**88 and Homeless. Doreen’s Story**

**Transcript**

**Doreen:** I got notice from the owner from the real estate, a notice in the mail, to vacate the premises. They gave me three moths to move out. And the form was an eviction form from the old thing. Where it said ‘give reasons for … being thrown out’ it said ‘no reason’. I rang a friend that was in the real estate and he told me that now they could put you out for no reason. And, ahh … the week after that I had the stroke. You couldn’t find anything to rent, at all. The process was so complicated. I was only volunteering down here at Vinnies, so … I actually never knew it had changed, that the were allowed to put you out. Not because of anything I’d done. Not because of anything I’d done, I’d paid the rent …

**Amanda:** So how did you feel when you found yourself…

**Doreen:** I had a stroke. And a stroke caused by stress of being thrown out for no reason and, ahh, having to find out how to get accommodation None of the services had emergency accommodation, for anybody.

**Amanda:** And what happened after you had a stroke?

**Doreen:** My social worker had put in an application to the Housing Commission for public housing, when I was in rehab. And the application had got lost in the process. So, and they found me this place. Otherwise it would’ve been a tent in the caravan park.

**Amanda:** Did you know that there are waitlists with social housing between 10 and 15 years in this area?

**Doreen:** Oh yes, I know. I know all about it. Shocking. Because they stopped putting money into it. Same thing happened to every other, every other service the government runs. They stopped funding it. In MY Australia, homeless people. Not ever Everybody had a home in Australia. Nobody was homeless. You couldn’t be homeless in Australia

**Older women over 55 years are the fastest growing cohort of homelessness in NSW (2016 Census)**