

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**Legal and Social Issues Committee**



# **Inquiry into homelessness in Victoria**

## **Interim Report**

Parliament of Victoria  
Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee

---

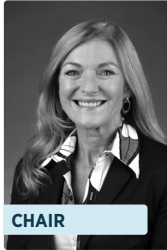
Ordered to be published

---

VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT PRINTER  
August 2020

PP No 150, Session 2018-20  
ISBN 978 1 922425 00 3 (print version), 978 1 922425 01 0 (PDF version)

# Committee membership



**Fiona Patten**  
Northern Metropolitan



**Dr Tien Kieu**  
South Eastern Metropolitan



**Hon. Jane Garrett**  
Eastern Victoria



**Hon. Wendy Lovell**  
Northern Victoria



**Tania Maxwell**  
Northern Victoria



**Craig Ondarchie**  
Northern Metropolitan



**Kaushaliya Vaghela**  
Western Metropolitan

## Participating members

Dr Matthew Bach, Eastern Metropolitan  
Rodney Barton, Eastern Metropolitan  
Melina Bath, Eastern Victoria  
Georgie Crozier, Southern Metropolitan  
Dr Catherine Cumming, Western Metropolitan  
Enver Erdogan, Southern Metropolitan  
Hon. Edward O'Donohue, Eastern Victoria  
Stuart Grimley, Western Victoria  
David Limbrick, South Eastern Metropolitan  
Harriet Shing, Eastern Victoria  
Lee Tarlamis OAM, South Eastern Metropolitan  
Tim Quilty, Northern Victoria  
Dr Samantha Ratnam, Northern Metropolitan

# About the Committee

## Functions

The Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee's functions are to inquire into and report on any proposal, matter or thing concerned with community services, education, gaming, health, and law and justice.

As a Standing Committee, it may inquire into, hold public hearings, consider and report on any Bills or draft Bills, annual reports, estimates of expenditure or other documents laid before the Legislative Council in accordance with an Act, provided these are relevant to its functions.

## Secretariat

Lilian Topic, Committee Manager  
Kieran Crowe, Inquiry Officer  
Alice Petrie, Research Assistant  
Caitlin Connally, Research Assistant  
Maeve Bannister, Administrative Officer  
Justine Donohue, Administrative Officer  
Rachel Pineda-Lyon, Chamber and Committee Officer

## Contact details

**Address** Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee  
Parliament of Victoria  
Spring Street  
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

**Phone** 61 3 8682 2869

**Email** [lsic.council@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:lsic.council@parliament.vic.gov.au)

**Web** <https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/lc>

This report is available on the Committee's website.



# Contents

## Preliminaries

Committee membership	ii
About the Committee	iii
Chair's foreword	vii

## **1 Terms of reference and scope of the Interim Report** **1**

<b>1.1 Terms of reference</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1.2 Events since the Committee received the terms of reference</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1.3 Public hearings</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>1.4 Submissions</b>	<b>3</b>
1.4.1 Seeking input from those with experience of homelessness	3
1.4.2 The survey	4
<b>1.5 Scope of the Interim Report</b>	<b>4</b>
1.5.1 Limitations	5

## **2 Insights from survey respondents** **7**

<b>2.1 Survey questions</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>2.2 Who responded to the survey?</b>	<b>8</b>
2.2.1 Age profile	8
2.2.2 Location	9
2.2.3 Interest in the Inquiry	11
<b>2.3 What homelessness policy themes were important to survey respondents?</b>	<b>12</b>
2.3.1 Policy priorities based on interest in the Inquiry	14
2.3.2 Policy priorities based on location	16
2.3.3 Policy priorities based on age	17
<b>2.4 Next steps</b>	<b>18</b>

## Appendices

<b>1 Submissions</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>2 The survey and submission pages</b>	<b>25</b>



# Chair's foreword

I am pleased to present this interim report for the inquiry into homelessness in Victoria.

This is an incredibly important inquiry. Homelessness takes many forms and affects the lives of Victorians in many ways. This includes both the seen and the unseen—not just those sleeping rough, but also those who are forced to couch surf, to live in overcrowded accommodation, to move between short-term and often unsafe accommodation such as rooming houses. Critically, homelessness in our state, in all of its forms, continues to grow each year.

The inquiry has wide-ranging terms of reference, including consideration of the many social, economic and policy factors that impact on homelessness and policies and practices from all levels of government that have a bearing on delivering services to the homeless. These issues are complex and multi-faceted, and the Committee will continue to undertake consultations with stakeholders over the coming months.

This interim report is very narrow in its subject matter. For the first time, the Committee asked those interested in the inquiry to fill in an online survey when making a submission. The purpose of this brief report is to provide a snapshot of the key areas that all of you who provided a response to the survey—individuals and organisations—believe are most important for the Committee to consider.

We hear you loud and clear: housing is number one, whether that be public housing or housing affordability. Other issues are of course also important but to be looked at in the context of this priority.

The survey also allowed us to identify the groups that have been underrepresented during the inquiry process and seek to engage with them in new ways, in order to ensure the evidence received as part of the inquiry represents the full diversity of experiences of homelessness.

The Committee's final report, due in February 2021, will address the terms of reference in detail and the breadth of evidence received throughout the hearings and submission process.

I would like to thank my colleagues for their commitment and collegiality on this inquiry. In order to do these issues justice there are many voices to hear from, and over the past 14 months committee members have given much of their time to ensuring these voices are heard. We realise that during COVID-19 the stakes have only gotten higher and more important when it comes to homelessness in Victoria, so we have forged on and continue to hear from many outstanding people contributing to finding a solution to ending homelessness and meeting the many challenges ahead.

## Chair's foreword

I am grateful to every individual and organisation that has taken the time so far to welcome us through their doors, to speak with us at a public hearing, to participate online and to share their ideas for change. I would like to thank most of all, however, those individuals with a lived experience of homelessness that have shared their stories with us. Hearing your insights is so important for the work that we are doing.

I would lastly like to extend my thanks to the dedicated Legislative Council Standing Committees staff that have supported the Committee on this inquiry: Lilian Topic, Kieran Crowe and Alice Petrie.

You can look at an interactive version of the survey data on our website. A particular shout out to Meg Bosanko from the Parliamentary Library for her work on the presentation of data in this report.

I commend this report to the House.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fiona Patten', with a large, stylized initial 'F'.

**Fiona Patten**  
**Chair**

# Terms of reference and scope of the Interim Report

## 1.1 Terms of reference

On 7 June 2019, the Legislative Council agreed to the following motion:

That this House requires the Legal and Social Issues Committee to inquire into, consider and report, within 12 months, on the state of homelessness in Victoria, and in particular, the Committee should—

1. provide an independent analysis of the changing scale and nature of homelessness across Victoria;
2. investigate the many social, economic and policy factors that impact on homelessness; and
3. identify policies and practices from all levels of government that have a bearing on delivering services to the homeless.

On 13 November 2019, the Legislative Council agreed to a motion to extend the reporting date until 17 November 2020.

On 16 June 2020, the Legislative Council agreed to a motion to extend the reporting date to 26 February 2021.

## 1.2 Events since the Committee received the terms of reference

There have been two particularly significant events since the Committee received its terms of reference that have had and will continue to have a large bearing on issues relating to homelessness. They are:

- the bushfires of summer 2019-20; and
- the COVID-19 outbreak.

The Committee has heard that these events have exacerbated the societal and individual factors that lead to homelessness. Funding priorities of the Government and homelessness services have changed as a result of these events. In addition, public health measures enacted as part of the COVID-19 outbreak have affected the ability of homelessness and related services to function as they had been.

1

Following the declaration of the state of emergency in Victoria on 16 March 2020, the Committee cancelled public hearings in various parts of the state due to travel and other restrictions. Since this time, the Committee has resumed its schedule of public hearings remotely using videoconferencing software. Due to restrictions not allowing members of the public to attend in person, these hearings are being live broadcast on the Parliament's website.

The first hearing held remotely took place on 20 May 2020, when the Committee received information from the homelessness sector about the impacts of COVID-19 on their clients and service models. The Committee intends to continue to gather information for its Inquiry into homelessness as well as hearing from stakeholders about the impacts of these significant events at its remaining public hearings.

In light of the delay to the Inquiry process caused by the COVID-19 outbreak, the Committee extended its reporting date to 26 February 2021.

This Interim Report addresses the survey material gathered by the Committee during its process of calling for submissions to the Inquiry.

### 1.3 Public hearings

The Committee has held a number of public hearings across metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria. The hearings so far have been:

- 22 November 2019 in Melbourne;
- 2 December 2019 in Bairnsdale;
- 3 December 2019 in Morwell;
- 12 February 2020 in Melbourne;
- 27 February 2020 in Whittlesea;
- 11 March 2020 in Shepparton;
- 12 March 2020 in Wangaratta;
- 20 May 2020 via videoconference;
- 23 June 2020 via videoconference for witnesses based in Dandenong and the Mornington Peninsula;
- 1 July 2020 via videoconference for witnesses based in Footscray;
- 2 July 2020 via videoconference;
- 13 July 2020 via videoconference for witnesses based in Geelong and Warrnambool;
- 14 July 2020 via videoconference; and
- 27 July 2020 via videoconference for witnesses based in Finland.

The Committee intends to continue its consultations with regional and metropolitan stakeholders before it tables its Final Report.

## 1.4 Submissions

The Committee is grateful to all stakeholders who have shared their knowledge, understanding and experiences of homelessness through submissions to the Inquiry.

For the first time, the Committee collected information on stakeholder views of the terms of reference by way of a survey on its online submission portal. This survey is discussed in section 1.4.2.

The Committee advertised its call for submissions through a number of direct, media, social media and other communication channels.

The deadline for submissions was extended twice. The first, until 16 March 2020, was intended to give extra time to those who may have been affected by bushfires in the state's east and north-east during the summer of 2019-20. The second extension was to 12 June 2020 to allow for those affected by the COVID-19 outbreak to finalise their submissions.

Sixty-one submissions received by the Committee were granted confidentiality. The identities of these submitters and the content of their substantive submissions have not been used in this report. However, disaggregated and de-identified data relating to confidential submissions and the answers provided to the survey have contributed to the broad insights into the views and demographics of submitters discussed below.

At the time of publication of this interim report, the Committee had received and accepted a total of 432 submissions. Additional submissions are being accepted on a case-by-case basis. A list of submissions is included in Appendix 1.

### 1.4.1 Seeking input from those with experience of homelessness

The Committee felt it was crucial to place persons with experiences of homelessness at the centre of the Inquiry. Particular accessibility difficulties for some people experiencing homelessness, such as lack of access to internet or devices, required the Committee to engage persons with lived experience through means outside of the traditional submission process. For example, the Committee held 'open mic' style sessions at its hearings in Shepparton and Wangaratta. At these sessions people with lived experience of homelessness were encouraged to provide their stories and views to the Committee in a more informal setting. This opportunity was taken up by a number of individuals.

The Committee also worked with some homelessness and other services to engage directly with their clients. For example, site visits were conducted at the Shepparton Youth Foyer and at Nungurra Youth Accommodation Service in Bairnsdale.

The Council to Homeless Persons developed a submission template for people with experiences of homelessness and distributed this template to homelessness services across Victoria to provide to their clients. Template responses were provided as hard copies directly to the Committee. We acknowledge the contribution this made to the Inquiry process.

A number of submissions from organisations who work directly with people experiencing homelessness incorporated their clients' views in their submissions and through case studies.

The Committee removed the requirement to provide an address when lodging a submission, so that people with no fixed address would have one less barrier to contribute to the Inquiry. We were able to verify submissions through other means.

The Committee will continue to seek ways to engage with people with lived experiences of homelessness throughout the remainder of the Inquiry. We are very grateful for the individuals and organisations who have made this possible and for the important insights they have brought to the discussion.

#### **1.4.2 The survey**

For the first time, the Committee used a method of collecting submissions which asked stakeholders to complete a survey when lodging their submission on the Parliament's website. 427 survey responses were received by the Committee. The information collected through the survey process has allowed the Committee to identify the issues that are important to our processes. These are preliminary insights that we wish to share with stakeholders and organisations who have assisted us so far. They are discussed in detail in Chapter 2.

Preliminary analysis of the survey results allowed the Committee to identify demographic groups and geographic locations that were underrepresented in the submission process. This included, for example, younger age groups and stakeholders located in regional Victoria. The Committee then sought particular input from these groups prior to the submission closing date through a process of targeted advertising on social media. The Committee is pleased that this process was able to generate further engagement with underrepresented groups.

### **1.5 Scope of the Interim Report**

This Interim Report is intended to inform the public and stakeholders about the preliminary findings garnered by the Committee through the survey process. The findings will assist the Committee to focus its areas of interest for the Final Report.

A selection of key results from the survey has been presented in this report. The full data set will be published on the Committee's Inquiry page in an interactive form where it will be accessible to interested members of the public.

The Final Report, addressing the full terms of reference, will be tabled by 26 February 2021.

### **1.5.1 Limitations**

The data presented in this Interim Report are drawn from the survey responses only. It should be noted that the issues raised in the survey do not necessarily represent the extent or totality of views presented in the content of the submissions. This report seeks to give a snapshot of the data drawn from the survey in order to highlight some overarching themes and areas of focus for the Inquiry. A more qualitative approach to the issues discussed in the submissions will be presented in the Committee's Final Report.

The Committee also recognises there may be issues relating to homelessness that were not represented in the survey questions.

Some respondents did not answer all the questions in the survey, and others provided multiple answers to one question. These limitations have been acknowledged where appropriate throughout the report.



# 2 Insights from survey respondents

## 2.1 Survey questions

The survey asked stakeholders to:

1. provide their age group;
2. rank themes relating to homelessness that they believed were the most important for the Inquiry to consider; and
3. provide their interest in the Inquiry. For example, whether they worked in the homelessness sector, or if they were experiencing or had experienced homelessness.

Stakeholders were also asked to indicate their postcode when lodging their submission and whether the submission was on behalf of an organisation or an individual. This data has also been included in the analysis of survey responses.

The survey questions as they appear on the Inquiry website are provided in Figure 2.1. The full survey is included in Appendix 2.

## Figure 2.1 Homelessness Inquiry survey questions

### Step 2 of 4: Survey Questions

Your answers to these questions will assist us in gathering quality data for our inquiry into this important issue.

Your age group

Drag the statements below to reorder them. In order of priority, please rank the themes you believe are most important for this inquiry into homelessness to consider:

⋮ Rough sleeping
⋮ Services
⋮ Public housing
⋮ Indigenous people
⋮ Family violence
⋮ Housing affordability
⋮ Mental health
⋮ Employment

What best describes your interest in our Inquiry?  
(select all that apply)

- Working in the mental health sector
- Working in the alcohol or other drug services sector
- Working with Aboriginal Victorians
- An advocacy body
- Working in Homelessness services
- A peak body
- Academic & research
- Public sector body
- Concerned citizen
- Working in the health sector
- Currently or have had a lived experience of homelessness
- Other (please describe)

Are there any additional themes we should consider?

Source: Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee Inquiry into homelessness in Victoria survey

## 2.2 Who responded to the survey?

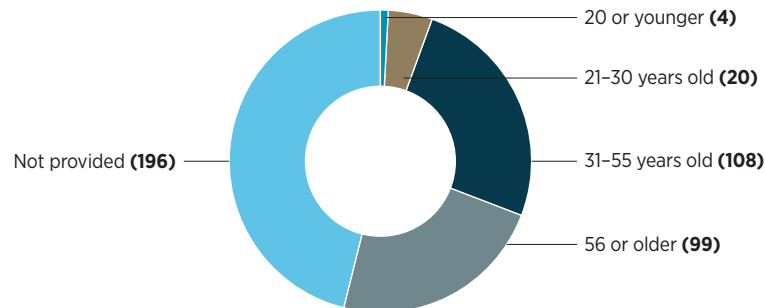
### 2.2.1 Age profile

Of the survey respondents who provided the Committee with their age group, the most common was the 31-55 bracket, followed by 56 and older. There was an underrepresentation from young people, particularly those under 20. Of those who gave their age, only 24 out of 231 survey responses were from people under 30. A significant number of respondents (approximately half) did not provide their age.

The Committee understands homelessness is an issue that disproportionately affects younger people. Those in the 19-24 age bracket experience the highest levels of

homelessness per capita.<sup>1</sup> The Committee will seek to engage the views of more young people during the remainder of the Inquiry.

**Figure 2.2 Age range of survey respondents**



Source: Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee Inquiry into homelessness in Victoria survey results

## 2.2.2 Location

Of the survey respondents who gave the Committee information about their location,<sup>2</sup> the majority were from metropolitan Melbourne. 252 respondents indicated they were from the metropolitan area. This may be expected given the weighting of Victoria's population in the area, as well as the large number of service sector, research and other organisations that are either based or headquartered in Melbourne. Many of the Melbourne respondents were organisations, rather than individuals (approximately 55 per cent).

Inner Melbourne in particular was well represented amongst survey respondents, as shown in Figure 2.4. The postcode with the most respondents was Melbourne's CBD, with 47 responses. This represents over 10% of the total number of survey responses. Other areas that had a high number of respondents were Collingwood with 12 responses, Carlton with 11 and North Melbourne with eight.

If viewed via Victorian Upper House electoral regions, the Northern Metropolitan Region had the most survey respondents of Victoria's eight electoral regions. A total of 149 respondents came from the Northern Metropolitan Region. This includes Melbourne's CBD and inner suburbs, but also more suburban areas such as South Morang and Epping. The electoral region that had the next most respondents was the Southern Metropolitan Region with 40.

Ninety-one survey respondents indicated they were from regional Victoria. Respondents from regional Victoria tended to be from larger towns and cities, although there were some from remote areas. Ballarat was the most represented postal area in regional Victoria with seven respondents, followed by Mildura with five, and Bendigo West, Morwell and Wangaratta with four responses each.

<sup>1</sup> Council to Homeless Persons, *Submission 328*, p. 10.

<sup>2</sup> 84 of 427 survey respondents did not disclose where they were submitting from.

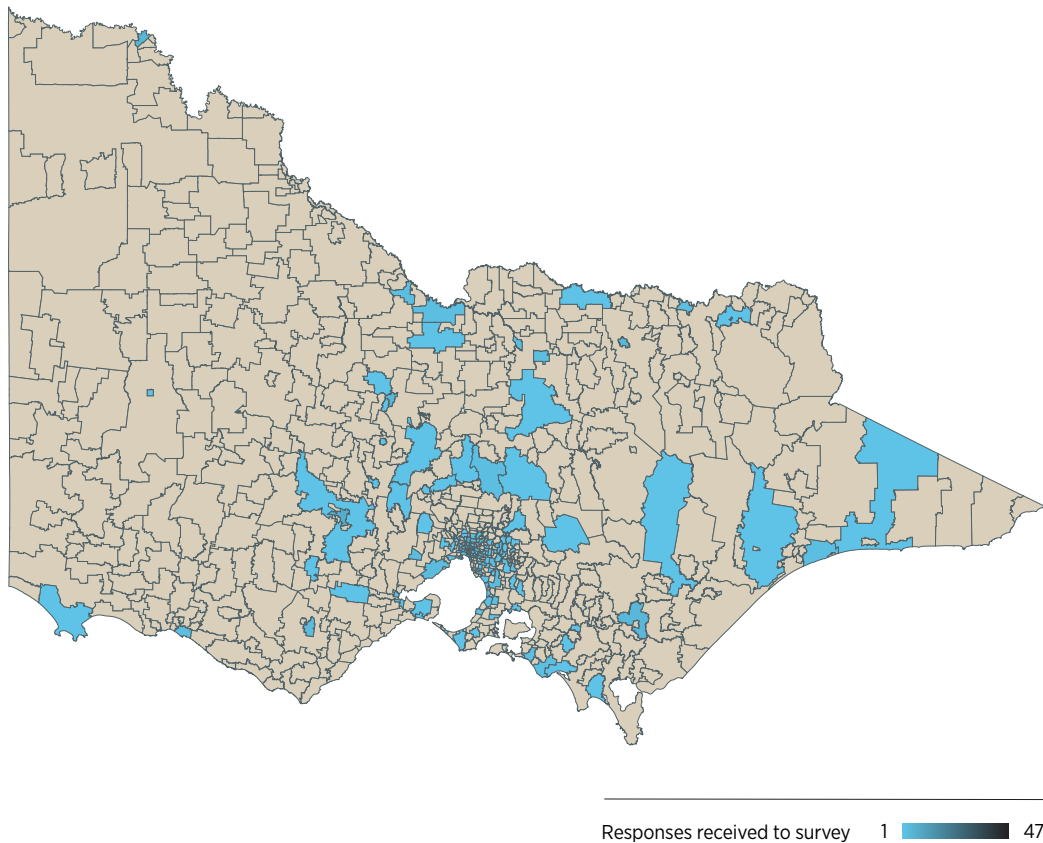
Of those who indicated they were responding on behalf of an organisation, 138 were from the metropolitan area and 38 were from regional Victoria.

The Committee recognises that homelessness is not just an issue that affects Victoria’s major towns and cities. The many complex factors that lead to homelessness, and the effective provision of homelessness services, are of concern to all Victorians. Nevertheless it may be that the higher number of responses from particular areas relate to the greater visibility of homelessness in those locations. For example, with the presence of more rough sleepers.

The data provided by the surveys allowed the Committee to identify parts of Victoria that were underrepresented in the submissions received by the Inquiry. To address this the Committee:

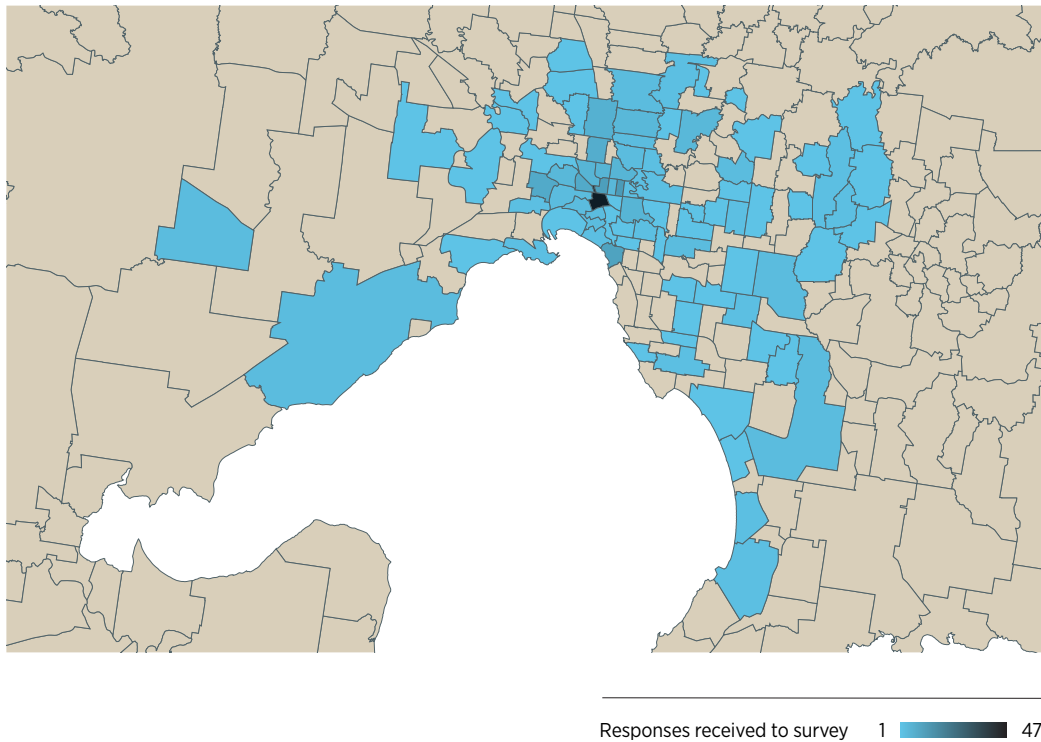
- re-advertised the call for submissions to some areas that received few or no submissions; and
- sought additional information from underrepresented areas at public hearings.

**Figure 2.3** Distribution of all survey respondents



Source: Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee Inquiry into homelessness in Victoria survey results

**Figure 2.4** Distribution of metropolitan survey respondents



Source: Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee Inquiry into homelessness in Victoria survey results

### 2.2.3 Interest in the Inquiry

Survey respondents were asked to select from a number of options to indicate their interest in the Inquiry. For example, respondents were asked if they had experience of homelessness, or worked in the homelessness sector. Some respondents ticked more than one box. There were 656 boxes ticked out of 427 survey respondents. Some respondents did not answer the question.

The most common selection was persons who identified as concerned citizens, with 140 submitters indicating they were in this category. To the Committee this indicates the high level of concern in the community about the issue of homelessness, beyond those directly affected by the issue.

The second most common respondent interest in the Inquiry was from people working in homelessness services. A total of 95 respondents indicated this category applied to them. Of these 95, 65 were submitting on behalf of their organisations.

Submitters who indicated they worked for an advocacy body comprised the third most common type of respondent interest. A total of 64 people indicated this category applied to them.

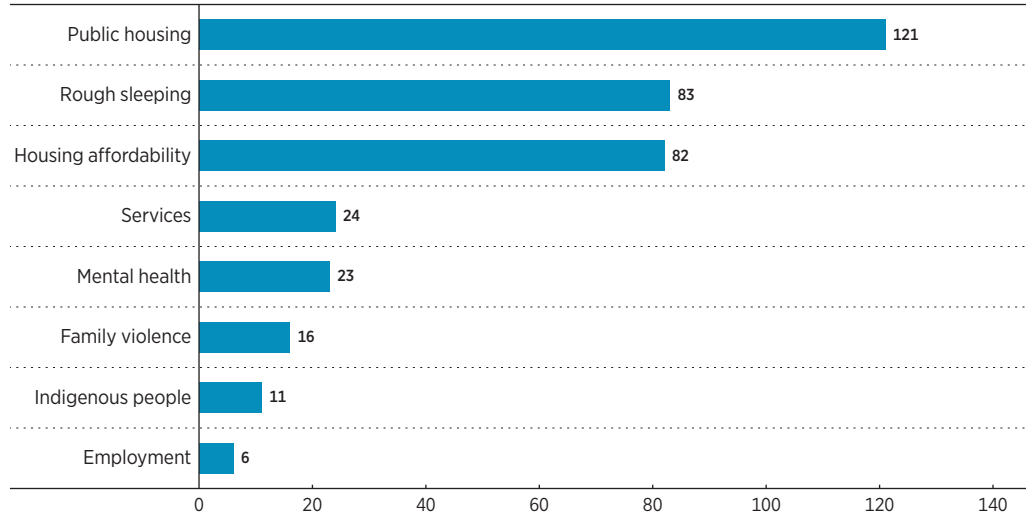
People who were currently homeless or had an experience of homelessness were also well represented. A total of 64 submissions were made by people who indicated they had an experience of homelessness: 27 of these were from survey respondents, with a further 37 paper submissions received using the Council to Homeless Persons submission template.

The groups that were less well-represented were those working with Aboriginal Victorians (23 respondents) and those working in the health sector (29 respondents). The Committee has received evidence from persons working in or representing these sectors through its public hearing process to supplement the submissions it received, and we will continue to seek opportunities to engage with these groups.

## 2.3 What homelessness policy themes were important to survey respondents?

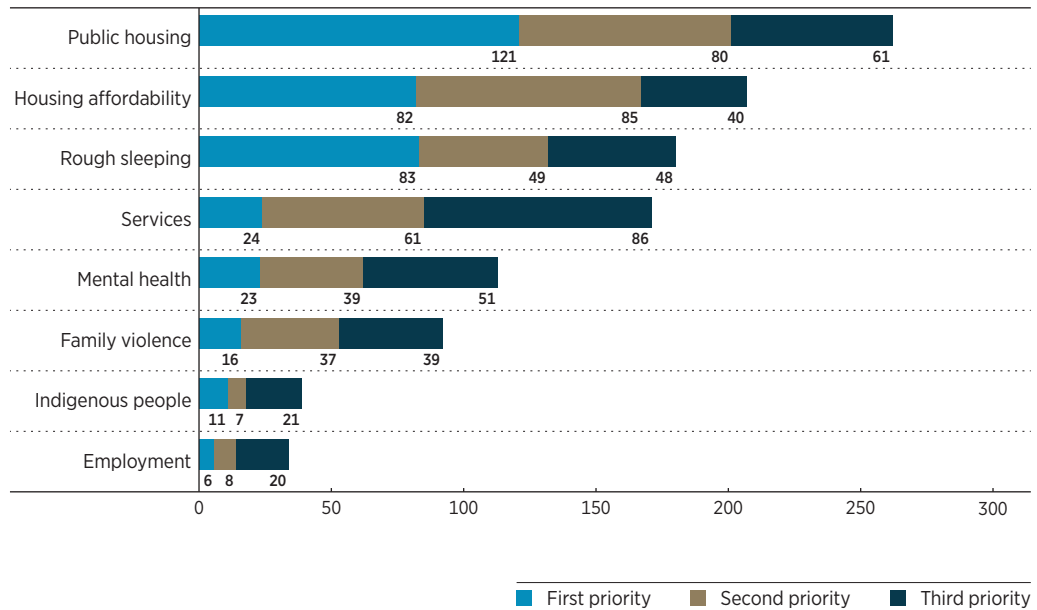
The survey asked respondents to rank a list of homelessness policy themes in the order they believed were the most significant for the Inquiry to consider. Respondents were also able to suggest additional themes that were not included in the suggested list. Not all respondents answered this question. The results are outlined in Figure 2.5 and Figure 2.6.

**Figure 2.5 Top homelessness policy priority of survey respondents**



Source: Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee Inquiry into homelessness in Victoria survey results

**Figure 2.6 Top three homelessness policy priorities of survey respondents**



Source: Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee Inquiry into homelessness in Victoria survey results

The strong message that was communicated to the Committee through the results of this question is that housing, particularly public housing and housing affordability, is the most important policy theme for the Inquiry to consider. The theme identified as the most important to the respondents who provided their view was public housing (121 first priority responses), followed by rough sleeping (83 first priority responses). Just behind rough sleeping was housing affordability, with 82 first priority responses. Taken together, the public housing and housing affordability policy areas constituted approximately 56% of first preference responses.

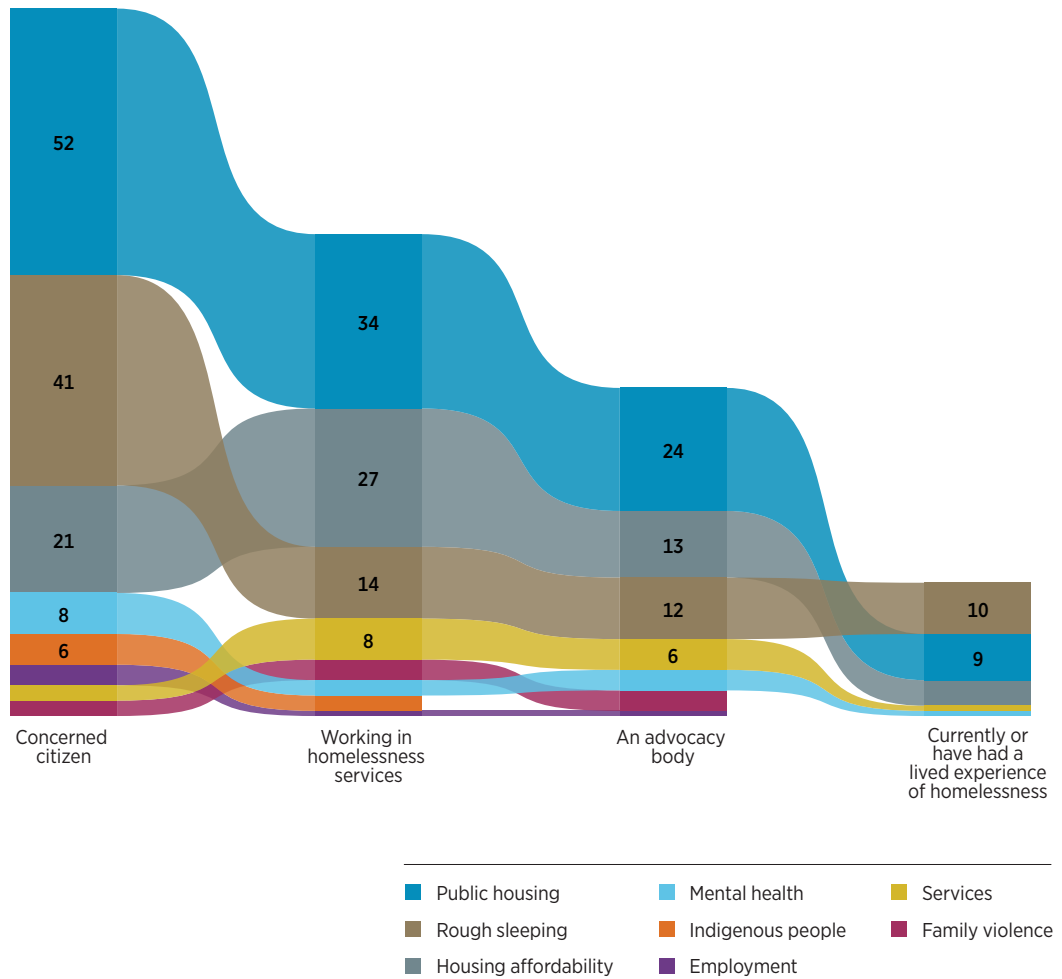
When taking the cumulative number of first, second and third priority policy themes into account, public housing and housing affordability are the two most important policy themes, with rough sleeping third. The provision of services is in the top four. It received only 24 first priority responses, however it had 147 second and third priority responses. This indicates to the Committee that while the provision of services might not be the most important issue to many respondents, it is often considered to be the second or third most important issue and constitutes a significant policy priority along with housing and rough sleeping.

With regard to issues that have traditionally been publicly associated with homelessness, such as employment and mental health, the survey responses showed that these were not considered to be the most significant policy priorities by respondents. This is consistent with much of the evidence received by the Committee so far through submissions and at public hearings. Stakeholders have told the Committee that that while these areas are important, the key to preventing and ending homelessness is an adequate supply of safe, affordable, long-term housing. The provision of housing will be discussed in more detail in the Final Report.

### 2.3.1 Policy priorities based on interest in the Inquiry

The survey results allowed the Committee to analyse the policy priorities that survey respondents indicated were important based on their particular interest in the Inquiry. An overview of the top policy priorities for the three most common groups of survey respondents, as well as those with experience of homelessness, is shown in Figure 2.7.

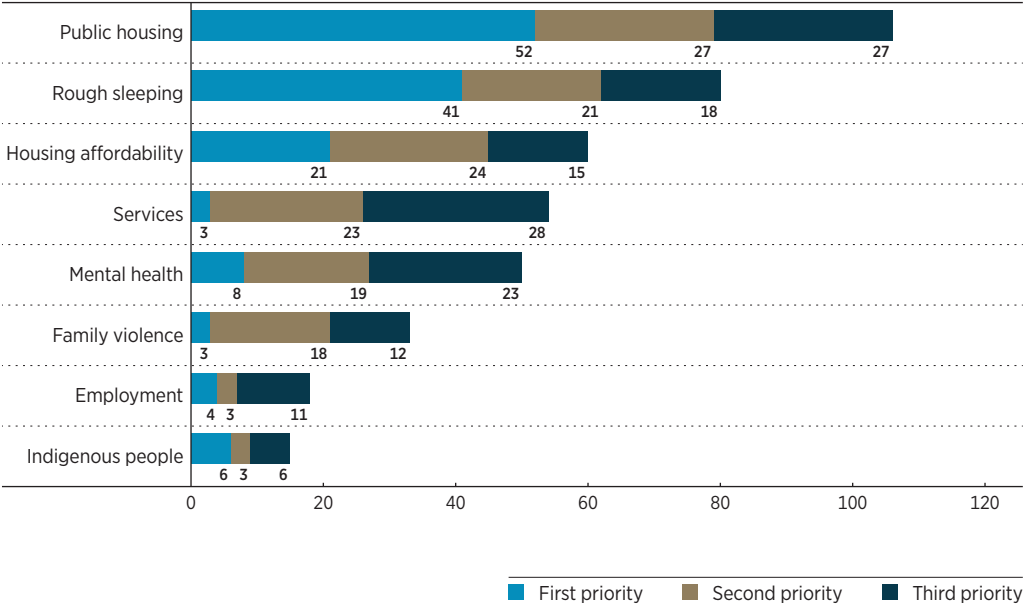
**Figure 2.7 Top homelessness policy priorities for the three most common groups of respondents as well as those with experience of homelessness**



Source: Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee Inquiry into homelessness in Victoria survey results

The respondents who indicated they were concerned citizens had views much in line with the respondents as a whole. The cumulative totals of first, second and third preferences indicated they believed that public housing was the top priority, followed by rough sleeping, which had a higher proportion of first preference votes, and then housing affordability.

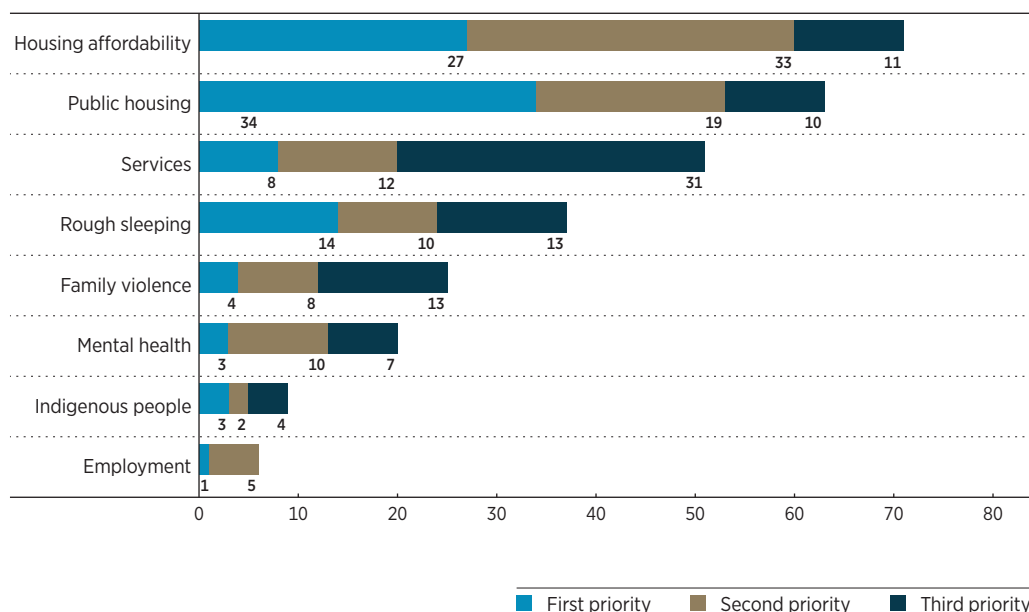
**Figure 2.8 Top three homelessness policy priorities for respondents who are concerned citizens**



Source: Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee Inquiry into homelessness in Victoria survey results

The respondents who indicated they worked in homelessness services (including those submitting on behalf of their organisations) also selected policy priorities that aligned with survey respondents as a whole. Housing affordability and public housing were considered the most important, however, the provision of services was rated the third most important above rough sleeping. The issue of family violence was also selected as slightly more important for this group—it was rated as the fifth most important issue in comparison to all respondents who rated it as the sixth most important issue.

**Figure 2.9 Top three homelessness policy priorities for respondents who work in homelessness services**



Source: Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee Inquiry into homelessness in Victoria survey results

The Final Report will look more closely at the complex contributing factors relating to homelessness, such as family violence as well as the particular challenges experienced by certain demographics such as Aboriginal Victorians.

When considering the top three priorities, the respondents who indicated they worked for an advocacy body rated the provision of homelessness services higher as a cumulative total than respondents as a whole. Services were considered to be the second most important policy theme. Other priorities for this group were in line with the main body of respondents.

In relation to the top three priorities, the respondents who indicated they had an experience of homelessness, and who responded to this question in the survey, rated public housing as the most important issue, followed by rough sleeping and housing affordability. It should be noted that there was a relatively small cohort of 26 persons with lived experiences of homelessness who answered this question.

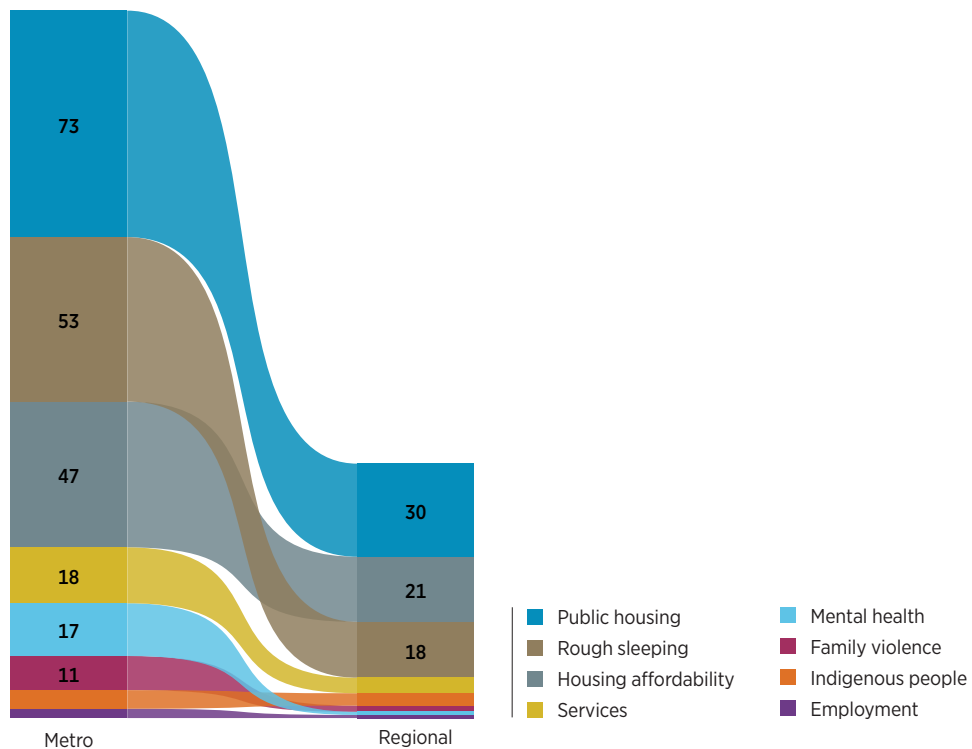
### 2.3.2 Policy priorities based on location

When considering the top three priorities, submitters based in metropolitan Melbourne had policy priorities in line with survey respondents as a whole, reflecting an emphasis on housing policies. Even for those respondents from the Melbourne CBD, which has had a higher proportion of rough sleepers in recent years, public housing and housing affordability were rated as the most important issues.

There was not a significant difference between the policy themes considered important by respondents based in Melbourne and by respondents from regional Victoria. In regional Victoria, survey respondents again rated housing policy issues as the top two priorities; however, rough sleeping was the third most important issue for this group.

When taking into account the top policy priority, metropolitan respondents rated rough sleeping as the second most important issue, above housing affordability, while those in regional Victoria considered it third most important (see Figure 2.10).

**Figure 2.10 Top policy priorities in metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria**



Source: Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee Inquiry into homelessness in Victoria survey results

### 2.3.3 Policy priorities based on age

There were no notable differences in policy preferences between the survey respondents based on age.

The number of responses from persons who indicated they were 20 or under was too small to provide a reliable snapshot of views of this cohort. Survey respondents between the ages of 21–30, of which there was still only a small sample size of 20 responses, again highlighted public housing and housing affordability as the most important issues for the Committee to consider.

Those in the 31–55 and 56 or older brackets generally had similar preferences, although those in the 56 and older category had a greater emphasis on rough sleeping. This had a higher proportion of first preference votes than those in younger cohorts.

## 2.4 Next steps

The Committee is in the final stages of gathering evidence for the Inquiry. The data gathered in the survey have helped the Committee to determine where it may have been missing input from certain demographic groups or in relation to particular policy areas. With this information, the Committee will actively engage with underrepresented groups to ensure that the evidence gathered throughout the Inquiry reflects the full diversity of views on homelessness.

The data have also provided the Committee with a clear view of the policy areas that survey respondents consider the most important. This information is assisting the Committee to plan its remaining hearings and determine areas of focus for its Final Report.

In its Final Report, the Committee will address the terms of reference for the Inquiry, including but not limited to:

- an independent analysis of the changing scale and nature of homelessness across Victoria;
- an investigation of the many social, economic and policy factors that impact on homelessness; and
- an identification of policies and practices from all levels of government that have a bearing on delivering services to the homeless.

The Committee is thankful to all of those who provided us with responses to our submission process and who have allowed us these valuable insights into what is important to Victorians in relation to the problem of homelessness in our community.

# Appendix 1

## Submissions

1	Marypatricia Percy
2	Heidi Tobin
3	Phillippa Phillips
4	Annabel Warner
5	Kristine Shephard
6	Jeffrey Anderson
7	Anne Laver
8	Peter Gell
9	Clyde Roberts
10	Ingrid Pezzoni
11	Lucy Kennedy
12	Confidential
13	Confidential
14	Milton Wilde
15	John Sharpe
16	Anne Peters
17	Confidential
18	Confidential
19	Sally Heggen
20	Confidential
21	Confidential
22	Igor Rogov
23	Confidential
24	Je Rose
25	Confidential
26	Confidential
27	Violet Browne
28	Sandra Lucas
29	Confidential
30	Confidential
31	Confidential
32	Confidential
33	Anne Gostelow
34	Confidential
35	Confidential
36	Tamara Boyd
37	Inner South Rooming House Network
38	Ross Mogridge
39	Jude Power
40	Confidential
41	Danny Kooyong
42	Confidential
43	Maryse Usher
44	Cathy Fischer
45	Confidential
46	Dianne Paramour
47	Minnie Perry
48	Confidential
49	Bill Richardson
50	Donna Brond
51	Rebecca Bowles
52	Dora Paras
53	Paul Ross
54	Margaret Byron
55	Confidential
56	John O'Callaghan
57	David Bowman
58	Jane Smith
59	Nicholas Kay Hui
60	Confidential
61	Mary Madigan
62	Confidential
63	Kieran Prescott
64	Debra Barry

65	Justin Dean	103	Western Homelessness Network
66	Confidential	104	Backpack bed for Homeless
67	Diane Ewin	105	Ambulance Victoria
68	Trudy Hairs	106	Don Stokes
69	Anna Ferrari	107	Name Withheld
70	Grace McCaughey	108	Women and Mentoring
71	Ellie O'Connor	109	Aaron Booth
72	Joanne Colcott	110	Stewart Enpersby
73	Duncan Rouch	111	Confidential
74	Michelle Welsh	112	Tammy Davern
75	Mornington Community Information and Support	113	Youthlaw
76	Andrew Withall	114	Maribyrnong City Council
77	Joanne Nolan	115	300 Blankets
78	Alan Coe	116	Kenneth McLeod
79	Old Colonists Association of Victoria	117	Cafs Ballarat
80	Melbourne Social Equity Institute	118	John
81	Anonymous	119	Belinda Robbie
82	Merryn Stevenson	120	Commissioner for Residential Tenancies
83	Patrick Mount	121	The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists
84	Bridget Koc	122	Frankston City Council
85	Emerge	123	Howard Marosi
86	Confidential	124	North East Support and Action for Youth Inc
87	Shanae Best	125	Beryl Jarrett
88	Jacinta Heffernan	126	Marlise Brenner
89	Confidential	127	Committee for Echuca Moama
90	Hannah Bloxidge	128	Confidential
91	Save Public Housing Collective	129	Jane McCracken
92	Bendigo Winter Night Shelter	130	Housing for the Aged Action Group
93	Jane Brownrigg	131	Community Information and Support Victoria
94	Lord Mayors Charitable Foundation	132	Benjamin Cronshaw
95	Confidential	133	Hands Up Mallee
96	Confidential	134	Whitelion Youth
97	Glenelg Shire	135	Boroondara City Council
98	Confidential	136	Southern Homelessness Services Network
99	Melbourne Institute	137	Monash City Council
100	Australian Association of Gerontology	138	Infrastructure Victoria
101	Maroondah City Council	139	Confidential
102	Interface Councils		

140	Confidential	177	Northern Homelessness Network
141	Stonnington City Council	178	Chris Chamberlain & Guy Johnson
142	Municipal Association of Victoria	179	G21
143	Joseph Edmonds	180	Eastern Homelessness Service System Alliance
144	Mildura City Council	181	Confidential
145	Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	182	Geoffrey Constable
146	Barbara Hall	183	Hobsons Bay City Council
147	Nightingale Housing	184	Confidential
148	Food Access Network and Ballarat Community Health	185	Wyndham H3 Alliance
149	Per Capita	186	Dementia Australia
150	Wayss	187	Dr Andrew Hollows
151	Greater Shepparton City Council	188	Zoe Hunter
152	Australian Psychological Society	189	WEstjustice a. WEstjustice
153	Jacqueline Whittaker	190	City Partnering Legal & Consulting
154	Port Phillip City Council	191	Women's Property Initiatives
155	Homes for Homes	192	Windana Drug and Alcohol Recovery Ltd
156	Dr Bruce Watson	193	Sialas Butic
157	Property Industry Foundation	194	Anonymous
158	Gabriel Waldron	195	Pedro
159	Confidential	196	Alicia Farrugia
160	David Bath	197	Youth Projects
161	Allison Millward	198	Domestic Violence Victoria
162	Peter Maher	199	Greater Dandenong City Council
163	Peter May	200	Bayside City Council
164	Confidential	201	Isocracy Network
165	Alfred Mental and Addiction Health - HRG	202	Inner Melbourne Community Legal
166	Brimbank City Council	203	SANE Australia
167	Bass Coast Shire Council	204	Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association
168	Victorian Public Tenants Association	205	Submission Under Review
169	Seniors Rights Victoria	206	safe steps
170	Housing All Australians	207	The Salvation Army
171	Ange Kenos	208	Community Housing Industry Association Victoria
172	Wombat Housing Support Services	209	Hope Street Youth and Family Services
173	Victorian Centres Against Sexual Assault Forum	210	Helen Dawson
174	Maroondah Winter Shelter Homelessness Advocacy Group	211	Michael McMahon
175	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare	212	Jan Lacey
176	Tenants Victoria	213	Robert Heron

214	Tim Singh Laurence	252	David Hollis
215	Russell Northe MLA	253	Confidential
216	Uniting VicTas	254	Central Highlands Creating Connections Youth Homeless Practitioners Hub
217	Melbourne City Mission	255	Melton City Council
218	Shadac Inc	256	Confidential
219	Darebin City Council	257	Jim McInerney
220	Confidential	258	Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency
221	Jennifer Mockett	259	Elizabeth Silke
222	Abrehet Taye	260	Public Housing - Everybody's Business
223	Brett Berry	261	Jillian Fryer
224	Andrew McVeigh	262	Family Access Network
225	Christine Kinman	263	Confidential
226	McAuley Community Services for Women	264	Women's Health West
227	Shelley Bowman	265	Gigi Weiss
228	Confidential	266	Marion Harper
229	St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria	267	Loddon Mallee Homelessness Network
230	Yarra Ranges Housing Action Group	268	Kay White
231	Rhonda Pryor	269	Bolton Clarke Homeless Persons Program
232	Jody Letts	270	Confidential
233	Robyn Evans	271	Deborah Moore
234	Rhys Green	272	Sushma Shrestha
235	Council on the Ageing Victoria	273	Phillip Kelly
236	Kids Under Cover	274	We Are Here
237	Sex Work Law Reform Victoria	275	Manningham Inclusive Community Housing
238	Confidential	276	David Evans
239	Office of the Public Advocate Victoria	277	Fair Go for Pensioners Coalition Victoria Inc
240	Brian Woods	278	Elizabeth Morgan House Aboriginal Women's Services
241	Susan Sherbak	279	Kate Hamilton
242	Darren Browning	280	Ross Findlay
243	Liz Aird	281	Nolan Tyrell
244	Friends of Public Housing Victoria	282	Amanda Penno
245	Yarra City Council	283	Lighthouse Foundation
246	Junction Support Services	284	Annie Rivera
247	Confidential	285	Wayne Davis
248	Jesuit Social Services	286	Confidential
249	Unison Housing Research Lab RMIT	287	Confidential
250	Paul Reiner	288	Women's Health Victoria
251	Knox City Council		

289	Ballarat Community Health	325	Action for More Independence & Dignity in Accommodation
290	Northern and Western Homelessness Network Consumer Participation Working Group	326	Amber May
291	Susan Carew	327	Ross Proudfoot
292	Greater Geelong City Council	328	Council to Homeless Persons
293	Bethaliah Ambrym	329	VACRO
294	Barwon South West Homelessness Network	330	Centre for Multicultural Youth
295	Council of Single Mothers and their Children	331	Law Institute of Victoria
296	City of Melbourne	332	Orygen
297	Sacred Heart Mission	333	Beryl Langer
298	David Henderson	334	Y-Change
299	Confidential	335	Fitzroy Legal Service
300	Seamas McCarthy	336	Wellways
301	Safe Place	337	Louise Kelly
302	Quantum Support Services	338	Moreland City Council
303	Magistrates' Court of Victoria	339	Asylum Seeker Resource Centre
304	Home Stretch	340	Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute
305	Statewide Children's Resource Program	341	Victorian Council of Social Service
306	Alliance for Gambling Reform	342	The Royal Women's Hospital
307	Grattan Institute	343	RMIT Centre for Innovative Justice and the Law and Advocacy Centre for Women joint submission
308	Colac Area Health	344	Children's Court of Victoria
309	Julie O'Connor	345	Kingston City Council
310	Confidential	346	St Vincent de Paul Conference Foster
311	Confidential	347	Aged & Community Services Australia
312	Pamela Byron	348	inTouch
313	Confidential	349	Mind Australia
314	Lucy Skelton	350	Victorian Trades Hall Council
315	Deborah Moore	351	Colin Smith
316	Boroondara and Manningham Housing and Homelessness Network	352	Youth Affairs Council Victoria
317	St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne	353	Bethany Community Support
318	Whittlesea City Council	354	Victorian Electoral Commission
319	Suellen Murray	355	Brotherhood of St Laurence
320	Pride Foundation Australian	356	Emerging Minds
321	Charlie Beckley	357	Women's Information Support and Housing in the North
322	Anchor Inc - Rapid Response Pilot Project	358	Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare
323	Confidential	359	The Constellation Project
324	Blessing Bags Melbourne	360	Penington Institute

361	Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand	398	Nanci Moore
362	Federation of Community Legal Centres	399	Pam Lynch
363	Star Health	400	Ann Jeffree
364	PriceWaterhouseCoopers	401	Christine Elder
365	Shai Diner	402	Spencer Cameron
366	YWCA Australia	403	Kathy Gibbs
367	Victoria Legal Aid	404	Confidential
368	National Foundation for Australian Women	405	Frank Haddy
369	Salvatore Furfaro	406	Sian Priya Woolston
370	Mission Australia	407	Ezilia Dring
371	North East Multicultural Association	408	Confidential
372	The Barnett Foundation	409	Kerrie Byrne
373	Probus Women's Housing Association of Victoria Inc	410	Casey City Council
374	Anglicare Victoria	411	Confidential
375	Justice Connect	412	Confidential
376	Janet Graham	413	Confidential
377	Confidential	414	Philip Anthony and Give Me A Room Project a. Phillip Anthony and Give Me A Room Project
378	VincentCare	415	Confidential
379	Carers Victoria	416	Philip Mendes and Robyn Martin
380	Project Respect	417	Gippsland Homeslessness Network
381	Wintringham	418	Property Owners' Association of Victoria
382	Australian Association of Social Workers	419	Triggs Advocacy Group
383	Jack Verdins	420	The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists Faculty of Forensic Psychiatry
384	Mental Health Legal Centre	421	Mallee Family Care
385	Mercy Foundation	422	Launch Housing
386	Flat Out	423	Department of Health and Human Services and Director of Housing
387	Victorian Gay & Lesbian Rights Lobby	424	Holly Marchioni
388	Northern Community Legal Centre	425	Seaford Housing Action Coalition
389	EACH	426	Confidential
390	Confidential	427	Confidential
391	Catholic Social Services Victoria	428	Kathleen Lovelock
392	CoHealth	429	Castan Centre for Human Rights
393	Anne Heyes	430	Associate Professor Luke Beck
394	David Mackenzie	431	Angus Atkinson
395	Alcohol and Drug Foundation	432	John Bellerby
396	Angela Zhang		
397	Ahmad Masri		

# Appendix 2

## The survey and submission pages

### Page one

#### Make a submission


The Legal and Social Issues Committee will continue to accept submissions to the Inquiry into Homelessness in Victoria until further notice.

Your submission is valuable to the **Inquiry into Homelessness in Victoria** and to the Parliament.


Complete this online form to make a submission.

Read this first:


### My Personal Information



In general, all submissions are **public documents**. This means they may be published online and in committee's reports.




All submissions will have contact details **removed**. This includes your address, phone number, email and signature.




If you do not want your submission published, you may **request** the committee treat it as **confidential**. To do this, choose the option "I request the committee review my submission for confidential protection" in Step 4.


### Privilege



All submissions accepted by the committee are protected by **parliamentary privilege**.



This means no legal action can be taken against you, and you can't be subject to discrimination, in relation to the evidence in your submission.



If you publish your submission in another way, for example on your website, that publication will not be protected by **parliamentary privilege**.

Start

## Page two

[1 Your contact details](#) [2 Survey questions](#) [3 Your submission](#) [4 Submit and finish](#)

### Step 1 of 4: Your contact details

Your name will be published online. Your contact details will not be published.  
We ask the questions below for verification purposes only.

My submission is on behalf of an organisation

Title

First Name\*

Last Name\*

Phone or mobile number

Email

Confirm Email

Residential address

I have no fixed address

[< Prev](#) [Next >](#)

## Page three

[1 Your contact details](#) [2 Survey questions](#) [3 Your submission](#) [4 Submit and finish](#)

### Step 3 of 4: Your submission

Enter your submission in the box below, and upload up to 3 files.

No file chosen

No file chosen

No file chosen

Are you interested in appearing before the committee in person to talk about your submission?  Yes  No

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?

[< Prev](#) [Next >](#)

## Page four

1 Your contact details 2 Survey questions 3 Your submission 4 Submit and finish

### Step 3 of 4: Your submission

Enter your submission in the box below, and upload up to 3 files.

No file chosen

No file chosen

No file chosen

Are you interested in appearing before the committee in person to talk about your submission?

- Yes  
 No

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?

< Prev

Next >

## Page five

1 Your contact details 2 Survey questions 3 Your submission 4 Submit and finish

### Step 4 of 4: Submit and Finish

If you would like your submission to be confidential please select the below checkbox.

- I request the committee review this submission for confidential protection

You must agree to the below statements for your submission to be accepted.

- I agree that my submission will be treated as a public document and published online unless the committee accepts it as confidential.
- I agree that digitally signing my submission is legally binding in the same way as a physical signature.

Signature\*

< Prev

Submit

