

# Proposal

## 'Courtney's Patch Ecovillage' for Homeless Women



*"Let's End Homelessness Together for Good"*

Prepared by

**Homeless Lives Matter Australia**

for

**COMMUNITY CONSULTATION, PARTNERS AND FUNDING**

*"People who are homeless are not social inadequates.  
They are people without homes."*

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November 23, 2019

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## 1.0 HOMELESS LIVES MATTER AUSTRALIA

*"...the hungry, the naked, the homeless, the crippled, the blind, the lepers, all those people who feel unwanted, unloved, uncared for throughout society, people that have become a burden to the society and are shunned by everyone."*

Mother Teresa



It is estimated that 150 million people are homeless worldwide. Habitat for Humanity estimated in 2015 that **1.6 billion** people around the world live in "**inadequate shelter**". More than 100 million are at risk of starvation. Self-sufficiency, self-reliance and positive empowerment is critical to ensure people can sustain their own lives without handouts.

**More than 100 million at risk of starvation globally: (U.N. official)** *"Humanitarian assistance has kept many people alive so far but their food security situation has continued to deteriorate," Mr Burgeon told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in an interview. More investment is needed to help people feed themselves by farming crops and livestock, he added. "We come with aeroplanes, we provide food assistance and we manage to keep them alive but we **do not invest enough in the livelihood** of these people," he said. "We avoid them falling into famine but we are not good at **taking them off the cliff**, away from food insecurity..."<sup>1</sup>*

**YouTube:** SDG - Ending Poverty and Hunger <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j7KKZ6v5o34>

### 1.1 Introduction

Homeless Lives Matter Australia is an **initiative of homeless people and those with lived experience** to empower *citizens without homes* to end homelessness for good. Homelessness in reality is not about a house it is about a *home*. We do not call it *houselessness* we refer to *homelessness*. This includes a sense of the home within. Inherent within this one word is the **solution** to the problem which can be understood in the saying "*there is no place like home*". This is about coming home to where you belong, where you feel secure and your needs are met. Home is about community or common unity where all are accepted. It is about friendship, kindness and inclusivity. The rising number of homeless is due to heartlessness which structurally facilitates: the breakdown of the family, focuses on what you do rather than who you are, social isolation (rejection) and displacement (no permanent place to live) in a community and country, in effect, stateless. It is true people need houses but the real trauma is the loss of *feeling* home and the heartbreak of realising you are judged for your situation and denial ensures no-one cares.

**Homeless Lives Matter Australia was founded by Susan Carew** who has been homeless for 2 years due to an eviction and income support (welfare) cancelled due to conscientious objection raised about ineffective job providers and corruption raised by ABC 7.30 Report. Through her own hardship, poverty, societal indifference and no pathways back

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-global-food-hunger-idUSKBN16A2I7>

into housing, she realised there were no real options available. She witnessed the emotional disconnect with many she encountered given they had no lived experience. This was why they didn't respond with urgency, empathy and practical support to alleviate the crisis she was going through. It is well known the longer a person is homeless they will start to believe their life has no worth, value as they lose real hope. The crisis is the disconnect from our shared humanity.

**Citizens without homes live in survival mode**, attempting to meet basic human needs. It is not possible to focus on higher needs until the basics are covered. Refer Maslow's



Hierarchy of Needs. Citizens without homes live vastly different lives as they constantly move, there is no structure, there is no sense of belonging, little access given poverty, low engagement with the community, sleep deprivation due to sleeping rough or in unfit environments, not enough income (income trap), lack or no access to community services (no Centrelink), poor quality cheaper food and lack of temporary shelter, expensive private rental housing or unaffordable social housing.

**It is important that public awareness is raised about the political, economic and social causes of homelessness rather than blame those in crisis. These factors include:** structural exclusion of users pay system (pay to access, fees), loss of public space (costs), discrimination towards those without money (worthless), inequality (inferiority), psychological disapproval or indifference manifesting in the stressors of family/relationship breakdown, addictions and violence (covert, overt). Indifference is the most painful as people will ignore or walk past the homeless in a wealthy society. In a profit driven economy many **new buildings and apartments are built** or renovated, yet the homeless are not housed or cared for sufficiently. **Inequality** is evident when new apartments are empty.

In addition, the **privatisation** of public services and assets is a **core issue** where homeless **need is a market signal** whereby Service Providers offer services, paid by consumers (homeless) and make profit on the delivery of services. Economics emphasises **economic growth** which is a significant barrier to ending homelessness. This means that homelessness under this strategy will not end as its expansion is profitable. The *poverty mentality* ironically exists in those with the most wealth and influence who will not invest in social housing and temporary accommodation if it is not profitable in response to a national emergency. The **political and economic bias** coupled with other business priorities is why homeless people are disregarded on the streets. This is **unacceptable in a democratic society**.

Therefore, it is essential that *homeless citizens* live in quality homes where they can be self-determining, equal, self-sufficient and low cost as an incentive to end homelessness.

Homeless Lives Matter aims to create a **peaceful** space where every person is valued and loved. Homeless Lives Matter offers **workable solutions** to solve a crisis embedded in economic doctrines *rather* than therapeutic cultural approaches to end suffering.

It is vital to accurately **reframe homelessness** as the stigma of economic worthlessness is deeply embedded in the social, cultural and political psyche as the victim is blamed. It is the real barrier that prevents the ending of homelessness. Therefore, the reframing will be enshrined in the motto '**home is where the heart is**' and in recognition that when people do not open their hearts, they co-create homelessness. It is **important to recognise** that those in the most difficult circumstances are often the most **resilient**, as they live in constant uncertainty. It takes strength to survive, to live with few resources and little support confronting vilification and disapproval where a person is covertly or overtly blamed for their circumstances. They made their bed! Their choice!

**This proposal aims to offer a real solution** which will not only *end homelessness* in the sense of sustainable homes, but psychologically end it by reframing homelessness. This means raising awareness of the strength and resiliency of those homeless in living simple, humble and potentially ecologically sustainable lives for the betterment of humanity.

**It is proposed a pilot ecovillage is built to provide a home to 50 homeless women and girls** who are on the street or at risk of homelessness. They will be empowered to move to renewable lives. This change will be positive and transformative as they will be empowered in skills that ensure not only basic survival but healing the hurts and discovering inner happiness in a community of likeminded women.

**The ecovillage aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals and will end: poverty (inequality) and hunger (cultivating own food), gender inequality (all women), clean water and sanitation, energy affordability aiming for zero emissions (low cost, zero energy costs), optimal consumption (permaculture garden), lifestyle harmonising with climate (homeostasis, nonpolluting), peace and justice (community building, values) and partner with the community to meet these goals (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13,16, 17).**



This project proposal is an initiative that **empowers:** *self-reliance, self-determination and self-empowerment* (dignity) in alignment with the United Nations protocols as follows:

### Universal Declaration of Human Rights<sup>2</sup>

*Article 25: Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for their health and wellbeing;*

*Article 3: Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.*

### The International Covenants: Economic, Social and Cultural Rights<sup>3</sup> and Civil and Political Rights:<sup>4</sup>

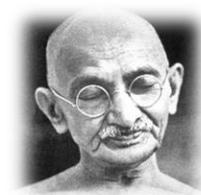
*Article 1: All peoples have the right of self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.*

Rights and freedoms ensure dignity and a standard of living that enables the enjoyment of freedom and happiness. This is what homeless people want. *Citizens without homes* don't want dependency, discrimination, inequality or feeling powerless which is the root cause of trauma and negative patterning that becomes generational and deepens the poverty trap. They want **REAL HOPES** for a future that survives and thrives in peace.

The message in this proposal is that **Homeless Lives Do Matter** and they deserve high quality homes not the 'scraps' or cheapest accommodation, which again, reinforces they are unequal to other citizens. The ecovillage places citizens who have the lowest carbon footprint at the centre of renewable sustainable living to action social transformation which aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The motto "*Home is where the heart is*" is not a simplified action of doing good, it is about decisions coming from a **human centred approach**. This means feeling compassion, treating people with respect and dignity no matter their economic status, demonstrating loving kindness and empowering the pathway home.

**Homelessness can only occur when beliefs of inequality exist** or the value of a person is based on economic wealth (ownership) and discriminations arising from judgements demarcating who is worthy and who is not, based on normalised criteria. When we drop the label of 'homelessness' we realise and reaffirm *home is where the heart is* and this is where home is experienced as happiness. It is the feeling of coming home. Homeless women will **recreate home** amongst lost friends to ensure they are supported, valued and healed as this is one of the ways to truly end homelessness. It is envisaged that after the pilot project is successfully trialed, it will be expanded to other homeless citizens. Therefore, to "*Live Simply So Others May Simply Live.*" (Gandhi)



The key question is: *Do you choose to end homelessness for good?*

<sup>2</sup> Universal Declaration of Human Rights: <https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/index.html>

<sup>3</sup> International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights  
<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CESCR.aspx>

<sup>4</sup> International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CCPR.aspx>

## 1.2 Homelessness: Key Statistics

*Ubuntu*

*'I am what I am because of who we all are'.*

*Ubuntu underscores the importance of agreement or consensus.*

The political strategic approach to ending homelessness has not worked, as the root causes have not been understood. It is essential that homeless citizens solve this problem.

### 1.2.1 Ineffectiveness of Government Approaches and Funding

The Rudd Government White Paper *The Road Home: A National Approach to reducing Homelessness* 2008, indicated the following vision:

The White Paper Vision: **Homelessness is everyone's responsibility.** Ending homelessness requires sustained long-term effort from all levels of government, business, the not-for profit sector and the community.

The Australian Government, with the agreement of state and territory governments, has set two headline goals to guide our long term response to homelessness:

- halve overall homelessness by **2020** (105,000 [2008] *increased* to 116,427 [2020])
- offer supported accommodation to **all rough sleepers** who need it by 2020 (*7% increase [2020]*).

This White Paper delivers a **55 per cent increase on the current investment in homelessness.** This represents an **additional \$800 million** over four years and is a down payment on the 12 year reform agenda. It also includes a commitment to additional social housing for homeless people of \$400 million over the next two financial years.

In 2019, the Assistant Minister for Homelessness didn't think there was a crisis, stating:

*"I want to put a positive **spin** on it as well and not just say Australia is in a housing crisis when it affects a very, very small percentage of the population," Mr Howarth told Radio National..."*

By contrast the New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinta Ardern made this statement:

*"As soon as we came into government we knew we wouldn't be able to physically build the houses we'd need by May, when winter was really starting to bite. So we **acknowledge this is emergency**, this is transitional [housing], but **we couldn't stand by and see people in cars or completely unsuitable housing** in the meantime."*

*Ardern added that her team have been in touch with front line service providers such as Housing New Zealand and instructed them to be **"flexible" and "supportive" to those in need.***

***"No one** should be sleeping in a car this winter," said Twyword. "Absolutely," seconded Ardern. "No one".*

*Community Housing Aotearoa said it welcomed the government's push to get homeless people **off the streets by winter.***

Ending homelessness is a decision. To-date there has been insufficient political will or understanding to achieve the 2020 goal. It is evident this is due to the low priority accorded homelessness compared to infrastructure projects and digital transformation. The crumbs do not fall off the table. No-one should be without shelter. Billions are spent yet the core problem is not solved because the wrong questions have been asked. Imagine if money had been paid directly into homeless empowerment, social housing and community building. Many wouldn't be crying and dying. Homelessness is a national emergency.

### 1.3 Is Homelessness a National Emergency?

Homelessness is a **national emergency as 116,427** people are currently without homes and approximately 100,000 are seeking accommodation every night.

- ❖ ***The majority of persons without homes are not living on the streets.*** Under half, (44%, 51,088) persons live in severely overcrowded dwellings in places that are not permanent. Just under one in five (18%, 21,235) live in supported accommodation, others stay in temporary households (15%, 17,725). Just under 1 in 10 (7%, 8,200) live in improvised dwellings, tents or sleep out (rough) and 1% in other temporary lodgings.
- ❖ ***In Australia, the number of persons waiting for social housing is 189,400 households allocation at 30 June 2017.***
- ❖ ***The majority of people experiencing homelessness long-term in Australia are found in the large cities of Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth.***
- ❖ ***It is estimated that on any given night approximately 105,000 people will be homeless and many more are living in insecure housing, "one step away from being homeless".***

In Victoria, according to Council to homeless persons<sup>5</sup>, there were over 22,000 people in Victoria recorded as homeless on Census night in 2011. **People aged 55 or more** made up 2,710, or approximately 12% of the recorded homeless population in the Census.

Approximately **82,000 people are on Victoria's public housing waiting list**, this is growing by about 500 names every month. Moreover, there are approximately **24,817 persons without homes**. Shortages in the affordable private rental market also affect low-income households in the second income quintile with a shortage of close to 22,000 private rental dwellings for this group, with more than 20,000 of these in Melbourne.

The Victorian Government<sup>6</sup> promised the following in the lead up to the 2018 election:

*[if] re-elected Andrews Labor Government will help more Victorians escape from family violence, homelessness and life on the streets with **1,000 new public housing properties** across the state. The Andrews Labor Government has **already** delivered more than 1,500 additional community and public housing properties, putting a roof over the head of Victorians who have nowhere else to go. **Existing tenants** will have the quality homes they deserve, with the Labor Government **replacing up to 2,500 old public housing properties with modern, comfortable, energy efficient and secure properties**. There's more to do and only Labor will invest **\$209 million to build an additional 1,000 public housing properties** over three years. This will help get more Victorians off the streets and into a home of their own, so they can turn their lives around. **This investment will include 800 one and two-bedroom properties and 200 three-bedroom properties**, providing homes for around 1,800 (?) Victorians around the state. Family violence is a major contributor to homelessness and these larger three-bedroom properties will be suitable for families, helping women escape violent relationships and build a new life with a stable home for their children.*

<sup>5</sup> [http://chp.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/10122012\\_Homelessness-in-Victoria-with-2011-ABS-stats.pdf](http://chp.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/10122012_Homelessness-in-Victoria-with-2011-ABS-stats.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/building-new-homes-to-fight-homelessness/>

The promised 1,000 new public houses compared to a **shortage of 22,000** affordable private houses. By contrast, investments in **high quality apartments** is approximately **20,832** in the pipeline in Melbourne. The irony is that new apartments are built for those on higher incomes (professional) and in **oversupply** meaning that some apartments are empty. Those who need homes are **undersupplied** by the same amount, rendering people homeless due to income inequality. Up to 1 million empty houses are under occupied and the twin issue of empty land such as crown land and public land is not made available to the homeless.<sup>7</sup>

The Sydney Morning Herald <sup>8</sup> "One million homes left empty across Australia" July 18, 2017:

*Australia has 200,000 **more homes** sitting empty than it had a decade ago, new figures show, despite the country grappling with a housing supply shortage that is pushing the cost of a first home beyond many of its residents. "There is gross under-occupation across Australia," Mr Pawson said, adding that **there were up to a million homes** with three or more extra bedrooms than the owner required. The figures from the 2016 census have been described as "cruel and immoral" by leading UNSW urban policy expert Hal Pawson, who has warned the government must act to stem the growth in unoccupied housing... "There is a growing realisation that our housing market is **not working well**. It doesn't just create a problem for people on low incomes, it also hurts spending in the economy when **housing is overvalued**. The figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics show up to **11.2 per cent of properties are now unoccupied**, up from 9.8 per cent in 2006. In the space of two decades Australia has added 2.1 million homes to its property portfolio but an extra 360,000 are being left vacant... Considering that thousands of people sleep rough – almost 7000 on census night in 2011, more than 400 per night in Sydney in 2017 and that hundreds of thousands face overcrowded homes or unaffordable rents – these seem like cruel and immoral revelations... The Victorian government has also introduced a self-reported vacant **property tax** of 1 per cent of the homes value due to come into effect from January 1."*

Other economic factors that are typically not discussed relate to land tax rather than labour income tax. **Prosper**<sup>9</sup>, a Melbourne based community organisation was started to prosper the community. It is noteworthy that Walter Burley Griffin, the designer of Canberra, was an original member of the group. The following is another way of thinking about inequality and the natural monopoly of land on 'spaceship earth':

*Prosper Australia grew out of the appetite for social reform at the beginning of the twentieth century. Although there was **landowner opposition to the idea of taxing land instead of income from labour**, the reform enjoyed **widespread support** during the progressive era (1890-1920). During the first twenty years or so of the last century, our journal *Progress* reached a circulation of 20,000. Both the conservative and Labor Parties had **Land Value Taxation** in their policy platforms. We were part of a wider movement for a more **equitable society** and dynamic economy... During the dislocation of the depression and war years, support tapered off. However, a dedicated cadre remained enthused. A band of businessmen including American designer of Canberra, **Walter Burley Griffin** clubbed together in 1920 and bought a property so the organization would have a permanent home in Melbourne. A generous benefactor, Edgar Culley donated money and founded the Henry George Foundation of Australia on the 25th of May 1928. These initiatives gave the movement a sound financial.*

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.austrade.gov.au/land-tenure/land-tenure/crown-land>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/census-snapshot-one-million-homes-left-empty-across-australia-20170717-gxcpiw.html>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.prosper.org.au/about/our-history/>

### 1.3.1 Homelessness Australia<sup>10</sup>

The statistics below are cited from the ABS Census of Housing and Population and the AIHW Specialist Homeless Services data collection for their statistics. The ABS Census is conducted every five years, with the most recent release being for 2016. The author asserts it is likely the numbers are significantly higher given the stigma and shame.

Homelessness in Australia has increased 13.7% in 5 years

- ABS Census, 2016



116,427 people were counted in the Census as being homeless on Census night (up from 102,439 in 2011)

The **rate of homelessness** (which takes into account population density) is **50 out of every 10,000 people** —up five per cent from the 48 persons in 2011, and up on the 45 persons in 2006

On Census night, **116,427** Australians were experiencing homelessness of some form. **58%** were male, and **42%** were female



20% (or 23,437) are *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians* (down from 26% in 2011) 30% are born *overseas*.

#### State breakdown

- NSW 37,715 (50.4 people per 10,000) +37% since 2011
- VIC 24,817 (41.9 people per 10,000) +11% since 2011
- QLD 21,671 (46.1 people per 10,000) +14% since 2011
- SA 6,224 (37.1 people per 10,000) +7% since 2011
- WA 9,005 (36.4 people per 10,000) -2% since 2011
- TAS 1,622 (31.8 people per 10,000) +6% since 2011
- **NT 13,717 (599.4 people per 10,000) +11% since 2011**
- ACT 1,596 (40.2 people per 10,000) -8% since 2011

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au/>

Rough sleepers represent just **7%** of all homelessness nationally. They are the tip of the iceberg.

- ABS Census, 2016



### Where are people staying?

- **"Severely" overcrowded dwellings 44% (51,088)**
- Supported accommodation for the homeless 18% (21,235)
- Staying temporarily with other households 15% (17,725)
- Boarding houses 15% (17,503)
- Improvised dwellings, tents or sleeping out 7% (8,200)
- Other temporary lodging 1% (678)

There has been a **28%** increase in Australians aged 55+ experiencing homelessness. They are a rapidly growing age bracket

- ABS Census, 2016



### How old are they?

- Under 12                    14% (15,872) +11% since 2011
- 12-18                      10% (10,913)
- 19-24                      15% (15,325)
- **25-34                      18% (19,312)**
- 35-44                      14% (14,484)
- 45-54                      12% (12,507)
- 55-64                      8% (8,649)
- 65-74                      4% (4,174)
- 75 and over                2% (2,028)

[Find more information on homelessness in our fact sheets here](#)<sup>11</sup>

<sup>11</sup> Homelessness Australia <https://www.homelessnessaustralia.org.au/>

## 1.4 Homeless Women

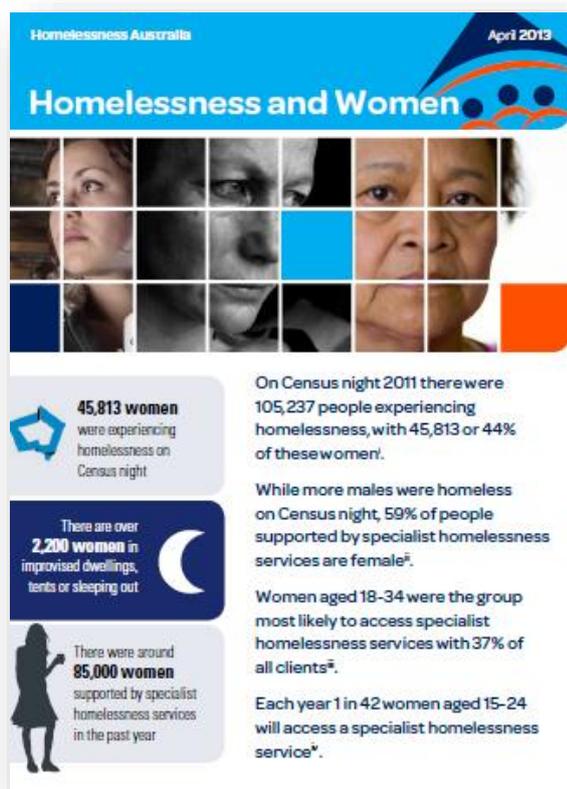
*When I was sleeping in the car  
... I would just drive around  
... try and drink the day away really to just get rid of it  
...till the next day, which would become a perpetual sadness."  
(Maureen, aged 43)*



The homelessness of women is a critical issue and older women represent the fastest growing demographic. Violence is a key issue and reveals problems within society and family relations. It is **not safe for women to be on the street and domestic violence is the largest single cause** of homelessness in Australia. The author would include psychological abuse as another silent form of violence that can happen at work or in society. Women are perceived as **vulnerable** which is why violence is projected by those seeking power.

### 1.4.1 Homeless Women and Sexual Assault

This excerpt is from the Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault (ACSSA Wrap).



This Wrap<sup>12</sup> considers the needs of **victim/survivors of sexual assault who are also experiencing homelessness**. Reducing homelessness and supporting those without stable, secure accommodation calls for a **"trauma-informed" model of service delivery**. The characteristics of this model and its implications for accommodation solutions, workforce development and the evidence-base are discussed.

Approximately 100,000 people are homeless in Australia each night, and the number of homeless in Australia is increasing (Australian Government, 2008b). **Domestic and family violence** are now acknowledged as the **largest single cause of homelessness in Australia** (Australian Government, 2008a).

Existing research has found that sexual assault is also of significance to the homelessness problem, particularly for the **most disadvantaged**, for whom the situation of homelessness has become entrenched. However, the relationship between homelessness and sexual assault has received little recognition in policy,

research or service provision. **Being homeless has profound implications for a person's overall life and wellbeing**, but when a homeless person experiences sexual assault(s), before and/or during the experience of homelessness, their lives are made significantly more difficult.

<sup>12</sup> [https://aifs.gov.au/sites/default/files/publication-documents/acssa\\_wrap7.pdf](https://aifs.gov.au/sites/default/files/publication-documents/acssa_wrap7.pdf)

This Wrap looks at the problem of homelessness through the lens of those who have also experienced sexual assault. Doing so suggests **different ways of understanding homelessness overall**, and different solutions to the homelessness problem. While this paper supports current understandings of solving homelessness through more than "just accommodation and a job", it argues for an explicit recognition of sexual assault and other violent trauma within these "housing plus" solutions. It describes a model that has "trauma-informed" and "trauma-specific" service systems, said by some to represent a **"vital paradigm shift" in the sector**. Finally, this paper also addresses how these issues are relevant to the broader issues of social inclusion and human capital agenda, as well as suggesting some topics for future research. Goodman, Dutton, and Harris (1997) acknowledged that while researchers, policy makers and clinicians had begun to look more extensively at the **impact of violence against women** they have overlooked the very population among whom this problem may be most widespread—those who live in **extreme poverty** ...

... And of poor women, perhaps the least researched are episodically homeless women. (Goodman et al., 1997, p. 51) The dearth of research on sexual assault and homelessness, along with the absence of any explicit mention of sexual assault in contemporary homelessness policy developments, suggests that this oversight still occurs.

As Australia develops new approaches to tackling homelessness (Australian Government, 2008a, 2008b, 2008c) **this is an excellent time to change that situation.**<sup>1</sup>

#### 1.4.2 Older women are the fastest growing group of homeless Australians

According to News.com.au:<sup>13</sup>

*AUSTRALIA is only at the beginning of a massive problem that's plaguing those who are closest to us. And they're doing desperate things to survive.*

*MONIQUE Pearce, 42, has a warm face and infectious laugh. Wearing a handmade necklace and a big, woolly cardigan to stave off Canberra's winter chill, she starts chatting straight away. It's impossible not to like her. She candidly describes herself as an "older woman" who is "facing life alone." While Monique now **lives in supported accommodation offered by St Vincent De Paul**, just 12 weeks ago she was homeless and forced to **survive on the street** in ways many of us would find unimaginable. **"It is dangerous. You do not sleep very well,"** she says, "I might find somewhere safe to sleep by being a bit slutty, just for a bed." This could lead to "some breakfast in the morning and a packet of cigarettes." And that's a big deal, considering the meal might be the only one she has for many hours to come. It might seem like a world away but as Monique says, homelessness **"can happen to anyone at any time."** "I had a relationship breakup. I lost my job not long after," she explains, "I lost my house because we split up. Financially I could not cope ... **and I just did not have anywhere to go."***

*Her story is far from unique. While **older women** do not make up the majority of homeless Australians, they are a **rapidly rising demographic**. According to statistics gathered by the Federal Government's Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, from 2011-12 to 2013-14 the number of women aged 55 years and over accessing specialist homelessness services increased by 26 per cent. Close to **10,000 older women accessed these services in the last financial year.***

<sup>13</sup><https://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/real-life/news-life/older-women-are-the-fastest-growing-group-of-homeless-australians/news-story/6dde2e8aa0872573d5be13ad916df305>

## 1.5 Is The Emergency Crisis Response Process Effective?

An effective Crisis Response System<sup>14</sup> is essential for those dealing with homelessness. The appropriate steps are typically not taken and represent best practice when coordinated.

The goals of an effective crisis response system are to identify those experiencing homelessness, prevent homelessness when possible, connect people with housing *quickly* and provide services when needed. An effective crisis response system achieves those goals through the following:

- **Outreach:** Outreach workers connect people at risk of or experiencing homelessness to coordinated entry, emergency services, and shelter. They work with other programs in the system to connect people to stable, permanent housing.
- **Coordinated entry:** Coordinated entry is a process designed to quickly identify, assess, refer and connect people in crisis to housing and assistance and services.
- **Diversion and prevention:** Prevention and diversion are important components of a community's crisis response and can help it reduce the size of its homeless population. Prevention assistance can aid households in preserving their current housing situation while diversion prevents homelessness for people seeking shelter by helping them identify immediate alternate housing arrangements and, if necessary, connecting them with services.
- **Emergency shelters and interim housing:** People experiencing a housing crisis or fleeing an unsafe situation need to find a place to stay, quickly. Emergency shelter and interim housing can fill this role in a crisis response system. These interventions should be low-barrier and align their goals and program activities with the larger system's goals.
- **Permanent housing:** A crisis response system must have the capacity to connect people experiencing homelessness with permanent housing programs, such as rapid re-housing and permanent supportive housing, and other stable housing options.

How a Crisis Response System Can End Homelessness: An effective crisis response system is able to identify and quickly connect people who are experiencing or are at risk of experiencing homelessness to housing assistance and other services. It works because it aligns a community, its programs and services around one common goal — to make homelessness rare, brief, and nonrecurring.

The system encountered by the author provided no pathway or coordinated approach out of homelessness. There was no follow up or concern. The process was disempowering.

When a homeless person is able to access accommodation there is the problem of cost. The cost of a room in a **rooming house is \$250 per week**. This is expensive even in a private rental market. This amount is equivalent to Centrelink payments.

Moreover, services providers can cut corners in order to **maximise profit** offering only what they are contracted to provide. Given they are not in the homeless area because of a strong desire to end homelessness, they typically interact to **evaluate eligibility** as they are paid on the basis of certain criteria.

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<sup>14</sup> <https://endhomelessness.org/ending-homelessness/solutions/crisis-response/>

**The market increases the cost of services** to the government and clients. It is a competitive area and the number of services may affect profitability. Traditionally, homeless services would be **provided at cost and cross-subsidised** to ensure equal access for anyone in need. A client or consumer (as identified) are typically desperate and severely poor and they may present with a range of challenges (physical, mental, social) given this type of hardship. If the person has no money a service provider *may* pay for them but this money comes out of the organisation's budget. It follows that from an economic perspective they have **less incentive to offer the poorest person accommodation** if there is no profit. This is a market failure.

As a result of the above rationale, a homeless person ***not on Centrelink*** may not be told in clear terms about this type of discrimination for obvious reasons. Therefore, the market nature of this type of **service delivery becomes a barrier to entry** and it is not advertised. Therefore, this category of homeless persons may find themselves outside of the system and having to battle to survive. It is important to recognise that they cannot even access emergency funding from Centrelink as they are not in the system. Not being in the system may be due to the compliance regime enforced by job providers, it could be due to accumulating demerit points (cut off, lower income) or that they cannot cope with the activities or find the service ineffective. It is evident that those seeking work are of a lesser value and the normalised discrimination adds another barrier to exiting homelessness. This is the pink elephant in the room. In the end they may give up.

**Therefore, the market based approach is unable to meet needs or provide sufficient cheap quality housing** nor is a service provider able to help a homeless person *without income*. Therefore, the problem of an undersupply of accommodation can be met with a more creative and wholistic approach that elevates a homeless person and rather than a band-aid solution they can participate in enlightened solutions of the future.

## 2.0 PROJECT SUMMARY: COURTNEY'S PATCH ECOVILLAGE

*When we bear **witness**, when we become the situation - homelessness, poverty, illness, violence, death the right action arises by itself. We don't have to worry about what to do.*

*We don't have to figure out solutions ahead of time.*

***Peacemaking** is the functioning of bearing witness.*

*Once we listen with our entire body and mind, **loving action arises**.*

*- Bernie Glassman -*

### 2.1 Introduction to Courtney's Patch Ecovillage

The case has been made that homelessness is a national crisis requiring the entire community to get involved. The facts are clear and unacceptable in a democratic society.

The **Courtney's Patch ecovillage** is created in the spirit of the Australia's National Anthem 'Advance Australia Fair' to sing the words remembering the meaning that we are all equal and anyone can fall into homelessness and despair. The anthem encourages us to come together as a caring nation ready to get involved and give a 'fair go'.

**This proposal aims to take the most vulnerable homeless women and girls** (and those at risk of destitution) off the street and in temporary accommodation, to settle them in an ecovillage to renew their lives in safety, community and happiness with those who understand. In the interim whilst building commences permission can be sought with the relevant Council to use land with demountable cabins and mobile homes as temporary structures as shelter. There is an option for the ecovillage to be funded in stages.

**The name of this ecovillage is to be Courtney's Patch ecovillage.** It is to honour **Courtney Herron and Dr. Patch Adams**. Patch Adams is the inspiration for 'Patch' as his early life was a struggle with mental health issues and suicide until he had his moment of insight, where he realised he wanted to connect with people and heal through the power of loving compassion. He found his heart was where his home is. Courtney's situation was similar given she was dealing with mental health issues, homelessness and addictions.

**Patch Adams brought laughter into medicine as he recognised indifference was the worst disease** that needs to be treated. Homeless people experience the indifference of people walking past them; the indifference of friends who are no longer in contact; professionals who appear detached and do not follow up or check; and family breakdown where members are unable to reach those lost or do not understand homelessness. This is the social isolation that deepens loneliness. Patch stated: *"To me depression is a symptom of a disease called loneliness."* Mother Teresa agreed saying:

*There is much suffering in the world - physical, material, mental. The suffering of some can be blamed on the greed of others. The material and physical suffering is suffering from hunger, from homelessness, from all kinds of diseases. But the **greatest suffering is being lonely, feeling unloved, having no one**. I have come more and more to realize that it is being unwanted that is the worst disease that any human being can ever experience... the only **cure** for loneliness, despair, and hopelessness is **love**.*

The video is a key scene from the **Patch Adams Movie - You Treat a Person (1998) (3.41)**  
<https://youtu.be/Pr9ruvxA3K4>

Homelessness is a **mirror** to society. It is not about a house, it is about heartlessness.

Patch Adams clowns around the world to remind people that **all lives matter**. He brought joy to the poorest and most vulnerable people. He demonstrates love as his life in action. He revalues the homeless, abandoned, sick and most vulnerable people. He is an example of genuine humanity. The author of this proposal, **Susan Carew, was invited by Patch Adams to travel to Russia to visit orphanages, nursing homes, hospitals and clowning on the streets.** Patch brought a small team together to learn the power of unconditional love towards strangers, and particularly, the vulnerable.

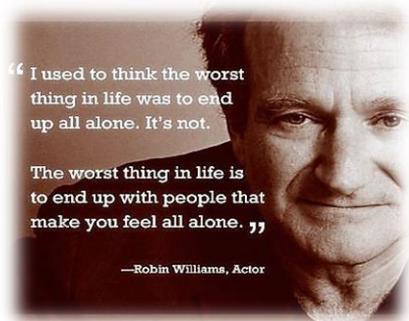
Refer website link: <https://www.worldpeacefull.com/patch-adams/>

Patch Adams speaks to audiences all over the world about the social problem of **"loneliness as the greatest dis-ease"** and he is famous for coining the saying **"laughter is the best medicine"**. Patch Adams had the lived experience of mental health issues and his desire to suicide as life didn't feel worth living. It was whilst in a psychiatric institution that he realised what he learned from the patients not the doctors, was the importance of connection. He made a decision to train as a doctor. He challenged the medical fraternity by proposing that healing requires humour, play and a form of humanism that connects people and creates a loving environment for them to heal. He discovered his vocation was that he wanted to connect with people and show love, so he dedicated his life to serving humanity. He never felt sadness again. His life became his message.

**Patch Adams realised that indifference to suffering and social isolation was detrimental to human mental health and wellbeing.** He created what he termed *'friendshipism'*. This requires the courage to befriend people, discarding professional distance and to dare to know people as friends, albeit fellow human beings.

In Saint Petersburg in Russia, he spoke of the *love revolution*, where he envisaged the many leading in a spirit of loving kindness. He recognised Love as the greatest healer.

Patch dedicated his life to being a clown, he is happy every day and travels the world promoting 'joy'. Susan learned from Patch that a small team of dedicated people can give loving kindness to those abandoned by society and change their world.



*A small team is sought to collaborate and advance this project.*

*Project partners are sought to auspice the collection of funds and collaborate on the ecovillage to bring smiles to 50 women and girls.*

## 2.2 The Meaning Behind Courtney's Patch Ecovillage

The meanings of Courtney and Patch are names that symbolise the ethos of the ecovillage.



The name Courtney means:

*A courtney will do almost anything for a friend. She is amazing and beautiful and has the highest goals. She loves to laugh and has the most amazing eyes. She's artistic and has the voice of an angel. She has no dancing skills but when it comes to making people laugh she's got a 100 out of 10 ability.<sup>15</sup>*

**Video: Courtney Herron - Homelessness and Violence Part 1:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8-tZPMT-dK8>

In an interview with The Project<sup>16</sup>, Jessica Bateman said she was "shocked and saddened" by the news of the 25-year-old's death, but said she "worried immensely" that something horrible would happen to her.

*"She was couch surfing and when she couldn't find a friend to couch surf with, she'd spend nights in parks — the park that she was discovered in," Ms Bateman said.*

*"We worried about each other but I worried about her more so because I live in a house, I've got support systems, I've got family and Courtney didn't. She knew that her family loved her, but she wasn't in touch with them. It was very, if you will, sporadic."*

*Ms Bateman said her friend had been **let down by the system**. She said Ms Herron had been seeking government assistance with housing and treatment for her drug dependency and mental illness. "Absolutely the system failed her," she said.*

*"She was **trying to get into public housing**, she was trying to get onto methadone or something that would stop the withdrawal symptoms that she was going to face — and the fear of withdrawal is what really kept her using."*

*Jessica Bateman speaks of her **generous friend**, murdered Melbourne woman Courtney Herron. She said Ms Herron was **unable to gain access to medication** she needed because **she didn't have a fixed address**.*

*"She couldn't even get public housing," she said.*

*Asked by host Waleed Aly whether her friend's tragic story was more about violence against women or about homelessness, Ms Bateman replied: "**Homelessness, all the way.**"*

*"**Women are more vulnerable** than men being homeless. Men can attack them, can take advantage of them, especially when it concerns mental illness and drugs," she said.*

*"Those two things... it leads to jails, institutions, homelessness and death."*

*Ms Bateman also told a touching story about the last time she saw Ms Herron, demonstrating how "generous" she was. "I didn't have enough money on my Miki card to get home and **she gave me \$10** which she didn't need to do," she said. "I mean, she couldn't put that towards a bed, shelter for the night, safety, but she got me back home."*

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Courtney>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.news.com.au/news/national/man-charged-over-courtney-herrons-death/news-story/6ab1fc0f986a3cf623c91343fd695c77>

The name **Patch** was given to Hunter Adams when he was in a psychiatric institution. His name is famous around the world for bringing love as the real medicine for humanity.

*There are two versions of the story:*



*In 1969, in Fairfax Hospital's Psychiatric Ward, Patch voluntarily commits himself after attempting suicide.*

**Movie:** Patch (real name, Hunter) was given the nickname "Patch" by a fellow patient at the psychiatric hospital that he befriends after **patching** his faulty coffee **cup**.

**Other:** Patch acquires his nickname from a patient that he befriended who felt that Patch "patched up" the **loneliness** in his life, hence the name Patch. [different from the film]

Robin Williams played Patch in the movie and tragically took his own life due to a diagnosis of *Lewy body dementia* according to his wife, Susan.

Robin brought a joy and compassion into the world revealed by his choice of films. Always his films were meaningful, enlightening and uplifting. Love shone in his eyes, similar to Patch, that is why they chose him.

*Courtney's Patch ecovillage* is where women and girls can find their '**happy place**'. It is a place they can call *home*. Re-member: home is where the heart is. This ecovillage will be a peaceful place where homeless women and girls can heal the past, experience a sense of belonging in the comfort of community, safe amongst like-minded women and discovering their voices to fully live, love and laugh.

This will be a place of singing, inspired by the **Choir of Hard Knocks**. Susan was invited to sing. The importance of singing is that it is simple, it is a group activity and it uplifts. Jonathon Welch is similar to Patch as he is heart centred. Jonathan's mission is "*humanity, connection and celebration in the face of adversity*" <https://choirofhardknocks.org.au/>

This is a **healthy patch** to grow food, drink clean water and focus on living in balance. They will be able to create fun, art, sing together and play to enjoy a *renewable* life.

**Courtney's Patch eco-village will inspire humour and funsters** (jesters) to joke, have fun, play and return to the child that in many instances is where the first traumas arise. Humour also heals, as Patch famously stated '*laughter is the best medicine*'. Laughter, humour and fun will create a space where you can be free to be who you are *without judgement* and to play or sit quietly as the space is about free dominion (freedom).

All are free to come home to who they are. Home is about re-membering core values to CARE - *Courage, Awareness, Respect and Equality*.

## 2.3 The Aims and Objectives

<b>Aim:</b>	To establish a pilot project entitled ' <i>Courtney's Patch Ecovillage for 50 women and girls</i> who are sleeping rough on the street, in cars, tents etc. (or at risk of homelessness).
<b>Values Model:</b>	To make decisions through the values prism of REAL HOPES: Responsibility, Empathy, Awareness, Love, Honesty, Oneness, Peace, Enjoyment, Service
<b>Personal values:</b>	I <b>CARE</b> - <b>C</b> ourage, <b>A</b> wareness, <b>R</b> espect and <b>E</b> quality

### Objectives:

- To generate interest and circulate for public comment and feedback the concept of a Courtney's Patch ecovillage in memory of Courtney Herron and inspired by Dr. Patch Adams;
- **To pilot a ecovillage to provide a home to 50 homeless females (women and girls). This is in recognition that for every 10,000 Australians, 50 are homeless;**
- The ecovillage will draw from Dr. Patch Adams ecovillage that focuses on health, intimacy, compassion and loving community;
- The ecovillage is inspired by the Choir of Hard Knocks and the simple importance of singing together to be together;
- To attract public donations, sponsors, advisers, pro bono in-kind and crowd funding to acquire land, experienced practitioners, compassionate advocates to build a cost/effective Courtney's Patch ecovillage for women. As follows:
  - To foster recovery, self-reliance, self-determination of homeless people;
  - To acquire 5-10 acres of donated or allocated land;
  - To attract environmental ecovillage experts in sustainable, low cost/quality housing suitable for homeless women and girls;
  - To attract expertise, practitioners and volunteers to help construct an ecovillage;
  - To attract harmony and inner peace teachers trained in harmonious living, healing and fun;
  - To bring the community together to community build 'a home' and create the right environment for renewable lives so homeless people can heal and integrate into community.
- To facilitate Council support and to set a precedent for other Councils in recognition of homelessness as Australia's most significant national emergency;
- The ecovillage is a prototype for future ecovillages for other homeless persons and general communities who choose healthy, sustainable and community based lifestyles where all belong and heal;
- To evaluate the ecovillage over 12 months to ensure it meets the needs of homeless women and girls;
- To evaluate sustainability in respect of growing food, low energy use and low cost to the public;
- To ensure this project creates a pathway out of homeless for those homeless;
- To make this a fun community project full of imagination and REAL HOPES.
- The ecovillage sustainability is based on the systems thinking of Patch Adams and Buckminster Fuller to make community work for 100% of humanity in the shortest time.

## 2.4 The Courtney's Patch Ecovillage is a Community of the Future

**Homeless women and girls are the ideal group** for a sustainable ecovillage of the future as they have the smallest ecological footprint to pilot a sustainable ecovillage given they know how to live with minimum resources, in hardy environments, find resilience and are open to change their lives for the better.

**The Courtney's Patch ecovillage is envisaged to be sustainable**, low cost, low energy and designed to grow renewable lives. The pilot ecovillage will be designed to be a sustainable ***community of the future as a prototype to benefit 100% of humanity.***

**The ecovillage setting is healthy, grounded and balanced** and will enable the renewing of shattered lives to offer a feeling of shared community as a *family*. Many are without families and require community support and friendship. It is a design giving a supportive home whereby those who have experienced the hardship of homelessness and poverty come together to learn to *support each other* learning to live in the true abundance of a **harmonious** community which enables the healing process and inner peace.

**Susan Carew is a peace educator and trainer in conflict resolution, mediation and alternatives to violence.** She is a Rotary Peace fellow. She aims to share her skills to build a foundational community that learns harmony through the transformation of inner and outer conflict given the tools of conflict resolution, inquiry (The Work of Byron Katie<sup>17</sup>), learning assertiveness, listening skills, reflection, nonviolent communication and problem solving. Eco villagers will learn how to come together as a community to discuss community issues and demonstrate fairness and seek for a win/win in group decisions.

**The Courtney's Patch ecovillage will be designed with the principles of Buckminster Fuller** in mind which is to design a harmonious ecovillage based on the World Peace Game concept of allocating resources fairly, doing more with less and being able to spread limited resources on the planet to satisfy the growing population. His philosophy aims to make everyone works 100% in spontaneous cooperation for the betterment of all. This is the sum of the parts exceeding the whole in ONE direction.



*Make the world work, for 100% of humanity,  
in the shortest possible time,  
through spontaneous cooperation,  
without ecological offense or the disadvantage of anyone."*

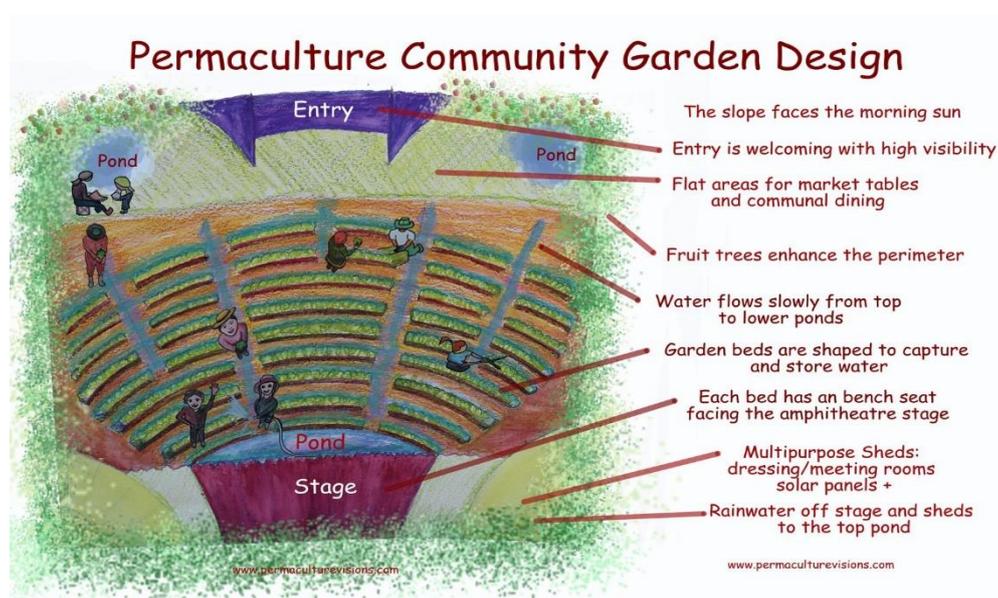


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<sup>17</sup> The Work of Byron Katie: <https://thework.com/>

Eco villagers will live at Courtney's Patch Ecovillage to experience:

1. **Healing:** The Courtney's Patch ecovillage is a healing peace centre. The women will grow their own food, cook together, undertake the arts, laugh and play. It is a space where all are equal and a philosophy of a Culture of Peace is learned and lived. The women will learn inner inquiry (question negative thoughts), they will learn conflict resolution, nonviolent communication and a peace philosophy that is love based and learning to heal the past. They will come to understand that loving yourself opens you to love others unconditionally. It is a space that has no religion but allows all beliefs as acceptance is the centrepeace. Love shares, cares, reveals and heals. It will be a transformative place representing a paradigm shift.
2. **Living in community.** Many do not know how to live in real community. Patch Adams speaks of this. This place will focus on the community where all live, love and laugh together. It is a positive space where we learn to participate together. We learn how to give to others and receive. To learn giving is living abundance and what we give naturally returns as life is responsive and circular. This is the real return on our personal investment. Community is about sharing your skills, speaking up, taking turns and building a space fit for children. All will model loving, supportive, responsive communities that value the individual and the group.
3. **Living a renewable life:** The ecovillage complements the Sustainable Development Goals. The housing will be based on innovative cost/effective Geodesic domes, Earthships or tiny houses. They will reuse and recycle and be designed for self-sufficiency. Eco villagers will learn how to live in nature. They learn how to plant a **community garden**, learn permaculture techniques, understand nature and find peace in growing plants. Women and girls will learn practical skills on how to live cheaply but sustainably. Permaculture principles and philosophy will be taught. The women will cultivate edible foods to learn the importance of healthy eating. The women and girls can sell produce to make an income. They will learn about low energy using solar panels and batteries. They will drink fresh tank water. Our lives are nature and this is the mirror that reflects harmony. This is how to plant good seeds that germinate real yields. Peace is our true nature is the nexus that links inner peace with outer sustainability.

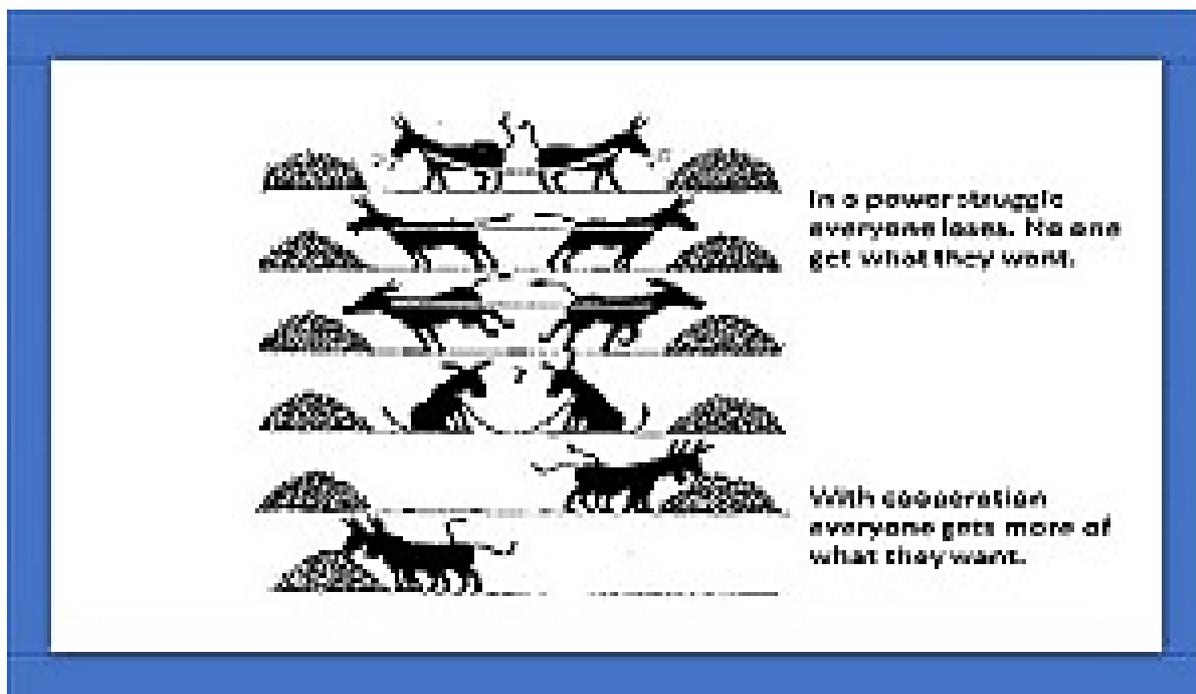


4. **Pioneering a community of the future:** The Courtney's Patch ecovillage is the village of the future. It is based on spaceship earth where the earth is a living wholistic system. It will embrace the ethos of doing more with less. Eco villagers will learn how to live a holistic way of life. The ecovillage will be designed as a place of harmony, peace, empowerment and the cultivation of higher principles by which to live by in harmony with earth systems. It will reflect a Culture of Peace as an ideal community that lives to give, cultivates self-reliance and self determination and is cost effective (aiming for zero costs). This community will cultivate the Gandhian ethos of living simply so others can simply live. It is about fulfilment in community and renewing lives to achieve real happiness of inner joy. The real happiness does not require external stimuli as one learns to live from inspiration, spontaneity, enthusiasm in alignment with the true nature. The truth does indeed set us free to realise that what we feared was False Evidence Appearing Real and that Our Happy Destiny is Unavoidable when we aim for a win/win for everyone.

The Eco villagers will feel a sense of purpose, dignity and REAL HOPES as the label 'homelessness' disappears from their lives forever, to become who they really are.

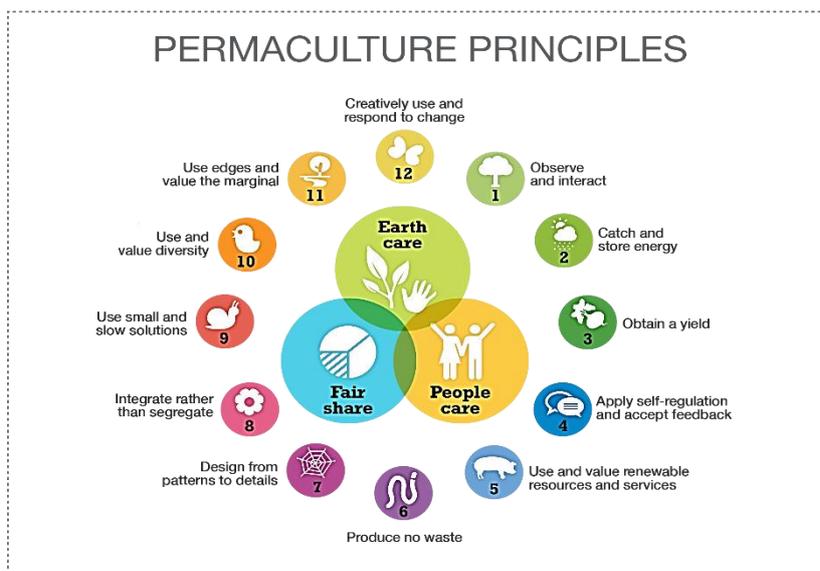
### 2.4.1 Systems Thinking

Systems thinking is not disparate chunks, singular buildings but is to integrate the human being with the ecology and human community. Nature works on systems that interconnect, exchange, adapt, function and sustain as fundamentally the systems works for the sustainability of the whole. Human society has not learned to live and work in balance or harmony as a civilisation, each **pull in different directions** which is aptly demonstrated in conflict where the name of the game is for self-interest to operate at odds with the group to force, coerce or control rather than cooperate, work together, understand, dialogue and meet needs to foster harmony which will unlock human potential.



## **Permaculture is Permanent Culture**

The Australian CSIRO scientist Bill Mollison coined the term Permaculture or permanent culture. This is a systems process that has been exported around the world as the system works in harmony with nature and ensures sustainable systems which do more with less. The author has spent time at the Permaculture Institute (NSW) and learned of food forests.



The principles harmonise with human healing.

*What is Permaculture?<sup>18</sup>*

Permaculture **integrates land, resources, people and the environment through mutually beneficial synergies – imitating the no waste, closed loop systems seen in diverse natural systems.** Permaculture studies and applies **holistic** solutions that are applicable in rural and urban contexts at any scale. It is a multidisciplinary toolbox including agriculture, water harvesting and hydrology, energy, natural building, forestry, waste management, animal systems, aquaculture, appropriate technology, economics and community development.

Permaculture (the word, coined by Bill Mollison, is a portmanteau of permanent agriculture and permanent culture) is the conscious design and maintenance of agriculturally productive ecosystems which have the **diversity, stability, and resilience** of natural ecosystems.

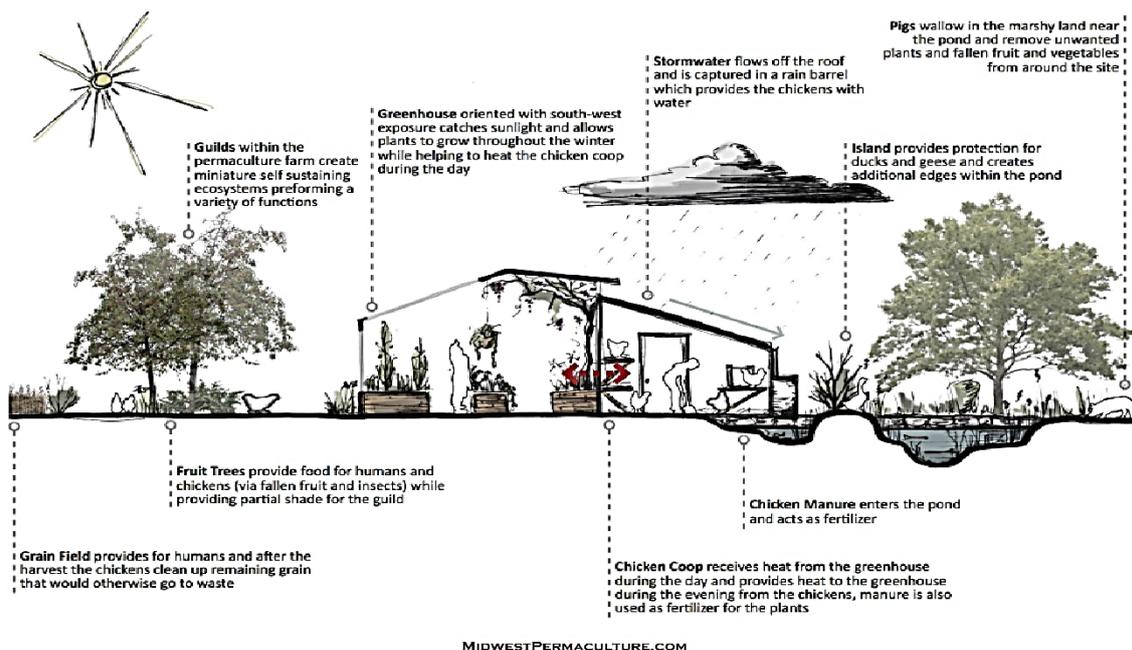
It is the **harmonious integration** of landscape and people — providing their food, energy, shelter, and other material and non-material needs in a sustainable way. Without permanent agriculture there is **no possibility** of a stable social order. Permaculture design is a system of assembling conceptual, material, and strategic components in a pattern which functions to benefit life in all its forms.

<sup>18</sup> <https://permaculturenews.org/what-is-permaculture/>

The philosophy behind permaculture is one of **working with, rather than against**, nature; of protracted and thoughtful **observation** rather than protracted and thoughtless action; of looking at systems in **all their functions**, rather than asking only one yield of them; and allowing systems to demonstrate their own evolutions.

## Permaculture

a philosophy of permanent agriculture systems utilizing natural patterns and ecosystem biodiversity to maintain productive and relatively low maintenance food producing landscapes



As the basis of permaculture is **beneficial design**, it can be added to all other ethical training and skills, and has the potential of taking a place in all human endeavors. In the broad landscape, however, permaculture concentrates on already settled areas and agricultural lands. Almost all of these need drastic rehabilitation and re-thinking.

One certain result of using our skills to **integrate food supply and settlement, to catch water from our roof areas, and to place nearby a zone of fuel forest** which receives wastes and supplies energy, will be to free most of the area of the globe for the **rehabilitation** of natural systems. These need never be looked upon as "of use to people", except in the very broad sense of global health.

The real difference between a cultivated (designed) ecosystem, and a natural system is that the great majority of species (and biomass) in the cultivated ecology is intended for the use of humans or their livestock. **We are only a small part of the total primeval or natural species** assembly, and only a small part of its yields are directly available to us. But in our own gardens, almost every plant is selected to provide or support some direct yield for people. Household design relates principally to the needs of people; it is thus **human-centered** (anthropocentric).

*Geometric - What is Permaculture?*

This is a valid aim for **settlement design**, but we also need a **nature-centered ethic** for wilderness conservation. We cannot, however, do much for nature if we do not govern our greed, and if we do not supply our needs from our existing settlements. If we can achieve this aim, we can withdraw from much of the agricultural landscape, and allow natural systems to flourish.

**Recycling of nutrients and energy** in nature is a function of many species. In our gardens, it is our own responsibility to **return wastes** (via compost or mulch) **to the soil and plants**. We actively create soil in our gardens, whereas in nature many other species carry out that function. Around our homes, we can **catch water** for garden use, but we rely on natural forested landscapes to provide the condenser leaves and clouds to keep rivers running with clean water, to maintain the global atmosphere, and to lock up our gaseous pollutants.

Thus, even anthropocentric people would be well-advised to pay close attention to, and to assist in, conservation of existing forests and to assist in, the conservation of all existing species and allow them a place to live.

**We have abused the land and laid waste to systems** we never need have disturbed had we attended to our home gardens and settlements. If we need to state a set of ethics on natural systems, then let it be thus:



- Implacable and uncompromising opposition to further disturbance of any remaining natural forests, where most species are still in **balance**;
- Vigorous **rehabilitation** of degraded and damaged natural systems to stable states;
- Establishment of **plant systems** for our own use on the least amount of land we can use for our existence; and
- Establishment of plant and animal **refuges** for rare or threatened species.

Permaculture as a **design system** deals primarily with the third statement above, but all people who **act responsibly** in fact subscribe to the first and second statements. We believe we should use all the species we need or can find to use in our own settlement designs, providing they are not locally rampant and invasive.

**Links:**

Permaculture for Homeless people: <https://www.facebook.com/Permaculture-for-Homeless-People-1604079146582075/>

Veterans Homeless Shelter design: <http://p4sc.weebly.com/permaculture-clubveterans-homeless-shelter-design.html>

Feeding the homeless: <https://permies.com/t/58028/Feeding-Homeless>

## **Patch Adams**

Patch Adams believes it is about incorporating systems thinking. Patch Adams speaks of whole systems thinking refer <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wbv1SkSeho0>

"Whole System Thinking" - In Relation to the video, some additional thoughts on the topic. Sometimes it's important to look at each element within a system, and sometimes it's important to look at how each of these elements interacts within a system. Looking at the interaction of the elements in a system is called "Whole Systems Thinking", "Systems Theory" or "Looking a System".

When you do a "systems-look" at health and diseases of an individual, you begin to look at not only the person, **but his or her family, friends, job, community, and how each member interacts with the other**. These relationships aren't necessarily "cause and effect", but maybe a **correlation** of some kind.

For example, removing the barrier of cost may improve the health and well-being of the patient. What are some other ways of improving health and well-being? (Think out of the box)

## **Buckminster Fuller advocates Systems Thinking<sup>19</sup>**

Refer: <https://www.umsl.edu/~sauterv/analysis/Fall2013Papers/Purcell/bucky.html>

**Spaceship Earth is Fuller's concept of doing more with less** and being able to spread limited resources on the planet to satisfy the growing population. Fuller's was expelled from Harvard in 1914, attempted to and eventually succeeded in joining the Navy from which he was honorably discharged in August 1919. Inspired by his experience in the Navy, he felt that men should be in service to humanity and spent most of his life devoted to that service. He felt that **economic profiteering after the war** was ruining man's connection to the Human Family and that man should be in service of the public as sailors labour for a common cause. **The philosophy of Thomas Malthus was popular at the time promoting the idea that as populations grew, the food supply would decrease leading to disaster. Fuller felt this philosophy was wrong** in that it only looked at things from an **economic** standpoint and **didn't factor in scientific advancement**. He felt like Henry Ford's assembly line, engineering could be used to solve the problem of finite resources to accommodate the growing population.

Another aspect of Fuller's Spaceship Earth philosophy is the concept of **ecology and utilitarian philosophy**. He had this concept in mind when he developed the Dymaxion House in the 1930's. **Dynamic, maximum**, and *ion* were placed together to form the word Dymaxion. He named several inventions under this brand name such as a Dymaxion car, Dymaxion House, and other structures. The **Dymaxion House could be put up in less than 24 hours**. The roof was designed to utilize the dome effect which ventilated hot air out and forced cooler air downward creating natural air conditioning. The house also used packaging toilets which would package waste for composting.

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<sup>19</sup> <https://www.umsl.edu/~sauterv/analysis/Fall2013Papers/Purcell/bucky.html>

The bathroom was a one piece prefabricated unit with fogging shower heads to conserve water. The fogging showerhead used compressed air and water instead of exclusively water. **Several Dymaxion Houses were bought by the military** leading into World War II which led Fuller to design his first dome structures which were also purchased by the military since they were lightweight and easy to construct and could be adjusted to suit a client's needs. Many of these domes were used on military bases including the Distant Early Warning Line near the Arctic Circle which were a series of radar stations built for surveillance during the Cold War. These domes were lightweight and could be built and carried by helicopter to a military base's location.

Contributing to his **Spaceship Earth philosophy** was Buckminster Fuller's development of polyhedron cuboctahedron map of the world which was a cutout in one of the most popular issues of Life Magazine.<sup>6</sup> Users were allowed to **visualize the Earth as one spaceship** in the air age which would soon lead to the space age. Much of the mathematics and design principals used in this map would lead to Fuller's development of the geodesic domes. The map and the domes exemplified his principles of the sum being greater than the parts and using engineering to maximize the end product with minimal materials...

Fuller taught "**World Planning**" while teaching at the Southern Illinois University. He encouraged students through a multidiscipline approach. "The design scientist would not be concerned exclusively with the seat of a tractor but [with] the whole concept of production and distribution of food", Fuller wrote.<sup>8</sup> He proposed several miniature Earths which mapped out areas of high population and encouraged thinking towards efficiently satisfying the needs of those areas. He also created a "**World Game**" where groups would **tackle individual problems** such as a lacking resource and discuss how to fulfill the needs of the population. These simulations led to thinking globally and enforcing the concept of earth as a Spaceship. It also enforced Fuller's belief that "**Malthusian philosophy is fallacious**"<sup>9</sup> and that **human creativity and innovation could solve the world's increasing population problem**. Fuller's popularizing a global view and emphasis on allocating resources, many of which are natural, helped to inspire the fledgling environmental movement in the 60's. Some environmentalist felt that the same as Fuller that new technologies would allow the needs of the growing population to be satisfied while other environmentalist felt that the existing resources should be used more efficiently instead of hoping for new technologies to come along.

Although Fuller's geodesic domes and inventions aren't as popular as they were during the Cold War, the concept of Spaceship Earth continue to impact the current age especially the **global consciousness** due largely to the internet and communication technology, using limited resources to satisfy an expanding population, and developing technology in harmony with nature.

## 2.4.2 Geodesic Domes

*We have weapons of mass destruction we have to address here at home.  
Poverty is a weapon of mass destruction.  
Homelessness is a weapon of mass destruction.  
Unemployment is a weapon of mass destruction.*

Dennis Kucinich

Geometric **balanced** designs, light weight and cheap. These were invented by the famous Buckminster Fuller. Refer YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QprnAUfKOQg>

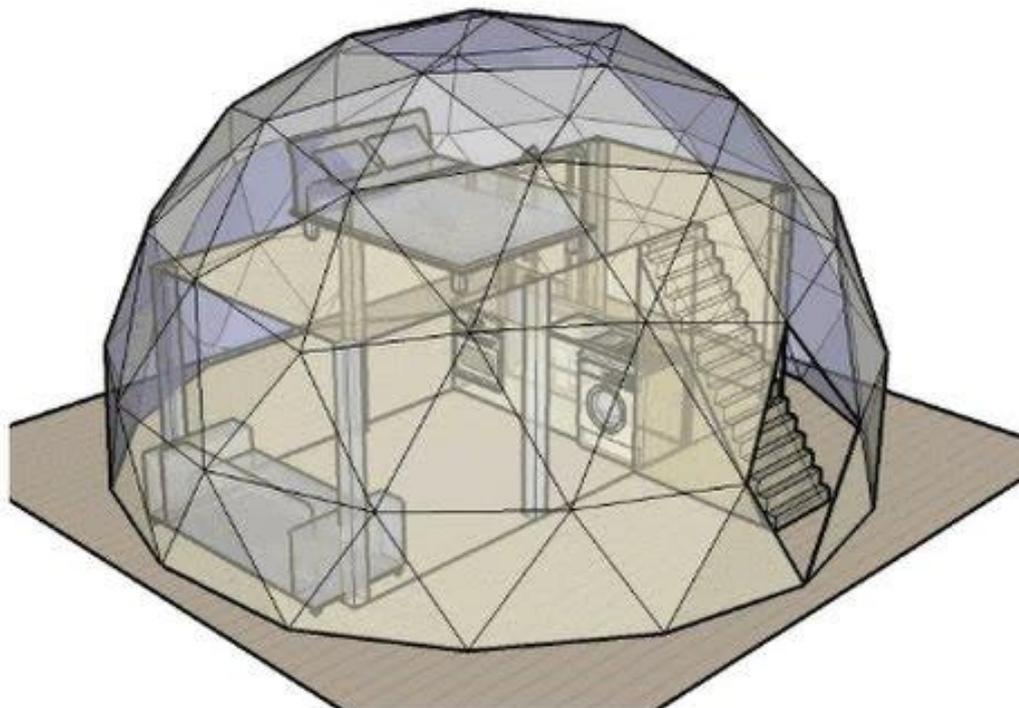
Huffington Post<sup>20</sup> reported: Is it possible **to construct a village of new homes in a day, providing much-needed housing for the homeless** in Ventura County, California? The answer is yes if you have a few hundred volunteers, two battalions of Navy Sea-Bees, an innovative design for geodesic domes, and some vision.

The innovative dome design comes from an American original named R. Buckminster Fuller. The vision comes from Bruce LeBel of [World Shelters](#) and Clyde Reynolds of [the Turning Point Foundation](#). Clyde, the foundation's executive director, heads up a program serving more than 500 clients in Ventura County each year through its shelter rehabilitation programs. Clyde hired Bruce's company, World Shelters, to do something amazing: **create housing for the homeless in just one day**. Bruce, once a student of [Buckminster Fuller](#), was ready for the challenge. Why? Not only did Buckminster Fuller advance the concept of a dome as a multi-use building, but Fuller also believed in a passionate and committed form of architecture that **would help citizens of Earth survive and prosper**. He saw his life as an experiment into "what, if anything," an individual could do "on behalf of all humanity."

### Examples:



<sup>20</sup> [https://www.huffpost.com/entry/domes-for-the-homeless\\_b\\_312013](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/domes-for-the-homeless_b_312013)



### 2.4.2.1 World Shelters

World leader in innovative and proven designs for low-cost transitional shelter.

We Make and Give Shelter: World Shelters designs, produces, and delivers structures for both emergency response and long-term **humanitarian needs**. Our shelters are **low-cost**, durable, flame-retardant, and designed for ease of assembly and transport.

*We Help Communities*

World Shelters values coordinated, collaborative efforts of individuals and organizations for **rebuilding communities**. Many of our neighbors on this small planet lack basic shelter due to natural disaster, war or economic conditions. When the struggle for survival is reduced, people can more effectively contribute to their local and our global communities. Giving shelter is an investment in civilization as well as an act of kindness and caring.

*World Shelters Prepares Proposals For Doctors Without Borders*

World Shelters has been asked to prepare **three different proposals for Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders) for three of our transitional shelters**, the TranShel, the U-Dome, and the TShel2. Medecins Sans Frontieres is pre-positioning transitional shelter inventory along with their field hospitals, for deployment following disaster. Their plan is to build settlements adjacent to their field hospitals to provide improved shelter for their discharged patients. World Shelters is honored and excited to have our shelters in consideration for this project, and we believe that the TranShel, the U-Dome, and the TShel2 would all be very well-suited to this purpose.

All relevant elements of the proposals are available to view and download below.

TranShel:

[TranShel Proposal for MSF](#)  
[TranShel Report](#)

U-Dome:

[U-Dome Proposal for MSF](#)  
[U-Dome Engineering Review](#)

TShel2:

[TShel2 Proposal for MSF](#)  
[TShel2 Engineering Review](#)  
[TShel2 Summary Flyer](#)

#### 2.4.2.2 Turning Point

Turning Point has operated **community-based mental health** programs in Ventura County for over 30 years. It is about healing mental health.

Refer Video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U0oZc0m03ws&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U0oZc0m03ws&feature=emb_logo)

Their programs address the **full range of personal needs**, including a homeless shelter to meet necessary physical and safety requirements, supported housing to provide decent, affordable housing and rehabilitation and socialization centers to provide meaningful, productive activities, companionship and a sense of purpose.

Because of the **myths and stigmas** attached to mental illness, many people struggle with its effects alone and unaware that their symptoms can be controlled by medication and the functional problems they experience can be addressed through rehabilitation and support services. We work with our clients to reverse the devastating effects of their illnesses, such as job loss, homelessness, isolation, addiction, incarceration, and even thoughts of suicide.

### 2.4.3 Earthships

Earthships are made out of **recycled** materials, excellent insulation and creative advanced design. This mirrors nature as the design reuses and recycles inputs and outputs.

An **Earthship** is a brand of [passive solar earth shelter](#) that is made of both natural and [upcycled](#) materials such as earth-packed [tyres](#), pioneered by architect [Michael Reynolds](#).

Earthships are predicated upon the idea that there are six human needs which can be addressed through environmentally sustainable building design:<sup>[1]</sup>



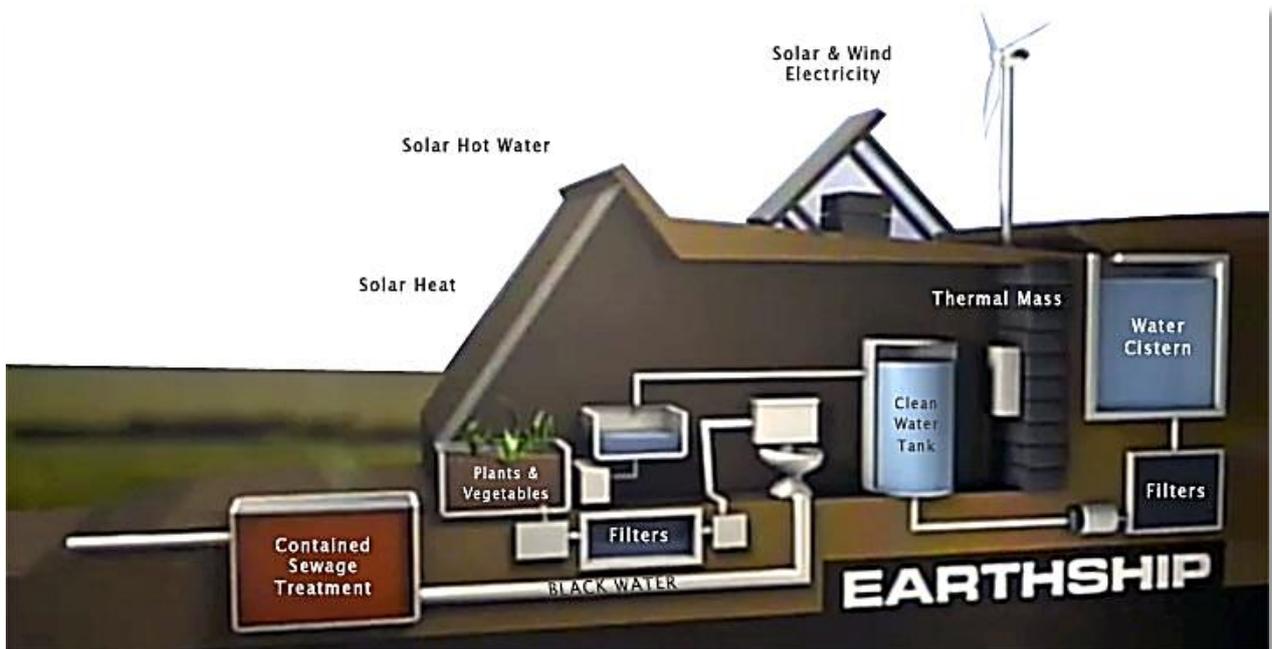
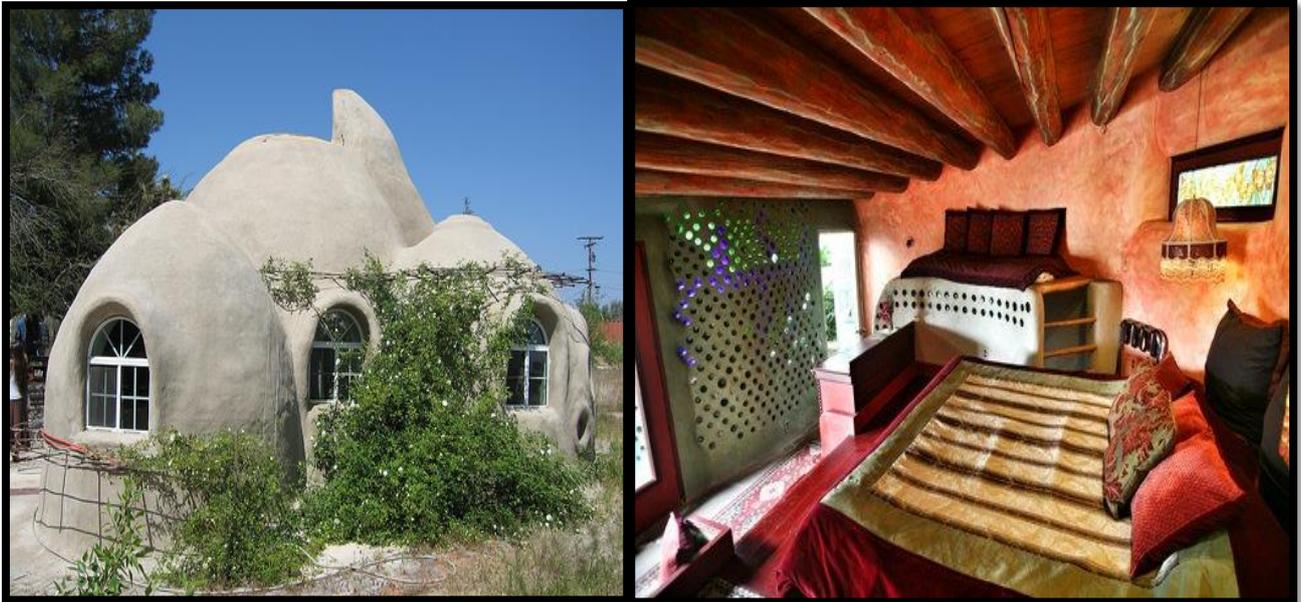
1. **Energy:** Thermal and/or solar heating and cooling, solar and wind electricity
2. **Garbage Management:** Reuse and recycling built into construction and daily living
3. **Sewage Treatment:** Self-contained sewage treatment and water recycling
4. **Shelter:** Building with natural and recycled materials
5. **Clean Water:** Water harvesting and long term storage
6. **Food:** In-home organic food production capability

Earthship structures are intended to be "[off-the-grid](#)-ready" homes, with minimal reliance on [public utilities](#) and [fossil fuels](#).

They are constructed to use available natural resources, especially energy from the sun and rain water.

They are designed with [thermal mass](#) construction and natural cross-ventilation to regulate indoor temperature, and the designs are intentionally uncomplicated and mainly single-story, so that people with little building knowledge can construct them.

**Examples:**



**YOUTUBE LINKS:**

Earthship Fleurieu <http://www.earthshipfleurieu.com.au/>

Incredible Small Off-Grid Earthship Home <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V1UjbmksKYI>

Earthship Global Model: Radically Sustainable Buildings: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N2so9hyNWxc>

Youtube: We sell Earthships <https://www.earthshipglobal.com/we-sell-earthships>

#### 2.4.4 Tiny Houses

The Tiny Home evolution<sup>21</sup> is spreading across the world, and has now arrived in Australia. Inspired by the Tiny Home scene, Tiny Homes Perth have put to use our extensive knowledge of both fabrication and construction to design and build beautiful, practical and affordable Tiny Homes. From concept to completion, Tiny Homes Perth provides a range of both standard and individual designs to suit your budget so that you can live the Great Australian Dream. Tiny Homes Perth have two completed display homes for viewing, based on our concept of "small homes, BIG ideas"

A devastating event can change the future. The Tiny Home Evolution was founded by a group of Americans supporting those who lost their homes in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina (2005), giving them a place to call home. Further to the global financial crisis (2007, 2008), America again found hope and inspiration in using Tiny Homes to accommodate those who could not afford a conventional home. Beyond these events, Tiny Homes have been used throughout the world, not only as a means of affordable living, but as weekenders, granny or teenage flats, art studios, 'glamping' or farm accommodation.

Driven by his passion for the Tiny Homes culture, Simon Joiner (General Manager / Owner) established Tiny Homes Perth, where he uses his experience of over 35 years in fabrication and the modular homes industry to support this new and affordable housing market. An array of materials are used in the construction of a Tiny Home. At Tiny Homes Perth all elements of the homes are built on our premises. Construction of the trailer chassis is based on the weight of the building to allow ease of towing, while the frame is constructed of steel to ensure marriage to the chassis.

Tiny Homes Perth have designed their own feature cladding, 'Inspire clad'. This contemporary cladding can be fitted vertically, horizontally or even diagonally. The use of Colorbond(c) incorporates great colours and a prolongs the life span of a Tiny Home.

**Ten** unusual tiny homes you can buy for under **\$100,000 in Australia**. The tiny house movement appears to be only gaining momentum. Because of this, there are companies now offering custom designs, available in various stages of construction, starting at just **\$10,000**. However, if you're after something a little more quirky.

Refer <https://www.domain.com.au/news/ten-unusual-tiny-homes-you-can-buy-for-under-100000-in-australia-20160617-gpkjnx/>

*Note: Homeless Lives Matter considers the use of Tiny Houses as a short term solution as they are too small for permanent residency unless a person desires one. They can reinforce inequality as those poor cannot afford a house. It is critical to understand that homelessness ends when inequality ends. This is why a focus on futuristic, leading edge, cost/effective designs that deliver innovative homes that are healing, community building and sustainable are preferred. However, this is a pilot and all options are on the table.*

<sup>21</sup> <https://tinyhomesperth.net.au/>

Tiny houses are low cost that can be constructed quickly and cheaply.

**YouTube:** *The man building tiny homes for the homeless in Los Angeles*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FhFKPZqFd3o>

In Australia estimated prices are:

Tiny House lock up shells from \$10,000 to \$33,000. Complete turnkey houses from \$55,000

Gallery: <https://aussietinyhouses.com.au/gallery/>

**Examples:**



## 2.4.5 Costings of Alternative Affordable Quality Housing

The costings are not finalised as this proposal is about community discussion. The final cost will depend on the extent of pro bono assistance and those with expertise collaborating on how this can be done cheaply but with quality homes. It is evident that the proposed designs are cheaper than conventional building and have the advantage of using recycled materials. This project is a community effort designed to enthuse everyone to take responsibility for homelessness and to become involved in a leading edge project to help the most vulnerable in our society. The sky is not the limit. There are infinite possibilities, it is just a question of making it happen. What a wonderful future we can envisage. Perhaps we can be a leading light to inspire the world.

The links are exciting and awesome.

### Links:

<http://www.earthshipfleuriu.com.au/>

<https://www.ecocitizensaustralia.com.au/earthship-australia/>

<http://www.earthshipaustralia.com/>

<https://www.off-grid.net/australia-falling-for-earthship-marketers/>

Green Home Building Q and A: <http://www.greenhomebuilding.com/QandA/sustainable/costs.htm>

Alternative Construction Methods for low cost <http://icoste.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/ASAQS-Paper-1-Haselau.pdf>

DIY dome homes built from AirCrete are an affordable & eco-friendly option

<https://www.treehugger.com/tiny-houses/diy-dome-homes-made-aircrete-affordable-ecofriendly-option.html>

Earthship Underground House Tour- Sustainable and Net Zero Living.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5voBFW1fQPs>

What does an Earthship cost to build versus a "traditional house"?

<https://hackingtheearthship.blogspot.com/2015/08/quick-and-dirty-what-does-earthship.html>

Prefab Modular Homes and Buildings <https://blog.prefabium.com/2016/05/prefab-earth-sheltered-homes-by-green.html>

8 inexpensive earth homes almost anyone can afford <https://inhabitat.com/8-inexpensive-earth-homes-almost-anyone-can-afford/>

Dome Homes <https://tinyhousetalk.com/category/dome-homes/>

The 6 human needs for a harmonious life on earth <https://www.earthshipglobal.com/>

Nature space geodesic domes <https://naturalspacesdomes.com/>

Greenhouse Domes <https://pacificdomes.com/greenhouse-domes/>

### 3.0 DO HOMELESS PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT TO SHELTER?

Ubuntu: *'I am what I am because of who we all are'.*

Another way of reframing the above question is:

*Do homeless people have human rights or the right to be human?*

When we leave them on the street we dehumanise them and place them in danger of harm. Human rights in an area of further exploration and Human Lives Matter aims to advocate for a Bill of Rights given the homeless are the only group who **do not vote** and **do not have representation** in reality as they are not responded to.

This quote by Howard Zinn reinforcing this point:

*I believe there are huge numbers of people in this country who would be willing to have radical changes in our economic and social system in order to make it a more **egalitarian society** and do away with homelessness and hunger and clean up the environment. **But these people have no voice.** They have no way of expressing themselves. Elections give them no way of expressing themselves.*

The core issue is do we value people as part of our community or on the basis of perceived economic value? Moreover, do we investigate human rights issues looking at the group rather than the individual, given the group normalises rights?

The overall concept of **Ubuntu values people as a community**, rather than as individuals. Dr. Patch Adams speaks about community as the focus for healing rather than the individual as the problem. The Zulus and other peoples have a saying, 'umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu', which means a person is a person through other persons. It is a humanistic way of life which holds ethics and morals at the forefront of everything.

**The South African Constitution enshrines the rights of all people** in South Africa and affirms the democratic values of human dignity, equality and freedom (section 7 of the Constitution), declares its supremacy (sections 1(c) and 2 of the Constitution), and provides that any **law or conduct inconsistent with it is invalid**.<sup>14</sup> The right to equality, including gender equality, is one of the fundamental pillars of the Constitution, and it is enshrined in the **Bill of Rights**, which is justiciable.

### 3.1 Australia's International Human Rights Obligations

The 2019 link has been removed.

[UN Human Rights Council, Speech, 25 Feb 2019, Australian ...  
https://foreignminister.gov.au/speeches/Pages/2019/mp\\_sp\\_190225.aspx](https://foreignminister.gov.au/speeches/Pages/2019/mp_sp_190225.aspx)

**I can assure you, Mr President, that Australia's commitment to human rights goes to the core of who we are as a nation** and we look forward to advancing these values on this Council in 2019. I wish this Council all the best for their deliberations this session. Thank **you**.

The Law Council of Australia<sup>22</sup> has outlined Australia's International Human Rights Obligations.

Australia is a party to the **seven key international human rights treaties**. Australia has signed and ratified:

- The *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (ICCPR),
- The *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (ICESCR),
- The *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (CRC),
- The *Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment of Punishment* (CAT),
- The *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination* (CERD),
- The *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (CEDAW)
- The *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (CRPD).

Australia has also signed and/or ratified a number of optional protocols to these treaties. For example:

- *Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Aiming at the Abolition of the Death Penalty*
- *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women*
- *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict*
- *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography*
- *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*
- *Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.*

These treaties, which Australia has voluntarily entered in, set out in clear terms Australia's international human rights obligations. Under international law, Australia is bound to comply with their provisions and to implement them domestically.

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.lawcouncil.asn.au/policy-agenda/human-rights/australias-international-human-rights-obligations>

### 3.2 Universal Declaration of Human Rights



Australia is a signatory of the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**, notable articles are as follows:

- Article 3: Everyone has the **right to life, liberty and security** of person.
- Article 4: No one shall be held in **slavery or servitude**, slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.
- Article 5: No one shall be **subjected to torture** or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
- Article 7: **All are equal before the law**...and are entitled to equal protection of the law...
- Article 13: Everyone has the **right to freedom of movement and residence** within the borders of each State.
- Article 18: Everyone has the **right to freedom of thought**
- Article 19: Everyone has the **right to freedom of opinion and expression**...without interference...
- Article 22: Everyone...has the **right to social security**...
- Article 23: Everyone has the **right to work, to free choice of employment**, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.
- Article 25: Everyone has the right to a **standard of living adequate** for their health and wellbeing

### 3.3 UN Human Rights: International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

The UN International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights<sup>23</sup> was adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 2200A (XXI) of **16 December 1966** entry into force 3 January 1976, in accordance with article 27 The States Parties to the present Covenant,

Considering that, in accordance with the principles proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations, recognition of the **inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights** of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Recognizing that these rights derive from the inherent **dignity of the human person**,

Recognizing that, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the ideal of **free human beings enjoying freedom from fear and want** can only be achieved if conditions are created whereby everyone may enjoy his economic, social and cultural rights, as well as his civil and political rights,

Considering the obligation of States under the Charter of the United Nations to promote **universal respect** for, and observance of, human rights and freedoms,

Realizing that the individual, having duties to other individuals and to the community to which he belongs, is **under a responsibility** to strive for the promotion and observance of the rights recognized in the present Covenant, agree upon the following articles.

*Note selected articles included pertain to homelessness.*

#### Article 1

1. All peoples have the right of **self-determination**. By virtue of that right they **freely determine** their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

*Note: Homeless people typically do not vote, they are the only group not required to vote.*

2. All peoples may, for their own ends, freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources without prejudice to any obligations arising out of international economic co-operation, based upon the principle of mutual benefit, and international law. **In no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence.**

*Note: People become homeless for a range of reasons. Some are cut of welfare due to non-compliance or breaches which reduces welfare payments and can facilitate an eviction.*

3. The States Parties to the present Covenant, including those having responsibility for the administration of Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories, shall **promote the realization of the right of self-determination**, and shall respect that right, in conformity with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/cescr.aspx>

### Article 3 (Equal Enjoyment of Rights)

The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to ensure the **equal right of men and women to the enjoyment** of all economic, social and cultural rights set forth in the present Covenant.

*Note: Poverty excludes the poor from enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights.*

### Article 4 (Rights and General Welfare)

The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize that, in the enjoyment of those rights provided by the State in conformity with the present Covenant, the State may subject such rights only to such limitations as are determined by law only in so far as this may be compatible with the nature of these rights and solely **for the purpose of promoting the general welfare in a democratic society.**

*Note: There are prejudices regarding the poor as economically unviability and considered a drain on the public purpose rather than an ideal of ensuring collective general welfare.*

### Article 5 (Dismantling Legal Freedoms and Rights)

1. Nothing in the present Covenant may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the **destruction of any of the rights or freedoms** recognized herein, or at their limitation to a greater extent than is provided for in the present Covenant.

2. **No restriction upon or derogation from any of the fundamental human rights recognized or existing in any country in virtue of law, conventions, regulations or custom** shall be admitted on the pretext that the present Covenant does not recognize such rights or that it recognizes them to a lesser extent.

### Article 11 (Standard of Living)

1. The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of **everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing**, and to the **continuous improvement of living conditions**. The States Parties will take appropriate steps to ensure the **realization of this right**, recognizing to this effect the essential importance of international co-operation based on free consent.

*Note: Homeless persons experience sub-standard living conditions and s/he is unable to access adequate (healthy) food, clothing and housing.*

2. The States Parties to the present Covenant, recognizing the **fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger**, shall take, individually and through international co-operation, the measures, including specific programmes, which are needed:

*Note: Hunger can occur in first world countries given an inability to afford food becoming reliant on free food by church groups or non profits.*

### Article 12 (Mental Health)

1. The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to the **enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.**

*Note: Homeless persons suffer sleep deprivation on the street, their health due to constant uncertainty and threats catalyse mental health issues and physical health worsens.*

### 3.4 Australia is a Member of the United Nations Human Rights Council 2018-2020

The following is an excerpt out Resolution 60/251. Human Rights Council<sup>24</sup>.

The General Assembly, Reaffirming the purposes and principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations, including developing friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of **equal rights and self-determination** of peoples, and achieving international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all.

Reaffirming also the Universal Declaration of Australia has announced its commitment to human rights. The challenge is to implement a framework that enshrines human rights to ensure those homeless or in **extreme poverty** have their human rights protected. The most vulnerable in our society are the ones typically targeted.

On 16 October 2017, in New York, the General Assembly elected Australia to serve on the Human Rights Council, the United Nations body responsible for the promotion and protection of all human rights around the globe. Our inaugural membership reflects our commitment to the aims and purposes of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to the ongoing promotion and protection of human rights.

Video: Australia's HRC membership <https://youtu.be/IXD36mbVO0k>

*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are warned that this film may contain images of deceased people. Additional footage supplied with thanks to: The Australian Department of Defence, the Department of Social Services, the Australian Human Rights Commission, the High Court of Australia, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Pacific Sports Partnerships; and the Parliament of Australia.*

Note: The video reinforces the importance of freedom of speech, voices of criticism and dissent, ethical judges and equality before the law. This is critical for homeless persons as they encounter the opposite.

#### **Launch of Australia's inaugural Human Rights Council Membership**

Then Minister for Foreign Affairs the Hon Julie Bishop MP launched **Australia's UN Human Rights Council (HRC) membership at a reception at Parliament House on Wednesday 7 February 2018**, in the presence of Slovenia's Ambassador to Australia, Her Excellency Ms Helena Drnovsek Zorko. Slovenia held the HRC Presidency in 2018.

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<sup>24</sup> [https://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/60/251&Lang=E](https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/60/251&Lang=E)

### 3.5 The Australian Human Rights Commission<sup>25</sup>

#### 3.5.1 Which human rights are we talking about?

The following outline is from the Australian Human Rights Commission. A key problem is that Australians have few legal human rights protections, particularly when they are poor. Australia does not have a Bill of Rights to ensure rights are enforceable by law. The right to housing and equality is critical.

The Australian Human Rights Commission AHRC asserts that there is a need for a Human Rights Act. Human Rights Act is a legislative or statutory **charter of rights** (that is, an ordinary Act of Parliament). ... Unlike the United States Bill of Rights, a Human Rights Act would **not be included in our Constitution** (that is, it would not be 'constitutionally-entrenched').<sup>26</sup>

Human rights are about everyone, and they are very important for people who are homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless.

We **all have the right** to an adequate standard of living, including adequate food, clothing and housing. This is **not** a right enjoyed by people who are homeless.

People who are homeless are also likely to experience a number of other human rights **breaches**, including the right to:

- the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health
- be safe and free from violence
- respect for privacy, family and home
- education
- work, and fair working conditions
- be free from discrimination
- vote
- freedom of movement and freedom of association

Homeless Lives Matter supports a Bill of Rights as essential for the homeless.

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<sup>25</sup> Australian Human Rights Commission *Let's Talk About Rights, National Human Rights Consultation Toolkit, February 2009*

<sup>26</sup> [https://www.humanrights.gov.au/sites/default/files/content/letstalkaboutrights/downloads/HRA\\_questions.pdf](https://www.humanrights.gov.au/sites/default/files/content/letstalkaboutrights/downloads/HRA_questions.pdf)

### 3.5.2 What are some of the human rights problems faced by people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless in Australia?

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*'Homelessness to me was a feeling of death. There is nowhere to go, no-one to see and no-one who cares. People generally believe you are a bum and were always meant to live a homeless existence... Besides the feeling of shame and uselessness is the feeling of terror and hunger. Hunger can turn a person into a madman. The desire for food greatly exceeds the thought of right and wrong and in many cases I stole to survive.'*

*Formerly homeless young person, Our Homeless Children: Report of the National Inquiry into Homeless Children by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (1989), p 49.*

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Some of the key human rights problems faced by people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless in Australia include:

- **Inadequate housing** – 105 000 Australians were homeless at the last census. Despite some assistance, 70 percent of Australians who live in low income households find it difficult to pay their rent. 65 percent of people on low incomes are spending more than 30% of their income on rent and 350 000 households are forced to spend half their income on housing. At the same time, there has been a decline in public housing stock in the face of increasing demand and many people are forced to live in houses that are in poor condition and have little access to services.
- **Threats to personal safety** – violence is the most common reason that single women and women with children become homeless. Women are particularly vulnerable to family violence and sexual abuse, and women are often forced into harmful situations or to stay in abusive relationships because they do not have adequate shelter.
- **Poor access to healthcare** – physical and mental health problems are both a cause and effect of homelessness. Children who are homeless have higher rates of asthma, recurrent ear infections, vision problems, eczema and developmental delays. People who are homeless experience significantly higher rates of disability and chronic illness than the general population and rely on hospital emergency departments and clinics for health care.
- **Accessible and adequate social security** – to get benefits, a person must be able to prove who they are. While this is reasonable in itself, the system does not take into account that homeless people often do not have, and cannot afford to get, a birth certificate or other documents that prove their identity.
- **Lack of privacy** – some people experiencing homelessness are forced to carry out essential personal activities in public (such as sleeping, urinating and washing), which most people are able to do in the privacy of their own homes. This not only undermines their right to privacy, but in some places can make them liable for a criminal offence.
- **Education** – Children who are homeless are more likely to leave school than children who enjoy adequate housing. Two in every three young people who become homeless leave school within 12 months.

According to the Australian Human Rights Commission a Human Rights Act will ensure stronger human rights, as follows:

*"...Over the longer term, a Human Rights Act would be a powerful tool for fostering a stronger human rights culture in Australia by promoting greater understanding and respect among all Australians..."*

According to the Human Rights Commission<sup>27</sup>, they state "If Australia had a Human Rights Act, it could:

- Make **the federal Parliament consider how laws impact on human rights** – for example, whether a law providing for emergency housing properly protects the right to adequate housing for all people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- Make the **federal government respect human rights when developing policy** – for example, consider whether new approaches to social security payments will increase the rate of homelessness or prevent homelessness
- Make **public servants respect human rights when making decisions and delivering services** – for example, government officials would need to take into account the difficulties faced by homeless people in providing proof of identity and the possibility that a homeless person may not have received relevant correspondence
- Provide a range of **enforceable remedies** if a government department breached human rights.

Protecting and promoting the rights of people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness is not just about providing adequate housing. It is also about understanding and addressing the complex range of factors that lead to homelessness and protecting the dignity of all people, including those who are homeless.

Over the longer term, a Human Rights Act would be a powerful tool for fostering a stronger human rights culture in Australia by promoting greater understanding and respect among all Australians.

In addition to a Human Rights Act, there is a range of other ways in which the human rights of people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness could be better promoted and protected in Australia. For example:

- enhanced protection of human rights in the Australian Constitution
- developing a national housing strategy that protects the human rights of people who are homeless and people at risk of homelessness
- national legislation that sets a minimum standard about when and how people can be evicted
- amending the *Supported Accommodation Assistance Act 1994* (Cth) and the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement to require compliance with human rights standards
- a National Human Rights Action Plan, including a focus on the right to adequate housing for all people
- a national public education program about human rights, including the rights of people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

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<sup>27</sup> Human Rights Commission: *Let's Talk About Rights*, National Human Rights Consultation Toolkit, p3-4

# APPENDICES

# Empowerment Models

## STEPHEN COVEY: 7 HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE PEOPLE

### The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People

Homeless Lives Matter will explore utilising empowerment Models. Stephen Covey, as mentioned is the author of *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* provides a process outlining a problem solving model of empowerment.

The second model is REAL HOPES as all decisions and solutions will be filtered through a values based model refer <https://www.worldpeacefull.com/real-hope-program/a-new-model/>.

### Independence

The first three habits surround moving from dependence to [independence](#) (i.e., self-mastery):

#### 1 – Be [proactive](#)

Take responsibility for your reaction to your experiences, take the initiative to respond positively and improve the situation. Recognize your Circle of Influence and Circle of Concern. Focus your responses and initiates on the center of your influence and constantly work to expand it. Don't sit and wait in a reactive mode, waiting for problems to happen (Circle of Concern) before taking action.<sup>[4]</sup>

#### 2 – Begin with the end in mind

Envision [what you want in the future](#) so you can work and plan towards it. Understand how people make decisions in their life. To be effective you need to act based on principles and constantly review your mission statement. Are you – right now – who you want to be? What do I have to say about myself? How do you want to be remembered? If habit 1 advises changing your life to act and be proactive, habit 2 advises that *you are the programmer!* Grow and stay humble.

All things are created twice. Before we act, we should act in our minds first. Before we create something, we measure twice. This is what the principle is about. Do not just act; think first: Is this how I want it to go, and are these the correct consequences?<sup>[5]</sup>

#### 3 – Put [first things first](#)

	URGENT	NOT URGENT
IMPORTANT	<p><u>Quadrant I</u> urgent and important <b>DO</b></p>	<p><u>Quadrant II</u> not urgent but important <b>PLAN</b></p>
NOT IMPORTANT	<p><u>Quadrant III</u> urgent but not important <b>DELEGATE</b></p>	<p><u>Quadrant IV</u> not urgent and not important <b>ELIMINATE</b></p>

## Interdependence

The next three habits talk about [Interdependence](#) (e.g., working with others):

### 4 – Think [win-win](#)

Genuine feelings for mutually beneficial solutions or agreements in your relationships. Value and respect people by understanding a “win” for all is ultimately a better long-term resolution than if only one person in the situation had gotten their way. Think Win-Win isn't about being nice, nor is it a quick-fix technique. It is a character-based code for human interaction and collaboration.<sup>[9]</sup>

### 5 – Seek first to understand, then to be understood

Use [empathetic](#) listening to genuinely [understand](#) a person, which compels them to reciprocate the listening and take an open mind to be influenced by you. This creates an atmosphere of caring, and positive problem-solving.

Habit 5 is greatly embraced in the [Greek philosophy](#) represented by 3 words:

- 1) [Ethos](#) — your personal credibility. It's the trust that you inspire, your Emotional Bank Account.
- 2) [Pathos](#) is the empathetic side — it's the alignment with the emotional trust of another person's communication.
- 3) [Logos](#) is the [logic](#) — the reasoning part of the presentation.

The order is important: ethos, pathos, logos — your character, and your relationships, and then the logic of your presentation.<sup>[10]</sup>

### 6 – [Synergize!](#)

Combine the strengths of people through positive [teamwork](#), so as to achieve goals that no one could have done alone.<sup>[11]</sup>

## Continual improvement

The final habit is that of [continuous improvement](#) in both the personal and interpersonal spheres of influence.

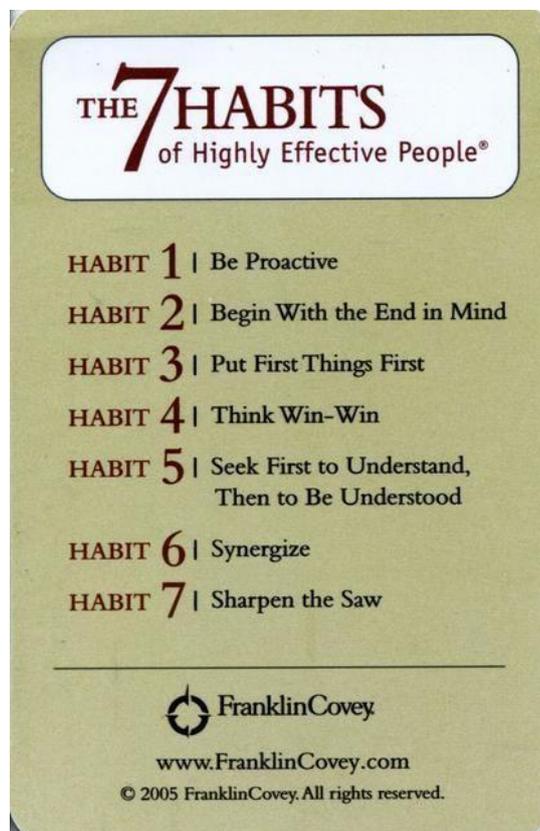
### 7 – Sharpen the Saw; Growth

*See also:* [Kaizen \(continuous improvement\)](#)

Balance and renew your resources, energy, and health to create a [sustainable](#), long-term, effective lifestyle. It primarily emphasizes exercise for physical renewal, good prayer (meditation, [yoga](#), etc.) and good reading for mental renewal. It also mentions service to society for spiritual renewal. Covey explains the “Upward Spiral” model in the sharpening the saw section. Through our conscience, along with meaningful and consistent progress, the spiral will result in growth, change, and constant improvement. In essence, one is always attempting to integrate and master the principles outlined in The 7 Habits at progressively higher levels at each iteration. Subsequent development on any habit will render a different experience and you will learn the principles with a deeper understanding. The Upward Spiral model consists of three parts: learn, commit, do. According to Covey, one must be increasingly educating the conscience in order to grow and develop on the upward spiral. The idea of renewal by education will propel one along the path of personal freedom, security, wisdom, and power.<sup>[12][13]</sup>

Homeless Lives Matter will utilise this process of empowerment by being guided by the work of Stephen Covey the author of the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People.

This project will begin with:



**Habit 1 Be Proactive.** Design a ecovillage of the future and request project partners to empower people without homes.

**Habit 2 is to Begin With the End in Mind.** It will be a prototype for future villages of harmonious communities choosing healthy and sustainable lifestyles. It will be based on Patch Adams approach to building a loving, inclusive society and will adapt the designs of Buckminster Fuller's and World Peace Game in problem solving for 100% of humanity.

**Habit 3 is to Put First Things first.** Circulate the proposal for discussion and interest.

**Habit 4 Think Win-Win.** We all win when we end homelessness and co-create a better community. It is to focus on giving to others, including others views and working together as homelessness is about losing a place called home. Home is where the heart is, that is how we all win.

**Habit 5 is to Seek First to Understand Then Be Understood.** Conduct research, speak with others, start a radio program so those without homes have a voice and for others to learn from their experience. It is to listen deeply to those involved. To present this proposal to interested groups to start a community conversation to end indifference. Then to finalise a fully costed and workable solution that is healing, healthy, socio-emotionally balanced, peace building and promotes a sustainable, practical, cost-effective ecovillage for the future in a way that benefits 100% of humanity.

## THE REAL HOPE MODEL<sup>28</sup>

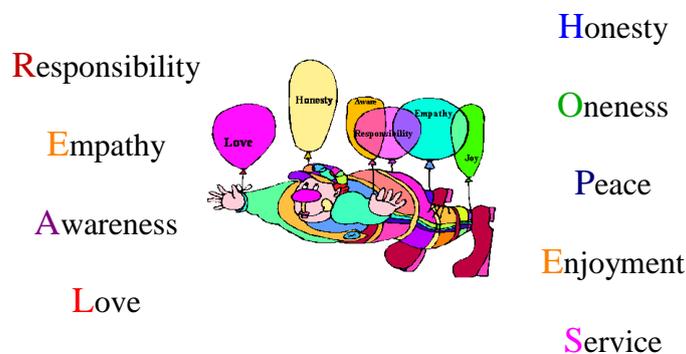
Similarly, those without homes need to feel seen, accepted and their problems acknowledged in an inclusive, proactive community that cares. They need to find safe places to live, to heal and to restore their health by reconnecting to those who know home is where the heart is. This is a place of peace. Peace is essentially returning to balance within oneself, to find the inner power to realise real hope in life. Peace is balance but it is not pretending you are happy, in control or peaceful to keep up appearances. Peace is simply realigning universal values (REAL HOPES) which are natural and guide us back to harmony. They are the prism through which we recognise and solve problems. We change what we see when values are the centre-peace. Empowerment is essential for restoring dignity and non-judgement attitudes prevent hurtful rejection paving a way back to social inclusion.

### A Holistic Problem Solving Model

The **REAL HOPES** model is an innovative shift from rational left brain analysis and argument (linear) to a combined holistic (creative) perspective. It is an acronym for: Responsibility, Empathy, Awareness, Love, Honesty, Oneness, Peace, Enjoyment and Service.

The **REAL HOPES** model is a powerful problem solving integrative model which enables holistic and inspired solutions. It guides people to access their own values system when thinking about problems. The model ensures that responses to problems come primarily from personal values, experience and awareness, thereby producing truly evolutionary solutions. That is, we evolve our thinking to incorporate both thinking and feeling to catalyse balanced solutions.

**... Because we KNOW WHAT TO DO when we really listen to ourselves.**



To Be of **Service** to the world means you pre-serve it in Love, Truth and Joy

The **REAL HOPES** model is linked to symbols for easy recall. This is particularly pertinent for the children's values based peace, non-violence and anti-bullying program. It is applicable to any human program that requires people to see differently. The model is used in conjunction with the clown image as fun and symbols to facilitate accelerated learning by association. The values are embedded in the recognisable words of **REAL HOPES**. It also generates a visual impression of positivity and possible futures.

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.worldpeacefull.com/real-hope-program/a-new-model/>



**R**esponsibility – when we are respons-able we are able to respond, we can do something. It is in our hands.



**E**mpathy – is the ability to step into another's shoes, to feel their feelings.



**A**wareness – to be able to clearly and honestly see ourselves and others. To be aware of the consequences of our thoughts, words and actions.



**L**ove – is the heart of non-violence. When we act in love we expands potential, reveal, share, care and heal ourselves and others.



**H**onesty – the truth will set you free. Jesters were able to tell the truth in a humorous way. Truth makes the real world visible.



**O**neeness – is a concept that we are one world, interconnected to each other and creating a sense of unity.



**P**ease – is balance and harmony. To be peaceful means you see all the people as different colours in the painting of life. Like white light you absorb all the colours as part of yourself.



**E**njoyment – is true happiness in the knowledge that you are being yourself and open to the beauty of life.



**S**ervice – Is to pre-serve the world. That is to give or share yourself with the world. It is in giving that we become aware of our own richness. When we think there is not enough we become focused on getting more. The challenge is to turn selfishness in to self awareness.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS MODEL

According to the United Nations, the Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice. The 17 Goals are all interconnected, and in order to leave no one behind, it is important that we achieve them all by 2030. The link is below, please click on any specific Goal to learn more about each issue.



### LINKS:

SDG: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

Homelessness: <https://sdqs.org.au/project/a-spotlight-on-homelessness/>

Children and SDG: <https://data.unicef.org/children-sustainable-development-goals/>

SDG's and City of Melbourne <https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/about-melbourne/sustainability/Pages/sustainability-for-melbourne.aspx>

## BUCKMINSTER FULLER AND HOMELESSNESS

### Geodesic Domes - Principles

R. Buckminster Fuller spent much of the early 20th Century looking for ways to improve human shelter by:

- Applying modern technological know-how to shelter construction.
- Making shelter more comfortable and efficient.
- Making shelter more economically available to a greater number of people.

After acquiring some experience in the building industry and discovering the traditional practices and perceptions which severely limit changes and improvements in construction practices, Fuller carefully examined, and improved, interior structure equipment, including the toilet (similar to the ones now used in airplanes), the shower (which cleans more efficiently using less water), and the bathroom as a whole. He studied structure shells, and devised a number of alternatives, each less expensive, lighter, and stronger than traditional wood, brick, and stone buildings.

He could do this, in part, because newer building materials were available, and partly because his structures use the principle of tension instead of the usual compression. About these homes, Fuller writes in 1928, "These new homes are structured after the natural system of humans and trees with a central stem or backbone, from which all else is independently hung, utilizing gravity instead of opposing it. This results in a construction similar to an airplane, light, taut, and profoundly strong." (4D Timelock)

In 1944, the United States suffered a serious housing shortage. Government officials knew that Fuller had developed a prototype single family dwelling which could be produced rapidly, using the same equipment which had previously built war-time airplanes. They could be "installed" anywhere, the way a telephone is installed, and with little additional difficulty. When one official flew to Wichita, Kansas to see this house, which Beech Aircraft and Fuller built, the man reportedly gasped, "My God! This is the house of the future!"

Soon, unsolicited checks poured in from people who wanted to purchase this new kind of house, but Fuller was never able to get it into full production. This was due to many obstacles such as only union contractors were able to hook the houses up to water, power and sewers in many cities. However, because the houses were already wired and had the plumbing installed by the aircraft company, many construction trade unions made it clear that they would not work on the houses. There were also in-house differences between Fuller and the stockholders. Fuller did not feel the house design was complete; there were problems he wanted to fix. But the stockholders wanted to move ahead. However, the main obstruction was obtaining the financing for the tooling costs, which were purposely not included in the negotiations with Beech. No bank would finance the project with union problems and stockholder battles.

After the war, Fuller's efforts focused on the problem of how to build a shelter which is so lightweight, it can be delivered by air. Shelter should be mobile which would require great breakthroughs in the weight-reduction of the materials.

Technology would have to follow nature's design as seen by the spider's web which can float in a hurricane because of its high strength-to-weight ratio. New shelter would have to be designed that incorporates these principles and that was Fuller's intent.

#### THE CONCEPTS BEHIND THE GEODESIC DOME

One of the ways Buckminster Fuller ("Bucky") would describe the differences in strength between a rectangle and a triangle would be to apply pressure to both structures. The rectangle would fold up and be unstable but the triangle withstands the pressure and is much more rigid--in fact the triangle is twice as strong. This principle directed his studies toward creating a new architectural design, the geodesic dome, based also upon his idea of "doing more with less." Fuller discovered that if a spherical structure was created from triangles, it would have unparalleled strength.

The sphere uses the "doing more with less" principle in that it encloses the largest volume of interior space with the least amount of surface area thus saving on materials and cost. Fuller reintroduced the idea that when the sphere's diameter is doubled it will quadruple its square footage and produce eight times the volume.

The spherical structure of a dome is one of the most efficient interior atmospheres for human dwellings because air and energy are allowed to circulate without obstruction. This enables heating and cooling to occur naturally. Geodesic shelters have been built all around the world in different climates and temperatures and still they have proven to be the most efficient human shelter one can find.

More specifically, the dome is energy efficient for many reasons:

- Its decreased surface area requires less building materials.
- Exposure to cold in the winter and heat in the summer is decreased because, being spherical, there is the least surface area per unity of volume per structure.
- The concave interior creates a natural airflow that allows the hot or cool air to flow evenly throughout the dome with the help of return air ducts.
- Extreme wind turbulence is lessened because the winds that contribute to heat loss flow smoothly around the dome.
- It acts like a type of giant down-pointing headlight reflector and reflects and concentrates interior heat. This helps prevent radiant heat loss.

The net annual energy savings for a dome owner is 30% less than normal rectilinear homes according to the Oregon Dome Co. This is quite an improvement and helps save the environment from wasted energy. Geodesic Domes have been designed by Bucky and others to withstand high winds and extreme temperatures as seen in the Polar regions.

Many dome manufacturers on the list in this section offer various designs in geodesic dome housing with little assembly time required. Some houses can be assembled in less than a day with others taking up to six months. Many also come in dome kits that you can build yourself or with the help of friends. The options are many. It all depends on how complex you want the design to be. Please feel free to contact them for more information.

## THE PUBLIC'S FIRST VIEW OF THE GEODESIC DOMES

R. Buckminster Fuller's first world wide acceptance by the architectural community occurred with the 1954 Triennale where his cardboard dome was displayed for the first time. The Milan Triennale was established to stage international exhibitions aimed to present the most innovative accomplishments in the fields of design, crafts, architecture and city planning.

The theme for 1954 was Life Between Artifact and Nature: Design and the Environmental Challenge which fit in perfectly with Bucky's work. Bucky had begun efforts towards the development of a Comprehensive Anticipatory Design Science which he defined as, "the effective application of the principles of science to the conscious design of our total environment in order to help make the Earth's finite resources meet the needs of all humanity without disrupting the ecological processes of the planet." The cardboard shelter that was part of his exhibit could be easily shipped and assembled with the directions printed right on the cardboard. The 42-foot paperboard Geodesic was installed in old Sforza garden in Milan and came away with the highest award, the Gran Premio.

Fuller's domes gained world wide attention upon his Italian premiere and by that time the U.S. military had already begun to explore the options of using domes in their military projects because they needed speedy but strong housing for soldiers overseas. With the interest of the military and coming away from the 1954 Triennale with the Gran Premio, geodesic domes began to gain in public appeal and exposure.

\*ASM Materials Park Dome and Climatron Dome designed by TC Howard of Synergetics, Inc.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=01jIvy3\\_A9M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=01jIvy3_A9M)

## Buckminster Fuller and the Homeless of New York

*"For the first time in history it is now possible to take care of everybody at a higher standard of living than any have ever known. Only ten years ago the 'more with less' technology reached the point where this could be done. All humanity now has the option to become enduringly successful."*

- R. Buckminster Fuller, 1980

<https://synchronofile.com/buckminster-fuller-and-the-homeless-of-new-york/>

Posted on May 22nd, 2009 in 4d, DDU, domes, dymaxion, geodesic, rbf, shelter, synchronofile

If Buckminster Fuller is known for any effort, it is the effort to provide shelter. But who did Fuller actually provide shelter for? The Lightful House and 4D House existed only on paper. The Dymaxion House existed only as a small scale model. The Dymaxion / Wichita House existed as two full-scale models (one internal, one external, neither able to be connected to the other). The Dymaxion Deployment Unit did house a small number of US armed forces personnel but the DDU was the invention of Victor C. Norquist, not Buckminster Fuller. The geodesic dome was invented by Walter Bauersfeld. Of the dozens of books by and about Fuller, of the thousands of articles on his life and work, most of them fail to give a single instance of when Fuller actually provided shelter to anyone. The *Buckminster Fuller Bibliography* by Trevor Blake is the first book to document that Fuller provided shelter for others with his own direct effort.

The *New York Times* for 10 September 1932 includes an uncredited article titled "Single Jobless Men to Get Lodging House / Social Worker and Engineer Obtain Use of Tenement for Those Ineligible for City Aid." **The building in question was a then-deserted seven-story building** located at 145 Ridge Street in New York City, New York. The social worker was Ben Howe and the engineer was Buckminster Fuller. Fuller is described as "editor of the magazine *Shelter* and head of Structural Study Associates, an engineering firm." According to the article, the men who were renovating the building were hoping to live in it afterward. They were otherwise ineligible for benefits because they were not the head of a family. **The building was to house two hundred and fifty men at a time and serve several thousand during Winter.** Lieutenant R. E. Johnson was also involved in this project. He is described as a "former **army construction** engineer and commander of the United States Ex-Service Men's Association." At the time of the article, the shelter was under construction. The building described in this article no longer exists.

The *New York Times* for 2 December 1932 includes an uncredited article titled "Jobless Veterans Back in Barracks / 300 Single Men to Live Under Military Rule in Converted Clubhouse in 54th St." The building in question was a **five-story converted boy's club** at 340 East 54th Street in New York City, New York. According to the article, the shelter would be run by and for veterans and in a military style. **The shelter would serve single men because of their difficulties in obtaining relief from existing services.** The plan was initiated by a meeting of representatives of various interested organizations at the office of Raymond V. Ingersoll. Ingersoll served as a New York Parks Commissioner and as a Brooklyn Borough President. A residential development named after Ingersoll stands today at 120 Navy Walk in Brooklyn, New York.

The representatives at the meeting included Ben Howe and Buckminster Fuller of the 145 Ridge Street shelter, Philip Hiss, Colonel Walter L. DeLamater, Arthur Huck, Louis Gleich, Owen R. Lovejoy, Cyrus C. Perry, James R. Sichel and Henry C. Wright. Philip Hiss went on to design and build homes in Florida, although he was not a trained architect. Col. DeLamater served in the 71st Infantry Regiment, an organization of the New York State Guard. Arthur Huck worked on numerous homeless shelter projects in the New York area, as reported in decades of articles found in the *New York Times*. Louis Gleich was a commander in the New York County Council of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and was the chairman of the committee that erected a VFW monument in Union Square. Owen Lovejoy served as the General Secretary of the National Child Labor Committee. The building formerly housed the Kips Bay Boys' Club, where Lovejoy served as secretary. The building was to be called Veterans Cantonment No. 1. At the time of the article, the shelter was in operation. The building described in this article may still exist, next to the building that currently is designated as 340 East 54th Street.

By 1932, Buckminster Fuller had published drawings of his **4D House and exhibited models** of his Dymaxion House. He had been featured in the *Chicago Evening Post*, *Fortune Magazine*, the *Harvard Crimson*, *Modern Mechanics Magazine*, the *New York Times* and *Time Magazine*. Fuller had published his monograph *4D* and was publishing *Shelter Magazine*. He had earned the rank of Lieutenant Junior Grade in the United States Navy. In 1933 Fuller would begin work on the Dymaxion Car.

What makes these **homeless veteran shelters** distinct from any other that Fuller was involved with was that they provided **actual shelter to actual men**. While they do not have the glamor of Fuller's Dymaxion House and other creations, they hold the advantage of having existed. Giving **a new purpose to an existing structure** was an idea that Fuller seldom developed but never abandoned.

In his 1970 book *I Seem to Be a Verb*, Fuller wrote:

*"Our beds are empty two-thirds of the time. Our living rooms are empty seven-eighths of the time. Our office buildings are empty one-half of the time. It's time we gave this some thought."*

– Trevor Blake

## Ending Homelessness for Good

*Homelessness,  
Is not about a house or economy,  
For home is where the heart is,  
Home less is felt as heart less,  
As there is a massive disconnect,  
Between the heart and the head,  
Like a plug pulled,  
Taking power but not giving,  
To pull the plug on life supports,  
It is to pull the carpet from under one's feet,  
Rather than give a magic carpet to uplift,  
Giving power to empower change,  
To support is what life naturally does,  
To re-member we are not alone.*

*The heart is a home welcoming all in,  
To open the door is to understand,  
To provide a place to rest for those exhausted,  
To shares a meal for many hunger for sustenance,  
Reconnection is to remind each other,  
That we are each other's keepers.*

*For I could be you,  
You could be me,  
Anyone can fall between the cracks in a society ...*

*Cracking up,  
Falling apart,  
Living apart,  
Living alone,  
Separate rooms,  
With no space  
for diverse views.*

*People are not coping with endless work,  
Low pay,  
No support,  
No say,  
As we lost our community,  
Community is what we have in common,  
It is the unity of the commons,  
The house of commons is a house of cards,  
The deck is stacked against winning,  
For cashless cards are turn tables,  
Hands are under the table doing deals,  
The dealers gamble at the Casino Canberra,  
For many draw cold comfort,  
For the solution is not cashless cards  
But better cards dealt for an equal playing field,  
As many are set up to lose...  
Yet again.*

*We lose our families,  
We lose our friends,  
We lose love,  
We lose where we belong.*

*Many of us hold tight to our dignity,  
For I am not giving away my self-respect,  
I am not giving away my power to fate,  
I am not going silent for others to say I'm too late,  
It is not about right or wrong it is to be strong in the face of great adversity and stigma.*

*I will keep speaking the truth until someone hears me,  
Until one takes the time to know me as a person not a statistic,  
To really listen to hear me is to be understood,  
To answer my call with authenticity is genuine,  
To respond to my request quickly is efficiency.*

*For this is an urgent call,  
It is a National Emergency not a funding round,  
It is human lives you are dealing with not an economic hole draining the system,*

*For many are sinking as they believe they are nothing to you,  
They believe they are worth less than you,  
They are ashamed of social exclusion,  
They are the refuse and pollution discarded,  
Others want them removed as they are not moved to tears,  
The homeless are unsightly causing fears,  
City streets and alleys are unliveable,  
Many plug in and walk on,  
Others send a link in a broken chain,  
Few give a warm embrace and a cup of tea,  
For the face of compassion checks in asking 'are you okay?'  
So many are forgotten,  
Out of sight is out of mind.*

*The pond of reflection is the mirror not the mask,  
What you do for others returns to the self,  
It defines who you are not what you do.*

*Life is reciprocal  
until there is judgement,  
Life is connected  
until negative beliefs arise,  
For life is not a mutual obligation but mutual understanding,  
It is not to pay your way but to find your way.*

*Homelessness ends when you see me as your family,  
When you see me as you,  
When you reach your hand out not as dependency or referral  
but in friendship and in-kind,  
Understanding we are same same but different,  
We have different ways of seeing and being,  
Different ways of living and loving,  
Each a product of role models,  
Each a product of education,  
Experiencing inclusion or exclusion,  
Reducing life to a medium of exchange.*

*For life can be a school of hard knocks criminalising the poor,  
Or a choir of hope and inspiration  
empowering new visions of creative community,  
For I am choosing to sing the one song of real hope and inspiration,  
This is a clarion call to everyone  
to learn to love each other as family not felons.*

*For to travel to the heart of Mother Teresa's Mission of Charity is to learn to give support,  
Encountering abandoned destitute women living where need is left wanting,  
Miming the silent world of the deaf unable to hear their own names called out of isolation,  
Juggling inclusion, laughter and fun,  
the disabled are able to laugh sing and smile at life's cocoon,  
Touching the hearts of HIV Aids kids proving that there are no untouchables in our world,  
Silently observing Patch Adams embrace the most isolated child,  
Entering a leprosy colony meeting their eyes with acceptance, gentleness and honouring  
their right to a meaningful life in common unity,  
Clowning and smiling with those stigmatised as mentally ill lying on hard concrete floors  
institutionalising their cold comfort without beds,  
My heart reaching out in friendship to the orphans abandoned, abused and home-less,  
Bringing cheer to the sick and incapacitated as laughter is the best medicine,  
To hear Patch announce to the world:  
the greatest dis-ease is loneliness,  
So everyone shine your light into dark places,  
This illuminates the light within,  
Re-membering to answer every call ...  
With love.*

*Remember:  
To victim blame the poor darkens your door,  
Judgement is the poisoned chalice from which we drink in toxic cultures that care nothing  
for joy,  
Avoiding responsibility blocks opportunity,  
Poverty is the painful rejection of inequality,*

*To judge drug addicts blinds us to drug peddlers and the need to feel happy,  
Drugs self sooth pain to inject light into darkness,  
Yet how many judges are addicted to things, sex, money, drugs, work and call this  
acceptable?*

*Therefore:  
Is this the pot calling the kettle black?*

*In Truth:*

*Many homeless live in rundown dwellings,*

*No love, no light, just a blank stare,*

*When windows become walls,*

*Some jump from prisons of despair,*

*Believing life is about what you have and how you are seen,*

*Rather than who you are and who you've been,*

*For economics does not supply the demand for real security when we lose each other!*

*Greed is the seed of our destruction,*

*Money cannot buy love as a surrogate for the real wealth of nations,*

*To realise you have never felt the security, passion and the certainty of loving kindness,*

*Status is not superior in a collapsing economy sinking the titanic as the ice melts all balance sheets,*

*Fame does not guarantee a shining star,*

*For a rising number today have lost their shine,*

*Suiciding to exit darkness in search of freedom.*

*Home was always where the heart is,*

*Until we find our hearts,*

*We can not go home ... in peace.*

*Therefore:*

*Homelessness is not about building construction but rebuilding family,*

*It is not about infrastructure but culture,*

*It is not about shelter or a food van,*

*It is not a temporary fix to fill a gap in our humanity but to re-member unity.*

*Remember:*

*We are comm-unity,*

*We are here for each other singing the one song,*

*If we pull in opposite directions,*

*We lose the momentum of great change,*

*For it is time to come together to solve the global challenge of inequality for good,*

*To rediscover unity in embracing diversity,*

*Meeting challenges as an opportunity to grow,*

*Learning to love strangers as potential friends not clients,*

*To greet enemies as friends we have not heard,*

*To slow down and find the time to listen deeply,*

*To seek to understand to be understood clearly,  
 For angels turn up in unexpected places,  
 They help you remember to CARE,  
 That you are rare and not alone,  
 As what you see in another is your very self,  
 For we see as we are not as others are,  
 What we resist persists what we look at disappears,  
 As the illusion of negative beliefs evaporate as the light of new understanding arises,  
 For home is where the heart is,  
 And my heart is full of Real Hope,  
**REAL HOPES is the model for the future,**  
 Am I Future Ready or Ready to re-create a renewable Future?*

**REAL HOPES** values:

**R**esponsibility  
**E**mpathy  
**A**wareness  
**L**ove

**H**onesty  
**O**penness  
**P**eace  
**E**njoyment  
**S**ervice

*When we live universal values as truth,  
 No-one will be left wanting,  
 No-one will be cast to the side or victim blamed,  
 They will be held in the light of gentle understanding,  
 Their needs will be met as if your own,  
 For this is the unity in comm-unity,  
 As the heart that opens their home,  
 For this is the generosity that truly ends homelessness for good!*

*By Susan Carew*

Note: YouTube Homeless links by author overleaf.

Mother Teresa reminds us that *Home is where the Heart is*, her wisdom is realised in the following quote:



Susan is available to present this proposal to start the conversation. She has spoken at length through videos as part of her approach of educating the public.

### **Worldpeacefull Empowerment**

YouTube Links on Homelessness as lived experience by the author.

#### **Homeless Persons Do Not Vote - A Message to Politicians and the Public**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4fduMIQhJs>

#### **Homeless Lives Matter Electing to Walk to Parliament**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L3HY1E9fdTk>

#### **Courtney Herron Homelessness and Violence Part 1**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8-tZPMT-dK8>

#### **Courtney Herron, Homelessness and a Culture of Peace Part 2**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vw51cdcUBtA>

#### **Lets Talk about Homelessness Part 1:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P94PcxgVHcY>