



**Council
to Homeless
Persons**



Parity

A Call for Contributions – August 2023

Gender and Homelessness

Deadline: COB Friday 18 August 2023.

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

This edition of Parity is sponsored by the YWCA.



Introduction

What do we mean when we talk about having a “gendered understanding” of homelessness? The application of a gendered lens to housing and homelessness issues helps to identify and explain otherwise neglected experiences and practices, and contests dominant representations of homelessness. Without a consideration of gender, research, policy and practice remain limited in what they can offer those who experience the multiple oppressions associated with the inequalities that result from gendered experiences of homelessness.

We therefore need to advance the discussion of *what* constitutes a gendered understanding of homelessness and look at the implications of what a gendered understanding means for policy making, research and service delivery.

Research shows that women and people of diverse genders have experiences of homelessness that are often hidden and that they may have different pathways into homelessness. Historically, responses to homelessness have been structured in response to more visible forms of homelessness —often with the lingering misconceptions that reinforce the invisibilisation of gendered experiences of hidden homelessness, or homelessness related to gender-based violence. Likewise, homelessness service systems are very binary in how they are organised leading to the further marginalisation and even erasure of those that fall outside of binary gender identities.



In this edition of *Parity*:

- We want to explore and identify evidence-based interventions and best practice approaches to better support women and people with diverse genders experiencing or at risk of homelessness.
- We want to develop a deeper understanding of the gendered drivers of homelessness and housing insecurity both in Australia and internationally. We want to explore how and why homelessness and housing insecurity is experienced by people of socially marginalised genders and how such experiences are amplified due to gendered drivers.
- We want to examine how can we gain a better understanding of the systems that produce homelessness and housing insecurity and the role of gender inequality in creating and reinforcing these power imbalances.
- We want to draw on lived experience and sector and academic expertise to understand how policy and service design might be improved to respond to the various impacts of gender on homelessness and housing insecurity.

While many community organisations have been at the forefront of housing and homelessness responses that are inclusive of women and gender diverse people, there remains considerable work to be done to develop robust and inclusive responses to the gendered experiences of homelessness and housing insecurity.

We know for example, that gender impacts on the significantly higher prevalence of hidden homelessness and the housing insecurity experienced by women and gender diverse people. Likewise, we know that trans and non-binary people experience greater levels of discrimination and violence as a result of their homelessness and housing insecurity.

In this edition, we invite researchers, community members, people with lived experience, service providers and policy makers to contribute to this urgent conversation to understand and act on gendered experiences of homelessness and housing insecurity.

A framework for discussion

Part 1: Gender and homelessness

Homelessness is both a social issue as well as a gender issue where the intersectionality of experiences of homelessness needs to be foregrounded.

- How does gender impact and affect pathways into and the experience of homelessness as well as different forms of homelessness and housing insecurity?
- How does the experience of homelessness impact on different genders (cismen, ciswomen, trans folk, non-binary, queer, gender fluid etc.)?



- How does gender intersect with other social structures such as race, class, sexuality, age, place, faith, disability etc?
- How does gender non-conformity contribute to the causes and consequences of homelessness and the impacts of homelessness?

Part 2: Gender and lived experience of homelessness

All work on homelessness should begin in the lived experiences of homelessness. This section/chapter would provide the opportunity and space for women and people of diverse genders with the lived experience of homelessness to discuss their experiences and their perspectives on what needs to be changed and what may be working well. It will also enable organisations to share examples of work in this space that promote and amplify lived experience expertise.

Part 3: How and in what ways does gender impact on policy making, advocacy, and resource allocation/funding?

- How and in what ways does gender differences impact on and affect the development and implementation of homelessness policy and service delivery for women, women experiencing family or domestic violence, ciswomen, trans folk, non-binary, queer, gender fluid etc.
- What are the emerging opportunities for advocacy and policy development in this space?
- What are the limitations for policy development and what are the implications of this for the sector and service users?
- What is the interconnect / disconnect between FDV and SHS policy, funding, and service responses.

Part 4: How does gender impact on homelessness service delivery?

- How do mainstream services deal with the issues specific to different genders?
- Similarly, how do homelessness services respond to the different experiences and different issues faced by different genders?
- Are there any services tailored for the needs and requirements of different genders?
- How is policy being translated into service delivery for all genders, and across different service systems, for example, family and domestic violence, mental health, AOD services, etc?
- How does gender impact on housing and homelessness service needs?
- How can services respond more effectively to the needs and requirements of diverse genders or gender non-conformity per se?



Part 5: Gender and housing, issues, outcomes and constraints

- How does gender impact housing needs and access to housing?
- How can social, affordable and community housing providers respond to different experiences and different issues specific to different genders?
- How might social, affordable and community housing providers better respond to different experiences and different issues specific to different genders?
- What role could a gender responsive design play and what would a gender responsive design look like and how might the outcomes be measured?
- How might government better design housing and homelessness policy to better respond to the gendered drivers of housing and homelessness?
- What is the role of advocacy in designing housing and homelessness policy that appropriately responds to the gendered drivers of housing insecurity?

Opinion pages: What Needs to be Done and Who Is Doing It Well?

Advocates/researchers/sponsors give their take on what needs to be done/changed so that the role and impact of gender is fully incorporated into the response required to meet the needs of all those experiencing homelessness. Also, an opportunity to showcase where organisations are working together (or separately) to address housing insecurity for women, trans and gender diverse folk.

Key information

Deadline: The deadline for contributions: COB Friday 18 August 2023. Should additional time be required, please contact the *Parity* Editor.

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* 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.

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.

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* 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.

Contact: The *Parity* Editor, Noel Murray, can be contacted on:

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p/ 0466 619 582

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.