

From:
To: [Community Affairs, Committee \(SEN\)](#)
Subject: Social Services and Other Legislation Amendment (Extension of Coronavirus Support) Bill 2020
Date: Friday, 20 November 2020 2:56:21 PM

Homelessness NSW thank the Committee for allowing us to make a submission to this inquiry.

Recently we released a report entitled [A Wave of Disadvantage](#). We would encourage the Committee to read this full report.

The report focusses on five key domains of disadvantage housing, domestic violence, child protection, mental health and education. The report estimates that without interventions to strengthen the social safety net by June 2021

- The number of 20-24 year olds in NSW experiencing high or very high mental distress will increase by up to 16.8 per cent.
- Further to the impacts of COVID-19, higher unemployment will lead to rates of domestic violence increasing by up to 5.5 per cent in some regions of NSW.
- Over 9,000 more people in NSW will be homeless – a rise of 24.0 per cent in the homeless population. Some regions in NSW will experience a 40.5 per cent increase in homelessness.
- The number of NSW families experiencing housing stress will increase by over 88,000 or 24.3 per cent. There will be 27,447 more children at risk of neglect across NSW, a 24.5 per cent rise due to increased unemployment.
- Mean NAPLAN scores in Year 9 maths will fall by 23.6 points (3.5 per cent) in 2021 compared to 2019 results, with some areas improving and other areas, including those with a high proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students falling over 6 per cent.

Already homeless services in NSW are witnessing an influx of new, additional people previously unknown to the homeless service sector. Largely these are families, consisting of a parent or two with children. Income has been lost and the rental market is providing little relief. Prior to the pandemic homeless services in NSW were already seeing 22% more clients than they are funded for. The pandemic has made matters much worse. We would implore the Government to ensure that post the pandemic we build a nation that ensures no one lives in poverty and that we end homelessness. This will not be achieved by cuts to welfare payments.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss any of these matters further

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