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Q1

Name of organisation

Social Justice Advocates of the Sapphire Coast Inc.

Q2

Your name

Michael Brosnan

Q3

Position

Convenor housing / homelessness sub group

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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.

Daily requests for crisis accommodation.

Many weekly calls from service providers to support their work to provide immediate crisis accommodation.

Q11

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

For the last eleven years our charity has worked to provide caravan and unit support for our Bega Valley Shire homeless.

This always linked to service providers who are unable to meet the demands made of them to provide suitable crisis housing .

To this end we now have 25 caravans and six crisis transitional units housing about 60 people every night .

Q12

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

The above support is absolutely vital but in many senses hides the crisis within our community and is a bandaid solution in that the quick fix does not seem to be impacting on changes within our council staff and state govt responses .

Q13

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

Our shire needs diverse crisis accommodation spread throughout the shire . NOT a congregated in one space or just within caravan parks .

We need refuges for men and women and youth .

We need more low cost rentals immediately and not as so often discussed onto the private market where costs and rentals soar .

Q14

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

We need far greater flexibility in Local government to dual occupancy, use of moveable dwellings without DA but within S68 or similar compliance .

We need the above whilst the longer term plans for social housing come to fruition. Otherwise our crisis continues to run out of control .

We have Caravan units that are being disputed by council as such despite being fully registered and with plates .

This duplicity (yes we have a crisis but you cannot use these units) , and obfuscation must stop for us to help our community.
