

We are hoarders, hiders, helpers,
keepers of knowledge.
Experts in cheap meals, low fares/ no fares,
St Vinnies, Missionbeat, the Salvos.
Multitudes who parties ignore
Chained to Centrelink, psychiatrists, social services
held in boxes labelled
Bludgers, Disabled, The Unemployed
Moved on, pissed on, pushed out, derided.
Don't judge, criticise, moralise,
think you can't lose your job, house, family
all your belongings in the car,
knocking on charity's door.
We are writers, performers, ensemble artists.
Special, unique and ordinary.

This text was written by Pauline Trenergy for Milk Crate Theatre in December 2016. Pauline has had an ongoing affiliation with Milk Crate Theatre and as Margot Politis the Associate Director attests, "her words are evocative of the community of people with whom we work". Pauline offered this poem as a Village Voices contribution in February 2017.