Nichole's story

Nichole grew up in the Eastern Metropolitan Region, but most recently has lived in Queensland. After a family break up, Nichole returned to Victoria be near her mother. She planned to resume her Certificate IV studies in Victoria and settle her children in a safe secure environment.

Since November 2018, Nichole has been actively seeking rental accommodation and has enlisted the assistance of community housing providers.

Due to her personal circumstances Nichole is eligible for priority housing. The scarcity of social housing in the region, either government provided or community housing, and lack of any affordable housing in the market place has forced her into crisis accommodation.

Nichole has been assisted with crisis housing in a motel in the region. She has been there for more four months. The confined space has only two beds for the family of four.

This prolonged alien setting is compounding the emotional suffering her children are already experiencing as a result of the family break up. The toll is now evidenced in one of her children who is displaying disruptive behavioural disorders.

Chronic health issues, anxiety and stress were the main causes of Nichole's family breakdown. Carrying these problems with her to Victoria, and now faced with a new set of problems, Nichole is susceptible to a significant relapse in her health.

Nichole has been very active in seeking assistance from housing providers. Her experience over the last four months has been one of attending numerous interviews, completing reams of paper work, approaching many community support groups – to no avail.

Her unsuccessful efforts to secure suitable affordable housing has left her with no option but to return to Queensland to seek support from friends. Having made the difficult decision to seek a new life for her family close to her mum and in the community where she has many longstanding relationships and networks, Nichole faces the prospect of returning to the surroundings that she had chosen to leave.