# Our Submission to the Department of Social Services on Housing and Homelessness

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|  | This is an Easy Read version of an Inclusion Australia **submission**. |
|  | A **submission** is when we write to the Government and tell them what we think. |
|  | Our submission told the Government what we think about their **National** **Housing and Homelessness Plan.**  We call it **the Plan** for short. |
| Free A Man Sleeping on a Cardboard Stock Photo | **Homelessness** is when people have nowhere to live. |
|  | **The Plan** will show what the Government will do about housing and homelessness in Australia over the next 10 years. |
|  | You can find the big version of our submission [here.](https://www.inclusionaustralia.org.au/submission/national-housing-and-homelessness-plan/) |

## Housing and homelessness of people with an intellectual disability

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|  | People with an intellectual disability in Australia have trouble finding housing that is   * Safe * Accessible * Cheap enough. |
|  | People with an intellectual disability are more likely to have problems with housing and homelessness than most people. |
|  | For example   * Not getting a say in where they live or who they live with * Being discriminated against when looking for housing * Having a hard time getting housing supports * Not being able to afford somewhere to live. |
|  | This means lots of people with an intellectual disability must live in places they do not want to.  For example in **Supported Independent Living.** |
|  | **Supported Independent Living** is for people who need a lot of help to live independently.  They are sometimes called **group homes.** |
|  | People with an intellectual disability in a group home are more likely to be   * Hurt * Neglected * Taken advantage of. |
|  | People with an intellectual disability often get less choice and control over their lives in a group home.  For example what activities they can do and who they can spend time with. |
|  | The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability** or **UNCRPD** for short says people with disability deserve safe and accessible housing just like everyone else. |
|  | The Disability Royal Commissionsays people with an intellectual disability need good housing support services. |
|  | The Government must make sure the Plan gives more safe and accessible housing options to people with an intellectual disability. |
|  | The Plan must include funding for good housing support services to support people with an intellectual disability. |

## Supported decision making

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|  | People with an intellectual disability have the right to choose where they live and who they live with. |
|  | But this does not happen very often. |
|  | People with an intellectual disability are often forced into group homes or other living situations they are not happy with. |
|  | The **UNCRPD** says that people with disability should be able to make their own decisions about where they live and who they live with. |
|  | This includes good support when making decisions about housing. |
|  | The Plan must include funding for supporting decisions about housing for people with an intellectual disability. |
|  | The Government must make sure there are accessible resources about supported decision making. |
| Support | These resources should be available for people with an intellectual disability and their supporters. |

## Cost of living

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|  | Many people with an intellectual disability live below the poverty line.  This means they are more likely to have trouble affording everyday things like rent and groceries. |
|  | People with an intellectual disability often have expenses that others do not.  For example   * Medications * Doctors and specialist appointments. |
|  | 7 out of 10 people with an intellectual disability rely on the Disability Support Pension to get by. |
|  | This means lots of people with an intellectual disability must live in places they do not want to because it is cheaper.  For example   * In group homes * In housing that is unsafe * In housing that is not accessible * In housing that is far away from supports. |
|  | This can make people with an intellectual disability feel   * Sad or depressed * Unheard.   People are also more likely to be treated badly or hurt in these places. |
|  | The Plan must include more safe and affordable housing options for people with an intellectual disability. |

## What happens next?

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|  | The Government will look at what we said and think about how to make the Plan work for everyone. |
|  | The final version of the Plan will be released sometime in 2024. |