



## Morning Session E

### Discussion Paper 5

*Housing as a base for improved life outcomes - How can safe and secure housing be leveraged to improve life outcomes?*

#### **CHALLENGE OUTLINE:**

1. Housing is fundamental to living standards of all people and should be at the heart of social policy.
2. Good housing provides shelter, safety, security and privacy.
3. The absence of affordable, secure and appropriate housing has negative consequences for health, education, development and employment.
4. Impacts of inadequate and insecure housing and overcrowding cited in the literature include an increased risk of infection-based illness, irregular sleep, poor school performance, increased parental stress resulting in punitive parenting and parent-child conflict, greater vulnerability to abuse and poor mental health.
5. Providing safe, secure, high quality housing is an essential platform for ending acute, extensive economic, social and cultural disadvantage.
6. While stable housing is an essential element in stable, productive engagement in life's opportunities, more support is often required to lift people out of disadvantage.
7. Aboriginal Households living in Aboriginal community owned housing are potential clients for support services which build pathways out of disadvantage.
8. This includes, mentoring, life coaching, referral to health and support services, advocacy and advice, including on education and training opportunities, legal issues and family challenges.



Source: Designed by Sharyn Lovett for Aboriginal Housing Victoria

**POSSIBLE RESPONSES:**

1. Governments must elevate the priority given to housing policy when addressing Aboriginal disadvantage – too often it is a missing piece as policy-makers puzzle over holistic solutions to entrenched disadvantage.
2. Secure stable housing must be considered a bedrock of successful social policy interventions – without it other investments are undermined – it provides the setting for an integrated, population level strategy to tackle disadvantage for 25% of the community.
3. To this end, as one viable model, consideration should be given to extending the *More than a Landlord* program to provide life-coaching support for Aboriginal people in public housing and mainstream social housing.