12 March 2026

OPEN LETTER TO THE HON AMANDA STOKER MP Member for Oodgeroo

Dear Andrew and the Hon Amanda Stoker,

Thank you for your response regarding your constituent Bill Bailey.

Your email stated: *"Please beware that our office does not fulfil the role of the Housing Department."*

Nobody asked it to.

We asked your office to fulfil the role of **a Member of Parliament's office** — to advocate for a constituent when government systems have failed him. To forward e-mails to the Housing Department is not adequate representation. It is administration. Bill does not need a mail carrier. He needs his elected representative to act.

The facts

- Bill Bailey is **63 years old** with a **disability sleeping on a shopping trolley**
- Bill sleeps **outside the Cleveland Library**, some 200 metres from your electorate office
- This has been ongoing for **16 months**
- Your staff have long seen Bill on the street, has made phone calls, and forwarded emails.

As a barrister, Ms Stoker has the legal training to understand what many constituents cannot.
The **Queensland Human Rights Act 2019** is directly engaged:

- **Section 16** — Right to life
- **Section 17** — Protection from cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment
- **Section 19** — Freedom of movement
- **Section 25** — Privacy and reputation
- **Section 29** — Right to liberty and security of person
- **Section 58** — Conduct of public entities

The Act requires public entities to act compatibly with human rights. Ms Stoker does not need anyone to explain this. **The question is why, after 16 months, her legal knowledge has not translated into secure housing for an elderly disabled man named Bill.**

As a Member of Parliament, for some 16 months Ms Stoker has had the platform to raise Bill's case in Parliament and make formal ministerial representations that carry weight no ordinary citizen's voice can.

As an Assistant Minister, she has direct access to the machinery of government at the highest levels.

Furthermore, we present the obvious.

"Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?" — **James 2:15-17**

Bill is that brother. We are asking Ms Stoker to act.

one Backpack Bed **for every homeless person without shelter**

Your office's engagement with the vulnerable

Backpack Bed for Homeless is a registered charity with over a decade of advocacy. The organisation has saved Australian taxpayers an estimated **$132 million** to date, partners with over **1,100 homeless agencies** across Australia, and supplies directly to government agencies. We have presented in Canberra at the invitation of federal parliamentarians.

We are a globally award-winning and study proven resource, not an adversary to dismiss.

The tone of your office toward Bill, toward our organisation, and toward this matter has not reflected the standard constituents deserve. Vulnerable and elderly people who approach an MP's office are doing so as a last resort. They deserve urgency and respect, not deflection.

Once again, what we are requesting.

1. **The Hon Amanda Stoker personally intervene** with a formal ministerial representation to the Minister for Housing requesting emergency accommodation for Bill.

2. **Raise Bill's case in the Queensland Parliament** if the Department does not act within 48 hours.

3. **Provide a written response within 5 days** confirming what actions the Member has personally taken.

4. **Commit to engaging respectfully** with our organisation and all vulnerable constituents.

We await Ms Stoker's personal response with urgency.

Yours sincerely,

Tony Clark
Founder & CEO
Backpack Bed for Homeless

one Backpack Bed **for every homeless person turned away from shelter**