The Cost of High-Rise Living – Answer 2

All around town we can see the construction of high rise towers. The suburbs and semi-rural areas of yesteryear have been replaced by increasing numbers of apartment blocks with increasingly smaller accommodation spaces inside. Zoning laws have recently allowed the construction of blocks of microapartments of less than 40 square metres. These changes have been touted as a solution to increasing housing costs, but such assertions hide the numerous negative downsides of living in such small blocks.

Comment [A1]: No evidence given for this claim

Apartment blocks have been known to have negative effects on physical health. The larger numbers of people living in smaller spaces allow for bacteria and diseases to spread more quickly. Living in apartment blocks can also make exercise more difficult, with less space for people to engage in healthy activities, and as a result obesity increases.

Comment [A2]: The premises before this don't really lead to this conclusion

Small apartments can cause psychological stress too. The physical crowding can lead to a claustrophobia, which then spills over into domestic violence and substance abuse. No doubt such stresses will eventually lead to suicide. A quick survey of residents of the Haverton Shores microapartment complex showed that a significant number of residents had at some point in their residency there had suicidal thoughts. Such suicidal thoughts will surely increase with the increasing amounts of people in high-rise living.

Comment [A3]: The writer here says that the same thing that is true for the people who live in this apartment block is true for everyone living in apartments. This is an argument by generalisation.

Small apartments may suit young people in their twenties, but are manifestly incapable of meeting the demands of family groups. Indeed, there are negative effects on children to living in overcrowded spaces. Children's homework may be negatively affected due to a lack of adequate spaces for such study. There have also been reports of small living spaces leading to sleep disruptions as well, which can also affect children's physical, mental and social wellbeing. By building so many apartment blocks we may be creating an epidemic of physical and emotional stress in the younger generation.

Comment [A4]: No evidence is given for this claim

Comment [A5]: No evidence is given for this claim

The quest for smaller and smaller apartments may also have economic effects. As zoning laws are reduced and apartments become smaller, there is the danger that rents will simply stay the same, and rents might in fact rise for larger apartments. There are also increased infrastructure costs associated with having large amounts of high-rise apartment blocks in one area.

Comment [A6]: There is a bias against living in apartments in this writing

While some might see these problems alleviated by the inclusion of more communal spaces and social events for people living in such housing, the problems are simply too great to be ignored. Government must immediately cease construction of high-rise apartments for the physical and emotional wellbeing of its populations

Marking Criteria

Critical Thinking Skills for University Success Summative Peer Assignment			
	Doesn't do this OR does this poorly	Does this	Does this well
Does the learner evaluate the premises and conclusions of the argument, or any logical fallacies?	✔ The learner evaluates the premises and conclusions in comment A2, but gets the premises and conclusions confused. There are no other evaluations of the premises or conclusions		
Does the learner evaluate the claims and evidence of the argument?	✔ The learner evaluates claims and evidence in comments A1, A4 and A5. However, the statements identified in comments A1 and A5 are evidence rather than claims, do this has generally been done poorly.		

Does the learner identify any biases or assumptions?	✔ The only attempt to identify biases and assumptions is in comment A6. However, this is incorrect – there is no 'bias' against living in apartments as in general evidence is provided for claims made.		
Does the learner identify different types of arguments?		✔ The learner identifies the argument by generalisation in comment A3, but does not evaluate the argument according to tests of quality, quantity or opposition.	