Topic sentence identifies main theme of the paragraph.

There is a stigma to homelessness in Australian society that affects people’s lives on many levels. This stigma is reflected in both how homeless people are perceived, and how people who are homeless perceive themselves (McNaughton, 2008). In effect, it “becomes a factor in their social identity” (Johnson, Gronda, & Coutts, 2008, p. 231). At one level it is recognised that being homeless means not having a home or what is thought of as a home in a society, yet it also can provoke a number of negative judgements and stereotypes (McNaughton, 2008). According to McNaughton (2008), homeless people are viewed as 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 present themselves as part of mainstream society (Johnson et al., 2008). Keeping to routine patterns of behaviour and social interaction, and importantly, not associating with other homeless people are ways the homeless can minimise the stigma of their situation (Johnson et al., 2008). The insidious power of the stigma of homelessness pervades both a person’s public and private identity.

This final summative sentence pulls together the ideas presented in the paragraph.