

Section 1:

#1 "I am a 12-year-old boy and a resident of the Sydney City Council. I am writing to express my deep concerns about the heartbreaking situation of homelessness in our local community."

Strengths: Your opening clearly establishes your identity and expresses genuine concern, creating an immediate emotional connection with your audience.

Weaknesses: Limited contextual framing → Your introduction would benefit from briefly mentioning why this issue matters specifically to you as a young person. The impact on you personally would strengthen your appeal to the council members. ***I am a 12-year-old resident of Sydney who witnesses the heartbreaking situation of homelessness in our community daily on my way to school, and I'm writing to express my deep concerns about this growing crisis.***

#2 "Our local community and the wider Sydney suburban population has been devastated by the rapid increase in the cost of living and rising unemployment. Increase in population and competition for rental properties have increased rents well beyond what an average earner can afford to pay."

Strengths: You effectively identify multiple causes of homelessness, showing a mature understanding of complex socioeconomic factors.

Weaknesses: Incomplete logical progression → Your analysis would be more persuasive if you explicitly connected these economic challenges to specific consequences for vulnerable people. The leap from economic factors to homelessness needs clearer linkage. ***Our local community has been devastated by the rapid increase in the cost of living and rising unemployment, forcing many families and individuals onto the streets when they can no longer afford the soaring rents that have risen well beyond what an average earner can pay.***

#3 "It is ironical in a wealthy country like Australia and Australia's wealthiest city Sydney that we have this alarming rate of homelessness. In the short term, I urge the council to find temporary accommodation funded by the council so that we can provide safe and comfortable living conditions to these people."

Strengths: You thoughtfully contrast Australia's wealth with the homelessness crisis, highlighting the moral contradiction, and offer both short and long-term solutions.

Weaknesses: Vague proposal details → Your recommendations would be more compelling with specific examples of how the council might implement them. The solutions need more concrete details to be actionable. *It is ironic that in a wealthy country like Australia, and particularly in Sydney, our richest city, we have such an alarming rate of homelessness. In the short term, I urge the council to convert unused council buildings into temporary accommodation centres and establish a dedicated homelessness response team to provide safe living conditions for these vulnerable people.*

■ Your letter shows impressive awareness of a complex social issue for someone your age. However, you could strengthen your argument by including more personal observations of how homelessness affects both the individuals experiencing it and the broader community. When describing the people you see, consider adding details about their daily struggles or interactions you've witnessed. Additionally, your solutions could be more specific—perhaps suggesting particular locations for temporary housing or examples of successful housing initiatives from other cities. You could also strengthen your emotional appeal by describing how seeing homelessness makes you feel as a young person growing up in Sydney. Your conclusion would benefit from a stronger call to action that emphasises the urgency of the situation and expresses your willingness to participate in community solutions. Also, consider adding a brief paragraph about what schools and young people like yourself might contribute to addressing this issue.

Score: 40/50

Section 2:

29 March 2025

Respected Members of the Sydney City Council,

I am a 12-year-old boy and a resident of the Sydney City Council. I am writing to express my deep concerns about the heartbreaking situation of homelessness in our local community. #1

Since the end of the pandemic, over the last two years, whilst commuting to school, I have noticed an increasing number of vulnerable people living ~~roughly~~ [rough] on our streets. Homeless people have taken shelter under office buildings at prime locations such as Martin Place, George Street, Townhall Station and Underground walkways such as the one connecting Central Station to Ultimo.

Our local community and the wider Sydney suburban population ~~has~~ [have] been devastated by the rapid increase in the cost of living and rising unemployment. ~~Increase~~ [Increases] in population and competition for rental properties have increased rents well beyond what an average earner can afford to pay. The situation has become even more precarious due to fewer homes getting built because of ~~shortage~~ [shortages] of materials and labour. #2

~~It is ironical~~ [It is ironic] in a wealthy country like Australia and Australia's wealthiest city Sydney that we have this alarming rate of homelessness. In the short term, I urge the council to find temporary accommodation funded by the council so that we can provide safe and comfortable living conditions to these people. Over the long term, the council must increase the number of multi ~~storey~~ [storey] building approvals to increase the number of homes available for rent to make renting more affordable. #3

Thank you for taking the time to consider my plea. Feel free to contact me if you need me to provide more input.

Kind regards,
Om Trivedi