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**Q1**

Name of organisation

PeelConnect

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**Q2**

Your name

Geoff Forman

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**Q3**

Position

Chair

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**Q10**

Describe the experiences of people struggling to access affordable and suitable housing in the context of your organisation's work.

Clients report that safety and security at night is not available to them. They come to us for housing solutions which we are powerless to provide. Some find themselves in their older age being homeless for the first time and not knowing how to access services. We can help there but not a place to sleep.

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**Q11**

Describe the flow-on impacts of the housing crisis in the context of your organisation's work.

Mental health issues then become heightened. We offer counselling services and help with a way to look at this new life can be of assistance. Help to find a new daily routine of food, safety and somewhere to sleep is the core of our work

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**Q12**

Describe how current policy settings impact housing affordability and access to housing from your organisation's perspective.

Each level of government has different policy. Local government has a long term plans for homeless housing but many of our clients will never fit back in to a house. Crisis situations need crisis solutions. But Temporary accommodation and something simple as security and lighting around a designated shelter seem not as acceptable as a big project

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**Q13**

Describe what actions your organisation believes should be taken by governments to most improve affordability and access to housing.

Affordability needs subsidisation. Access to housing needs out of the box thinking which is not a government strong point. When there is a fire and people lose their homes, there is immediate emergency accommodation provided. We are working towards a change of mindset to emergency shelter provision from local council.

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**Q14**

Is there anything else your organisation would like to share with the Commission?

Innovative private sector partnerships will be a key component to the housing crisis. Governments at every level are primarily concerned with themselves. PeelConnect is not government funded and has the ability to speak out and form partnerships. We have long term relationship with clients through day staff and our night carers program. Our recorded data is available for sharing if required.

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