

Story from Community Elders

We acknowledge the courage and generosity of local people with lived experience of homelessness and housing crisis in the sharing of their stories so that we can improve housing outcomes for our community.

My wife and I share the experience of many older folk in this community. We live in a 3-4 BR home with a fairly substantial mortgage.

We always believed that when the time came we could sell it and buy a unit for our twilight years in our town of many years, Castlemaine.

Due to the inflated cost of decent units that plan is no longer an option. By the time we pay out the mortgage balance, and the cost of selling and moving, plus the taxes we will not have nearly enough money. In fact, we will be worse off. Our only alternative is to leave our town, friends and family and move away to where units are more affordable.

However, we are much better off than a lot of people who have no property or prospects for that matter - including no hope of home ownership.

“Our only alternative is to leave our town, friends and family...”

Rentals everywhere are incredibly high and it must be so difficult for so many people. We all know of the chronic shortage of decent social housing - it is worse today than it ever was. It must be fixed.

The Federal Government must pour huge sums into providing affordable housing. Because of the poor state of the economy there is no better time than now to stimulate.

State governments should also abolish the tax on home purchases - even if subject to a means test - and pigs might fly.

However community pressure can work wonders.

