

Inquiry into Homelessness in Victoria

Dr Joseph Toscano

Organisation Name:Public Housing – Everybody’s Business

Your position or role: Convenor

SURVEY QUESTIONS

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::

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

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

An advocacy body ,Concerned citizen ,Working in the health sector

Are there any additional themes we should consider?

YOUR SUBMISSION

Submission:

A SIMPLE SOLUTION TO THE HOUSING CRISIS

The re-election of a Victorian Labor Government, with an increased majority in the Legislative Assembly and a working majority (with the help of minor parties) in the Legislative Council, that during its previous term in office pursued a privatisation of public housing agenda, is not the end of the public housing struggle in Victoria. During its last two years in office the Victorian Government has been forced to modify its position on public housing because of sustained community opposition to its plans to privatise the remnants of a once substantial public housing sector.

PUBLIC HOUSING IS FOR EVERYONE WHO CANNOT AFFORD TO BUY A HOUSE

During the past two decades the philosophical basis behind public housing has been radically altered. When public housing was first introduced after the Second World War (after a sustained campaign by returned service men and women who demanded public housing), access to public housing was determined by whether people could or could not afford to buy a home in the private housing market. Unfortunately in 2020 access to public housing is restricted to people who are facing homelessness. Today the Victorian State government can’t even provide people who are homeless with accommodation. Not because the government doesn’t want to, but because the private accommodation models they have embraced do not work.

10 DAYS IN NOVEMBER

From 14th – 24th November 2018 Public Housing – Everybody’s Business held a 10 Day Vigil on the steps of the Victorian Parliament in an attempt to make public housing a major election issue. Although we failed to make public housing a major issue, we were able to have an impact on the debate surrounding housing. The 10 Day Vigil has given us the strength and determination to continue this struggle.

QUARANTINE PROPERTY STAMP DUTY REVENUE FOR PUBLIC HOUSING

During the last financial year the Victorian State Government was able to raise nearly six billion dollars in stamp duty revenue (stamp duty is a tax that people pay upfront when they buy a property). This money is not used by the State Government for public housing. It is fair that money raised by the imposition of property stamp duty should only be used to support and expand the public housing sector. If property stamp

duty revenue is used for public housing, the Victorian Government could house one hundred thousand Victorians within a year and one million within a decade. People needing housing don't have to wait for the government to build new houses. The Victorian government can spot purchase units and homes throughout Victoria. Spot purchasing gives public housing tenants the opportunity to live in the community.

A MATTER OF POLITICAL WILL

What we are proposing is neither radical nor unachievable. Whether property stamp duty revenue is used for public housing is a matter of political will. All that is required is the passage of legislation by a majority of members in the 88 seat Victorian Legislation Assembly and a majority of members in the 40 seat Legislative Council.

A WIN WIN SITUATION

A strong public housing sector provides stable long term secure accommodation for 25% of a person's income for people who cannot afford to buy a home. It helps to decrease rents at the lower end of the market, reduce prices for first home buyers and frees up tens of millions of dollars that is currently used to keep a roof over people's heads. People's increasing spending power stimulates economic growth, increases job opportunities and decreases unemployment.

JOIN THE – STEPS TO A HOME

public protests on the steps of the Victorian Parliament (cnr Spring & Bourke St, Melbourne)

at 5:30PM – 6:30PM on WEDNESDAY

- 4th March 2020
- 18th March 2020

at Midday – 1:00PM on WEDNESDAY

- 11th February 2020
- 25th March 2020

Put public housing back on the Victorian and Federal Parliamentary agenda – JOIN US & make public housing a critical issue during 2020.

Dr. Joseph Toscano / Convener Public Housing – Everybody's Business

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?:

FILE ATTACHMENTS

File1: [5e57220d6fb8f-PHEB - A Simple Solution-March 2020.pdf](#)

File2:

File3:

Signature:

Dr. Joseph Toscano

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– JOIN US & MAKE PUBLIC HOUSING A CRITICAL ISSUE DURING 2020.**

Dr. Joseph Toscano / Convener Public Housing – Everybody's Business