelessness of overcrowding.

A framework for discussion

Chapter 1: Defining and understanding overcrowding

- What are some of the definitional and conceptual issues and questions connected to our understanding of what constitutes overcrowding?
- How are these definitions operationalised to provide the data needed to understand the scope and extent of overcrowding?
- What are the implications of the difference between “overcrowding” and “severe overcrowding”?
- What is the conceptual nexus between overcrowding and homelessness?
- What are the key issues for understanding the overcrowding experienced by different groups and communities? For example, Aboriginal Australians, students, particularly international students, and asylum seekers and refugees, to mention only a few of the groups that are at risk of being forced into overcrowded dwellings.

Chapter 2: What are the causes of overcrowding?

- What is the connection between the recourse to overcrowded housing and the lack of affordable housing options?
- Is overcrowding essentially the result of the incapacity of people on low incomes to afford any other form of housing?

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- Alternatively, is overcrowding the combined result of a lack of supply of affordable housing and low incomes?
- Substantial wealth is generated by providing overcrowded housing to those who cannot afford anything else. To what extent is overcrowding the result of unregulated profiteering in the housing market?

Chapter 3: Who and where?

- What individuals and groups are most at risk of resorting to overcrowded housing and accommodation?
- Do different groups of people experience different forms or kinds of overcrowding?
- Where is overcrowding most prevalent? For example, is overcrowding mainly to be found in urban areas, particularly the inner-city?
- Is overcrowding mainly limited to the private rental housing market or is it also to be found in social housing?

Chapter 4: Overcrowding in Aboriginal communities

- Given that the definitional and conceptual frameworks used to discuss overcrowding are often culturally determined and subjective, are they appropriate for understanding these issues in Aboriginal communities?
- What are the causes of overcrowding in Aboriginal communities, including those in both urban, rural and remote settings?
- Is overcrowding in many Aboriginal communities mainly the result of the failure to provide suitable forms of housing stock?

Chapter 5: What are the consequences and implications of overcrowding?

- How are individuals and families affected by overcrowding?
- What are the health, mental health, educational and life chances consequences of overcrowding?
- What are the safety issues that result from overcrowding?

Chapter 6: Responding to overcrowding

People forced to resort to overcrowded dwellings are often living in precarious housing, without tenancy agreements and any of the protections they afford.

- Can overcrowding be prevented and ended through regulation and most importantly, the enforcement of tenancy regulations that prohibit overcrowding?
- What policies are required to prevent and end overcrowding?
- Is preventing and ending overcrowding first and foremost an issue of the supply of affordable housing options?

Contributing to the July 2019 “Overcrowding: Too Much of Nothing” edition of *Parity*

Deadline: All contributions need to be submitted by Friday July 12 2019.

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

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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 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

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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).

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>>

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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.

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.

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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>

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 Ph: 03 8415 6201 or 0466 619 582