

[REDACTED] – Darwin Correctional Facility

11 December 2017 (scribed over the phone by– Anti-Discrimination Commission)

Submission is in response to the possible addition of “homelessness” and “socioeconomic disadvantage” as attributes.

Trying to go into public buildings you are not dressed well enough or you smell (long grass, may need to access money from your bank) physically barred from going into this area. Security Guards may still have the right via trespass notice to stop people from coming in. Don't meet the service requirements, no reason given not provided to a proper address – quasi action, people's rights impinged. Deliberately being done to stop someone from accessing normal services.

Within homelessness more and more services being cut back hard to get showers and soap. Council have bike places where you can shower, can go in at night time and lock yourself in.

Department of Infrastructure have parks and gardens in their portfolio, responsible for homelessness people – including places where change sheds. For example Nightcliff Tennis Club – need to be open so can be used. Homeless people are moved on. The services people need, if they look dirty, get themselves into situations where they will get angry and then becomes criminal action.

Freedom of association and freedom of movement. Get labelled and targeted end up being paranoid, demonises you and effects where you can go.

Different security guards know each other. Not a closed in area, could sit while having lunch, it is not an enclosed area under the Trespass Act. Homeless people often get moved on, threatened and assaulted by Security Guards, or calling police.

Judgement based on how much money. I am an artist, because make art out of rubbish, don't want to make money. Feels ADA is like a human rights bill – currently skin, gender – would also empower homeless people to get together and have rights and work together to get lands and houses. Currently seen as trouble makers.

Socioeconomic – only place allowed to congregate is a dole office a job place, no areas where people can mingle, can be together, can't discriminate against us because we are sitting here. Tired if been out at night – roll out things to sleep during the day and rangers say you can't be here. Currently homeless people can't voice their experiences. Harder and harder for people to get services, if someone standing there and security guard comes and you can say I have rights, I can stand here. Who they are and what they are can go forward. Becoming an equal citizen.

Examples like the Ochre Card you need an address, same with voting- some places deal with homeless some don't.

If you say I don't know how to fill out a form, I still want to access these things, it would force organisations to do a process for this. If I do not have the resources, a guarantee of those services, not just pushed aside. Politicians will need to look at these issues.

Homeless person needs to have their own lawyer, without an address to get things sent to you. Tried to get my "L"s, most people would have a postal address, was unable to use a PO Box, could not get a licence, would help with id to get a job. If they haven't lived somewhere harder and harder. Forces them to use someone else's card or car, which then leads to criminal action. Get people on board within govern organisations which gives them access to other services such as libraries.

Katie Ahern 2010-11 – Lord Mayor's funds, Homeless Connect – chosen to talk about what like to be homeless, talked about getting a library card to use the computers and to go to the NTG library and use the computers. But if you can't get a card can't do the things you want to do such as job application, the basic address is really hard.

Example: Had some bags – nowhere to put stuff if your homeless – no lockers or place to put (people say they smell) – if somewhere you can put so can sit in the library to read a book. Got told while reading the newspaper, I was told to move, told it was because of my bags smelt. I said they do not smell, I was told to move them. Had just spent the last year talking about access to the library at the Homeless Connect forum. Now being told not allowed to be here because you smell. Now becoming a target because talked about an issue. Being made to feel guilty because I talked about it.

Emma Darby in the main library – was asked to leave, brought in a ranger, if just grab your stuff and leave, there are women here with prams – said there are heaps of other people, only because homeless – got banned from using every library in Darwin and nowhere near the council. Targeting because a homeless person.

Having these 2 attributes would be the start of something that would require governments to look at these issues.

Would humanise things – basis for Salvos St Vinnies to start services for homeless people, to have a trolley to sell things or carts have wares sell things to homeless people. There is an economy of poor people, can survive without a home – give them dignity and a voice otherwise don't have that. People would study and research. If people don't have this amount to study – important thing way society is moving – economic rationalism, that you are sponging off society, would allow homeless people to contribute. People could soften society – be more compassionate. People live like this – may never be in mainstream but are real people, brain damage, sexually abused that leaves them in this area, can't cope with a job 7 days a week. They have a disability in a way but not something that can presently be characterised as something under the ADA. Emotionally and socially putting you down, the more you try and take part in society – criminalised – social person, can stand for Lord Mayor or Government because does not have a criminal sentence over 12 months, not bankrupt – can register on role as a homeless person.

Did not need to be on the electoral role to run for Lord Mayor, but wanted to be enrolled NTEC proactive, officially there was homelessness in their regulations, can register – went into their office, can give an address for the last 5-10 years, where you were on the electoral role for 3 months. Could keep using that even though have not lived there for a long time. Got me registered as a human being. Often homeless people, get ranked in with terrorists and criminals, because you don't have an address. You are

flying under the radar, not allowed to do this. Everything is ID if you don't have can do anything. Need an address to get ID.

Trying to get a birth certificate – BDM – they would need to ring me and ask questions because I have no ID. But they can't ring me because I am in jail. Sometimes disempowered, they then say not the rules and call the police. The way you look, if you look poor people will just call the police and issue a trespass notice. If the ADA was there it would lead to the fact that people who are homeless or who have no money would have rights. Allow people to live a certain way – not a home that gives me status it is who I am.

The Act will give people a voice if cover these attributes. We are allowed to have a place to eat and a place to live. Example public housing can't say need a reference from another house in order to get a house.

The effects of homeless would start to be studied as a result of these changes. A foot hold to help people move forward, give people the language, no language to even talk about it now.

Example Mindal Beach market, if don't look like you there to spend money just want to listen to the music, you get moved on.

May chose to be homeless or may have no choice and be homeless – mental illness, brain damage – can't get help to get somewhere, not getting basic things. People have a right to get basic needs met. Access to housing if wanted, access to shelter if they have to sleep in a park that they are not committing a crime. Different if their behaviour is wrong, but if just having no home, not basis for discrimination – protect from attitude and labelling lead to more mental illness and homelessness and allows them to enter into a range of areas.

Stigma of homelessness or being poor is that you are deliberately doing it to not get a house and not get a job – you must have a drinking problem you must have some issue you must be a person who gets angry all the time – then when you argue back about these issues people say – but you are angry now and reinforces this view – socio economic compounds this can't open a bank account without a certain amount of money – marginalisation

Dignity of being able to have a little stall make small money we won't people who are producing things