

4 February 2013

Senator Trish Crossin
Chair
Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs
PO Box 6100
Canberra ACT 2600



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Dear Senator Crossin,

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee Inquiry into Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Bill 2012

Response to Question taken on Notice: Question 1, Page 13 of Hansard – Senator Wright

I write on behalf of the Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC) to respond to the question on notice that I took from Senator Wright taken, at the hearing on 24 January 2013 of the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee's Inquiry into the exposure draft Human Rights and Anti Discrimination Bill 2012 (the exposure draft Bill).

The question related to the experience of people experiencing homelessness from rural, regional and remote (RRR) areas. I undertook to determine whether PIAC had casework experience in relation to this issue.

PIAC's submission and evidence to the Inquiry are based on our expertise and experience through our casework and projects such as the Homeless Persons' Legal Service.

PIAC has represented litigants in a number of significant discrimination cases in Australia. Unfortunately, while we have represented individuals from RRR areas, we do not have extensive experience in working with people from RRR areas in relation to homelessness. As a result, we do not have specific case examples of people experiencing the type of discrimination Senator Wright referred to. Accordingly, we cannot provide useful data in response to this question.

Thank you for the opportunity to give evidence to the Inquiry.

Yours sincerely

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