## Homelessness inquiry calls for local input at Shepparton and Wangaratta hearings

Local people who have experienced homelessness are being encouraged to share their insights and ideas with the Victorian parliamentary inquiry into homelessness at public hearings being held in Shepparton and Wangaratta next week.

The hearings by the Legislative Council's Legal and Social Issues Committee will take place on Wednesday, 11 March at The Connection in Shepparton and Thursday, 12 March at The Quality Hotel Wangaratta Gateway in Wangaratta. Committee members will also conduct a site visit to the Berry Street Youth Foyer in Shepparton.

Both hearings will commence at 9:30 am. The final part of the day, at 4:00 pm in Shepparton and 3:15 pm in Wangaratta, will be reserved for comments from local community members who have personal experiences with homelessness. Members of the public and media are welcome to attend throughout the day.

"At these hearings we'll be speaking with local councils, service organisations and care providers about solutions to homelessness in the north east region," said Committee Chair Fiona Patten.

"It's also important that we hear directly from people who have been homeless or supported family and friends through homelessness, and we encourage these people to come and share their ideas with the Committee," she said.

People who wish to make a community comment at either hearing are encouraged to call the Committee on (03) 8682 2637 or email homelessnessinguiry@parliament.vic.gov.au.

The schedules for the upcoming public hearings are available from the Committee's <u>website</u> along with published submissions and transcripts from some of the earlier hearings.

## Media queries

Phone 8682 2814 or email news@parliament.vic.gov.au

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