
From: Mark Jenkins <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, 15 July 2025 8:29 AM
To: Imogen Bacon <[REDACTED]>
Cc: RegionalHousing <regionalhousing@parliament.vic.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Questions taken on notice - Housing Inquiry

Hi Imogen

I have consulted our compliance team and they have provided the attached advice.

If the question is specifically regarding a rooming house as defined under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act and Regulations, then no we haven't had a great deal more complaints, investigations or registrations. However in many instances, people refer to prescribed accommodation as a rooming house. Under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act/ Regulations, prescribed accommodation has a number of types:

- ***Hotel***
- ***Motel***
- ***Hostel***
- ***Rooming house***
- ***Residential accommodation***
- ***Labour hire accommodation***

In the past the majority of unregistered prescribed accommodation we have investigate has primarily been for seasonal agricultural workers, however an emerging trend is accommodation being provided for health care workers being brought in from overseas.

This year our Council has received around 24 complaints regarding alleged unregistered prescribed accommodation (January 2025-July 2025). Investigations are complex and time consuming for Environmental Health.

Numbers of people living in unregistered prescribed accommodation have varied, but it is not uncommon for average sized houses to have 10 individuals living in them.

We are seeing an increase in additional walls being put in dwellings (so that living areas become bedrooms etc), sheds being used, garages and structures in backyards being built (usually without permits) but not necessarily seeing 10 plus rooms put in to dwellings or new dwellings being build with that many rooms for the purposes of being a rooming house or another type of prescribed accommodation.

Another interesting component is we are finding operators of the unregistered accommodation often have multiple properties.

Unregistered prescribed accommodation continues to be a significant issue for our Council.

If you require any further information please advise

Kind Regards

Mark Jenkins ([he / him](#))

General Manager Healthy Communities

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