There is a stigma to homelessness in Australian society that affects peoples’ lives on many levels. It is reflected in both how homeless people are perceived and how people who are homeless perceive themselves.

Whilst at one level it is recognised that being homeless means lacking housing, it also can provoke a number of negative judgements and stereotypes (McNaughton, 2008). According to McNaughton (2008), homeless people are a threatening underclass to the rest of society. This view of homeless people is not lost on the homeless themselves. Their response is often to hide their homelessness and pass themselves “as part of the dominant group and thereby feign normalcy” in mainstream society (Kaufman & Johnson, 2004, p. 812). Passing creates specific patterns of interaction and importantly, avoiding other homeless is how some homeless can minimise the stigma of their situation (Gronda, et al., 2008).

The stigma of homelessness pervades both a person’s public and private identity.

* The structure is much improved, with a topic sentence, a concluding sentence, and a linking sentence in Benson’s own words.
* The lack of in-text citations for some paraphrases and direct quotes could be considered plagiarism.
* Once Benson has cleaned up his referencing, he’ll have a much stronger draft.