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**Q1**

Name of organisation

Youth Outreach - Gold Coast Project for Homeless Youth Inc.

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**Q2**

Your name

Angela Sheeran

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**Q3**

Position

Chief Operating Officer

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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.

We have only 7 SHS 24/7 immediate beds in our region. We are at capacity. There is little opportunity for young people to transition into independence when there is a rental shortage and it is extremely unaffordable. Unless subsidised accommodation is provided by community organisations, young people are forced into shared accommodation options which may not be safe, sustainable and affordable options.

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**Q11**

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

We are unable to assist young people to transition into independence. Young people often commence their journeys with us in immediate accommodation, moving into transitional and supported accommodation. Whilst those options are at capacity there is no continuum of support available to assist young people into independence. The system is jammed. We desperately need housing options for young people.

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**Q12**

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

Economic climate is having a significant impact on the cost of living. Covid-19 fallout continues. Employment income and income support are the greatest barrier to financial independence for young people. Under employment income continues to increase for young people (technically employment, but not getting enough hours) - this does not provide adequate income to support the cost of renting. Youth Allowance does not support the costs associated with independent living.

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**Q13**

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

This is a systemic issue we have got to this point over decades. Poor planning, various governments legacies, lack of funding, intergenerational reliance on income support and social housing, lack of prosperity and increased uncertainty of generations of young people who lack hope of home ownership and full time employment. These will be very challenging times.

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**Q14**

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

We will continue to try to fund housing opportunities to support young people to gain, sustain and maintain a tenancy however without government assistance/funding we are limited by the generous donations of the community.

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