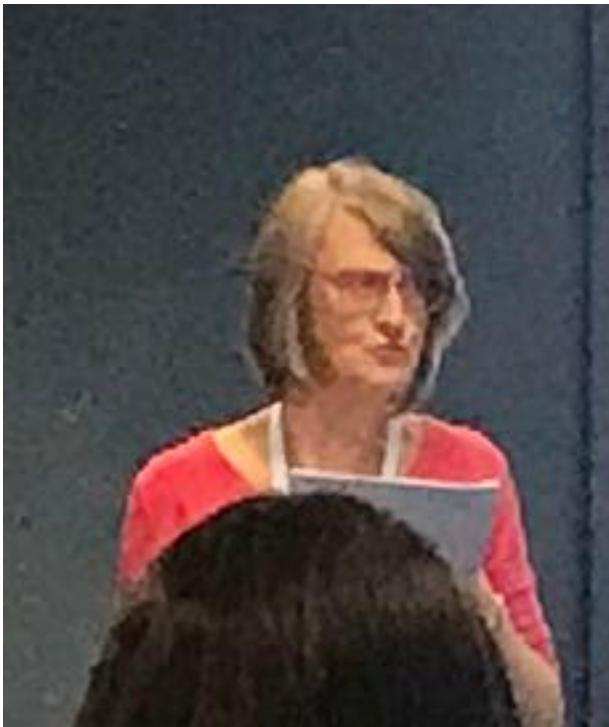




HOMELESSNESS
in OLDER WOMEN

Newsletter

HOW Movement Progress



Linda from the HOW Movement sets the scene at the *Housing Outcomes for Older Women Workshop* organised by the Qld Dept of Housing

Zonta D22 helps formulate government policy on housing older women

For two years, Zonta D22 has been working with the **HOW Movement** – (Housing Older Women) to bring about solutions to the shocking scale of older women at risk of homelessness in Queensland.

It was first raised at the Zonta Areas 1 & 3 Meeting in Noosa Springs in 2019 when Independent member for Noosa Sandy Bolton spoke about there not being “enough government money in the world to solve this problem”.

Formed late 2019 - just before COVID hit us, the HOW Movement has met, planned, researched, ZOOMed and lobbied. Many hundreds of hours have been spent to formulate solutions. Over 100 organisations and individuals signed up for the HOW Movement, formed under the auspice of QShelter- a peak body that puts the spotlight on the problem of homelessness in Queensland.

Several Zonta members have joined HOW working groups – Chris Coventry of the Bowen Club, Glynnis Gartside of Pine Rivers, Susan Davies, Anne Landsberg and Kate Rose from the Brisbane Club.

Following the June State Budget's allocation for older women's housing HOW was named as a “Sponsor Group” to help run a Workshop for Housing Department personnel and other associated community services to scope the dimensions and special needs of older women at risk of homelessness.

Brisbane Club Advocacy chairperson Susan Davies was one of a core group of HOW members who took part in the Workshop.

Five wide-ranging initiatives / solutions were promoted by the Sponsor Group to the Workshop participants –

1. A specialist advisory service where older women at risk did not have to use unfamiliar computer technology to access help and friendly information (based on the Victorian Home at Last model)
2. Support for at least 3 innovative schemes to demonstrate new ways of providing suitable affordable housing for older women
3. Town planning regulations reform to enable more suitable houses to be built
4. Access to land for new housing projects for older women
5. Support for a Display Village to showcase innovative housing designs such as co-housing, tiny Homes and other initiatives endorsed by the HOW Movement

The Workshop raised awareness amongst key players around the causes of older women's homelessness and what relevant solutions would look like. (eg traditional social housing in high-rise towers does not suit older women).

Susan Davies said, "The Housing Department is being genuinely responsive to the voice of the community (including Zonta D22) on this issue. In mid-October, we are optimistic that Housing Minister Leeanne Enoch will be making some exciting expenditure announcements in line with the initiatives we have outlined."



A couple of Brisbane Zontians were exploring in Yungaburra on the Atherton Tableland recently when they came across a book entitled *Housing the Homeless*. It turned out that the author, Geraldine Mallinson, who lives next door to the Spencer & Murphy Book Shop in Yungaburra, has completed her PHD on the topic of Housing and Homelessness in Queensland.

Geraldine has written two books and several scholarly articles on this topic. Her recent concern is with the closure of many council owned caravan parks in regional areas. Caravan park residents, including numbers of older women, who used these parks for low cost housing, are finding themselves homeless yet again.

For information about Geraldine's books and articles search the web. Perhaps the Cairns Zonta Club would find her an interesting guest speaker also.

SOCIAL HOUSING ACCESS COULD SAVE MILLIONS FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS

Better access to social housing for women could have saved the country hundreds of millions of dollars each year in domestic violence prevention costs.

A report that will be presented at this month's national Women's Safety Summit's examined the cost of homelessness services and emergency care for domestic violence victims.

It found the construction of 16,000 homes across the country would be a cheaper and more enduring solution. [Listen here.](#)

UPCOMING FEDERAL ELECTION PLANS

In the lead up to the Federal Election the HOWZing Team intends to examine the policies of the major parties with regard to support for older women's housing. With this in mind several members recently attended a Green's Forum, *How We Fix the Housing Crisis*.



Lynette (HOW Movement) participating in Greens Forum