



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

---

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES

Jo Clay MLA (Chair), Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy), Mark Parton MLA

Submission No 68 -

Associate Professor

Tanya Jakimow

Inquiry into Giralang

Shops

Received - 10/05/21

Authorised -

17/06/21

Dr Tanya Jakimow

To: The Chairperson  
The Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services,  
ACT Legislative Assembly  
GPO Box 1020, Canberra ACT 2601

10 May 2021

In relation to Petition No 4-21, I write to underline the importance of local shops to the independence and well-being of the elderly and residents with mobility impairments in Giralang.

I grew up in Giralang, with fond memories of nipping down to the shops. After leaving home, I continued to visit my Father in Giralang until he entered a nursing home in 2018. From 2012 my father was in a wheelchair, having lost both his legs. I am filled with sadness and anger thinking about the impact that the lack of local shops had on the quality of my Father's life in later life.

Without local shops, my Father was largely dependent on his sister (who lives in Rivett) for all of his shopping. If he wanted a treat, felt like some fruit, or an opportunity to get out of the house, he had to go to Kaleen shops. During the time he had an electric scooter, the battery would often not have sufficient charge to return home. When the scooter stopped working and he was confined to his wheelchair, he would push himself to Kaleen. If he made it there and back, it would take him hours. Often he did not, and he would stop in exhaustion on the bike path until my Aunty would go looking for him, or a kind person helped him get back home.

If there were local shops, it would have reduced my father's self-isolation in his later years. He was a proud and stubborn man, but even he knew that often he was too unwell to attempt to make it to Kaleen. Instead he stayed at home. He did not have the opportunity to make friends with the shopkeepers, or become a familiar face. As the recent ABC News specials on Canberra's neighbourhoods have shown, local shops provide a sense of community that has been missing in Giralang for over a decade.

In Giralang, 20.8% of the population is over the age of 60; 7% are over the age of 70. One in 5 Australians have a disability, the number increasing to 26.9% for people aged over 60. 17.1% of people with a disability use a mobility aid. Not all people can pop in the car to go to the shops, or can walk an extra 30 minutes to amenities. My father has now passed away, but I urge the Members of the ACT's Legislative Assembly to consider the quality of life of all its residents. Keep the developers of Giralang shops accountable, as is your responsibility.

Sincerely



Dr Tanya Jakimow