



- a) The most obvious factor affecting the access ^{to resources} of the socio-economically disadvantaged is of course their socio-economic status - or lack of money. This affects access to most things like public transport, educational facilities eg university and even medical treatment. Another factor affecting their access to resources is often their geographical location. A large proportion of the ~~most~~ socio-economically disadvantaged come from isolated locations eg rural families or aboriginal missions making access to resources even more difficult due to lack of services in the area and lack of public transport or affordable transport to such services that are out of town.
- b) The aged have a great need for safety and security and this is often provided by their housing. If an elderly person has their own house, they may address this need for safety by installing alarm systems or bars on the windows. The security comes with knowing that the house is theirs and that they have a stable environment to live in. These two factors satisfy the safety and



security needs of the aged, promoting a positive well-being // for the person. (a state whereby one feels generally happy with what is going on in his/her life)

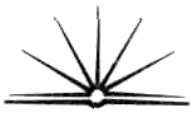
As opposed to a homeless person with no permanent residential address, safety is a large issue within the group because there is no protection from the natural elements or from crime such as theft or violence. Security is a major problem for the homeless because they do not have anything stable in their life to rely on or a roof over their head that they ~~to~~ can call their own. This promotes a negative well-being and due to the lack of resources available, homeless people may even struggle meeting physical needs like food and clothing. This lack of housing severely affects the well-being of the individual.

c) Homosexual couples and youth have generally been targets in society ^{for} discrimination and their vulnerability to influences. Government policy and community structures have been established in the community to change societal attitudes towards these groups and take care

of their well-being, and meet their needs.

Homosexual couples have always been a target for discrimination, harassment and vilification because they do not conform with the norms of society. The Australian government has recognised this and therefore put into place the Anti-discrimination act 1977 that prevented people from being discriminated against on grounds of sexual preference or marital status. The community also organises things to stop discrimination eg NO HDV (No Harassment, Discrimination or Vilification) programs within schools and the Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras that involves the community in the celebration of homosexuality.

Youth are often vulnerable to abuse and the older generation tend to blame youth for all the bad things in the community eg. crime, violence etc. The government recognises that youth are particularly vulnerable to abuse and bad judgement and laws have been passed to protect them from abuse within the family (The Family Law act 1976) and



gives them the right to make decisions and access services at ages that correspond with their maturation. eg at 14 a child can seek medical attention without the consent of their parents. The Department of Community Services or DCS ensures that this is carried out. Various other organisations also work with youth to change society's perception of them eg the Lions Club runs 'the youth of the year' competition and youth are able to participate in decision making responsibilities such as the youth council.

These government policies and community structures have been very effective in influencing society's attitude towards homosexual couples and youth and we can only hope that they continue to do so in the future.