



Parity

A Call for Contributions – November 2024

“The NDIS, Disability, Housing and Homelessness”

Submission deadline: COB Friday 25 October 2024

Word length: Contributions can be up to 1,600 words. Submissions to be sent to: parity@chp.org.au

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Introduction

The provision of appropriate housing and support is central to the lives of people with disabilities, that is, both physical and psychosocial disabilities. The issues connected to the provision of housing and support services are also central to the ongoing development and implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). The NDIS has a key role in contributing to the housing and support needs of people with a disability. Failure to provide appropriate housing and associated supports for people with a disability means continuing housing insecurity and homelessness.

While the development of the role and work of the NDIS is ongoing, it is important to examine and discuss the issues of the kinds and types of access to housing and accommodation that could be made available through the mechanism of the NDIS. While the NDIS provides support for issues



relating to a persons' disability, State and Territory Governments are responsible for the provision of housing.

The aim of this edition of Parity is threefold:

1. To examine and discuss the housing and homelessness issues experienced by people with a disability and
2. the housing and accommodation options that are currently available as well as models and programs that could be made available but are not available at the moment
3. Likewise, the edition will discuss the role of the NDIS in providing support for housing, and in particular, Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) under the NDIS as well as current successes and the ongoing challenges.

Context

Many people with a disability live in inappropriate housing that does not meet either their needs or provide the basis for social and economic participation and inclusion. Many are at risk of homelessness whether they are in private housing, the family home or in some form of congregate or institutional care. Similarly, many people experiencing homelessness also live with a disability. The significant numbers of people experiencing chronic or long-term homelessness who have a mental illness, is only one of the most obvious and most cited examples of the nexus between homelessness and disability.

The now widely accepted “Housing First” model has demonstrated the centrality of secure, safe appropriate and affordable accommodation for the ongoing provision of the kinds of “wrap around” services that are tailored to the needs and requirements of the individual. The importance of the interconnectedness of the provision of appropriate housing and support is perhaps even more the case for meeting the needs of people with a disability.

A framework for discussion

Chapter 1: Disability and Housing

The State and Territory Governments have responsibility for housing. NDIS supports access to housing for people with a disability, through the various Bilateral Agreements between the Commonwealth Government and the states and territories.

- What are the existing housing options for people with a disability?
- What are the issues for people who have a disability who live in:



- private housing (with family/independently)
 - private rental
 - social housing
 - institutional care
 - specialist disability housing and support services
 - nursing homes
 - Supported Residential Services (SRSs)
- How has the existing social housing system, both public and community housing, responded to the housing and support needs of people with a disability?
 - What is Specialist Disability Accommodation SDA and how does it meet the housing and support needs and requirements of people with a disability?
 - Has the NDIS helped people with disability access a greater range of safe supportive housing options?
 - Are groups with specific needs, such as homeless people living with a disability, been able to access the NDIS and have their housing needs addressed?
 - What are key elements of NDIS policy and practice to optimise housing outcomes for NDIS participants?

Chapter 2: Disability and Homelessness

- Why and how are people living with a disability at risk of homelessness?
- What evidence-based approaches exist but are not available in Australia?
- What evidence is available for the effectiveness of these options, how satisfied are residents with these options? Do we know who is best suited to the different options?
- What specific accommodation and support options are available for people with a disability who are homeless or at risk of homelessness? For example, what housing (and support) is available from:
 - Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS)
 - Transitional Housing
 - Public Housing
 - Community Housing
 - Mainstream services, including the income support, housing (rent assistance), health, mental health and the aged care systems.



Chapter 3: The Role of the NDIS – Opportunities and Constraints

The NDIS aims to provide individually tailored support packages for people living with a disability, packages that are developed by the person with the disability to meet their needs and requirements.

- Has the implementation of the NDIS meant greater housing choices for people living with a disability?
- What impact will the NDIS have on the housing and accommodation options available for people with a disability who are homeless or at risk of homelessness?
- People experiencing homelessness have particular issues accessing the NDIS. How are people experiencing homelessness gaining access to the NDIS?
- What has been the impact (from the NDIS trials and early stages of national rollout) for the provision of housing and accommodation options for people with a disability?
- How do NDIS supports assist people with a disability to find suitable housing?
- What difference might the NDIS make on the housing needs of people with a psychosocial disability?

Chapter 4: The Findings and Impact of the Disability Royal Commission

The Disability Royal Commission examined how existing housing and homelessness policies and programs address the needs of people with disability.

This included:

- experiences of homelessness, including rough sleeping and couch surfing
- living in boarding houses or other types of insecure accommodation
- pathways leading to and out of homelessness
- barriers to finding, securing and retaining safe and accessible housing
- their experiences with specialist homelessness services and other wrap-around support services
- the importance of safe, secure and accessible housing and how it enables inclusion
- access to emergency accommodation and support services following a natural disaster
- The role and place of SRSs in providing housing and support for people with a disability.

The aim of this chapter is to examine and discuss the findings and recommendations of the Disability Royal Commission in relation to the housing and support options that are available and should be made available to people with a disability.



Chapter 5: Opinion Pages

This chapter is devoted to leaders in the disability and social housing sectors outlining their views on the future role of the NDIS in contributing the housing and support needs of people with a disability.

Key information

Deadline: The deadline for contributions: COB Friday 25 October 2024.

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

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* Guest 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* Guest 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* Guest Editor.

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: 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.

Assistance and questions: Feedback, input and assistance can be provided with drafts if required. The *Parity* Guest Editor, Laura Hayes, 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.

Contact: The *Parity* team can be contacted at parity@chp.org.au



References

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.

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)

Parity referencing style

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>>

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.

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.