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6<sup>th</sup> October 2011.

The Hon. Brian Ellis M.L.C.,  
Chairman,  
The Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs,  
Parliament House,  
Perth, Western Australia.

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your invitation to comment on Petition # 137 Emergency Accommodation for the Homeless, of which I was a sponsor.

I have not, nor I am sure have the other sponsors, referred this matter to the Ombudsman.

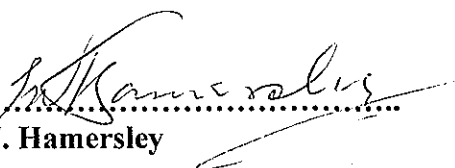
Although I am much opposed for aesthetic reasons to commercial development of the Perth foreshore, I have no great objection to the construction of a new football ground. It's just that, in a community like ours, it seems proper, if necessary, to delay such projects in favour of first providing more emergency accommodation than is presently available for those who become homeless.

It would be a naive idea to conclude that nothing other than the allocation of more money to the project would solve the problems of homelessness. Many reasons are reported for its cause, but it seems reasonable to conclude that the majority of persons finding themselves in this situation have, at least for the time being, become incapable of functioning effectively in our culture.

Therefore, besides the provision of basic emergency accommodation, there is almost invariably a need for supervision and counselling.

This may best be done as in St Bartholomew's House in East Perth. The best way of dealing with the homeless may be to encourage the multiplication of such institutions in diverse locations.

Yours sincerely,

  
.....  
J. W. Hamersley

**PUBLIC**