



Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee

Inquiry: Inquiry into the redevelopment of Melbourne's public housing towers

Hearing date: 1 July 2025

Question taken on notice

Directed to: Port Phillip City Council, Mike Fisher and Felicity Symons

Received date: 25 & 28 July 2025

1. Anasina GRAY-BARBERIO, p.5

Question asked:

So you would not have any clue about waitlists as well?

Mike FISHER: Well, not particularly myself. Some of my colleagues working in the space would be working on some of that, but not here today, no. I would have to come back to you with some written answers on that.

Anasina GRAY-BARBERIO: Would it be possible for the committee for you to come back with some written answers?

Response:

State government operated through DFFH Homes Victoria manage the waitlist in regard to the Victorian Housing Register and Council has no information on the number of people on the Inner Metro South waitlist.

2. Anasina GRAY-BARBERIO, p.6

Question asked:

And just quickly, what impact do you think this delay has on homelessness in Port Phillip?

Mike FISHER: I would have to come back. I could not comment on that. Again, we have not worked through where the residents have gone and what the impact is, so I would have to come back and understand that.

Response:

We again note that the State government operated through DFFH Homes Victoria manage the waitlist in regard to the Victorian Housing Register.

3. Aiv PUGLIELLI, p.9

Question asked:

How would you feel about Homes Victoria misinforming council on these

matters?

Mike FISHER: In terms of the crucial part of partnership, we hope there has been an open partnership, we know what is going on and we can understand each and every part of it as we go. That is what we are asking for. We would be hoping that we would know what is going on. I would have to come back to understand if my colleagues in council have more information than I do, so I would not want to put an opinion forward, effectively.

Aiv PUGLIELLI: I understand. I raise this because it speaks to trust, because if they misinformed you then, could they be misinforming you now?

Mike FISHER: Again, I would have to come back and find out what we are informed about and what we know or we do not know before we could then make a call. But effectively we would hope that there has been openness and some conversation about what is happening with the residents on the site.

Response:

Homes Victoria are responsible for managing the state's social housing portfolio. Officers are not able to provide further response.

4. Aiv PUGLIELLI, p.9

Question asked:

In relation to the Barak Beacon estate, are you aware that government is leasing private rental homes to house relocated residents of that estate?

Mike FISHER: I am not aware. I would have to come back and ask some colleagues about what we are aware of.

Response:

Officers are not able to provide further response and suggest this question is referred to Homes Victoria who are responsible for managing the state's social housing portfolio.

5. Ryan BATCHELOR, p.12

Question asked:

Ryan BATCHELOR: Just quickly, do you receive any feedback from community or residents about the condition of the current sites at all, or is that something that is just between them and Homes Vic?

Felicity SYMONS: I think primarily it would be between the residents and

Homes Vic, but anecdotally we might be receiving through our outreach workers at council –

Ryan BATCHELOR: But in the ordinary course of things you are not a repository of information about building condition or suitability or those sorts of things?

Felicity SYMONS: No.

Mike FISHER: Not a repository for that. I think we have service delivery, you know, that may hear things about it, but we would have to, in terms of what –

Ryan BATCHELOR: But no formal role.

Mike FISHER: We would have to come back, and maybe if there are some other things we do have or have formally, we can provide that to the committee so they understand it. But from today, not in detail.

Response:

Council's Housing and Homelessness service on rare occasions do receive community and resident enquires that provide feedback on the building conditions of public housing estates. Council officers encourage people to contact Homes Victoria to submit maintenance requests or if they would like further support, contact information for advocacy and free legal services are given.