HOUSING OUTCOMES AFTER DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

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THE DATA
THE RESEARCH

The crisis response is working (reasonably) well.

The problem is a lack of exit points.
# HOUSING OPTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOME OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>SOCIAL HOUSING</th>
<th>PRIVATE RENTAL</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Generally inaccessible</td>
<td>Limited supply</td>
<td>Preferred by policy-makers</td>
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but...
Real estate rental, private rental is very, very expensive. Even if I had been working, which I’m not, I just wouldn’t have been able to afford it. My income always goes just over the threshold where you can’t get any assistance. (service user)
Sometimes it’s hard. I opt to use the free service at the community centre. On a Thursday, Friday you can go and get some free vegetables and some bread. There is another one that I would like to go to, but because of TAFE, I can’t. They have free fruit and vegies, free bread. I’m not sure if they have free milk or not. (service user)
I think I put 53 applications into real estates. Some of the people said, ‘tell the truth, tell them where you come from and why you’re here’ and some people say, ‘maybe don’t tell them everything’. So some I told and they just looked at me like I had leprosy or something. (service user)
She looked at it and said that it was just too exposed because it was on a junction of two roads and she felt that she would easily be seen if she was walking somewhere. (worker)
It’s so compounding to experience time and time again that constant powerlessness. So where there isn’t any choice, it’s look, you take this house. You take this house because that’s the only option that you’ve got and so they’ve got nothing. And it’s like, oh, here I am again, pushed into a corner with no options. And you’re talking about a woman who’s protecting herself and her children and you’re not giving her any options to protect herself and her children. (worker)
THE IMPLICATIONS
THE IMPLICATIONS

• We need safe, affordable, long-term housing
• We need all parts of government to be directed towards the same objective: supporting women and their children to flourish
• The private rental market is not the solution we are looking for
Having a clean mattress is one of the most important things because they’ve probably come from having really nice stuff and if you’re forced to put your child on a soiled mattress because that’s all there is then you start thinking, this is what I’ve forced my children into, maybe it wasn’t so bad at home. A stained mattress is a huge barrier to a woman staying away. (worker)