



PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA
Legal and Social Issues Standing Committee – Legislative Council

MEDIA RELEASE

Responses to homelessness to be explored at hearing

Leaders of business, philanthropic organisations and social enterprises will appear before the parliamentary inquiry into homelessness in Victoria at a public hearing in Melbourne next week.

The hearing on Wednesday 12 February 2020 will be held in the Federation Room at Parliament House from 9:15 am to 4:00 pm. Members of the public and media are invited to attend.

“Homelessness is a multi-faceted, complex and growing issue,” said Chair of the Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee, Fiona Patten.

“This hearing is about new ways of thinking, creative ideas and people who are affecting real change in the lives of people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless,” she said.

Business, finance, development and philanthropy experts speaking at the hearing include representatives from Metricon, WoMEDA, PwC, Housing All Australians, Deakin University’s School of Architecture and Built Environment, Kids Under Cover, Infoxchange, Homes for Homes and the Big Issue.

Others presenting include Magistrate John O’Callaghan, Nicholas Pearce from The HoMie Store, Kelvin Ryan from the Simonds Group and Dr Catherine Brown, CEO of the Lord Mayor’s Charitable Foundation.

“The philanthropists, social enterprises and charity organisations we’ll be hearing from are all responding to homelessness in unique and interesting ways,” Ms Patten said.

“From using vacant buildings as pop up shelters to building demountable studios for at-risk youth in suburban backyards, there are many ideas coming out of the private and charitable sectors which the Committee is looking forward to exploring,” she said.

The schedule for the Melbourne hearing is available from the Committee’s [website](#).

The submissions closing date for the homelessness inquiry has been extended until 16 March.

Additional hearings for the inquiry into homelessness in Victoria are scheduled to take place in Shepparton and Wangaratta in mid-March 2020.

Media queries

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