



ST ANDREW'S FOUNDATION

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Chairman: Mr Lindsay Ruddle

Secretary: Mrs Belinda Hudson

17 November 2017

The Secretary
Legal and Social Issues Committee
Parliament House, Spring Street
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Dear Secretary,

Parliamentary Inquiry into the Public Housing Renewal Program

I write as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the St Andrew's Foundation – the successor to the former St Andrew's Hospital in East Melbourne.

The Foundation is grateful for the opportunity to provide the Legal and Social Issues Committee with information to assist its consideration of the Victorian Government's Public Housing Renewal Program. We write particularly to highlight concerns about the future of the site of the former St Andrews Hospital.

In August 2017, I wrote on behalf of the Foundation to the Minister for Planning to request that social housing be a compulsory element of the site's redevelopment.

You may be aware of this site's lasting connection to the Foundation; it used to be the site of the St Andrew's hospital – a joint Presbyterian and Uniting Church facility – before being developed and used by the Peter MacCallum Hospital. The

Victorian Government only came into possession of the site because it was guarantor for loans to redevelop the St Andrew's Hospital during the 1980s.

The hospital was eventually sold to the State for the value of that guarantee and was subsequently closed in 1990. The St Andrew's Foundation was then created by a deed of trust in 1997 to receive bequests and benefactions which had been made to the hospital, and this in turn was recognised by an Act of the Victorian Parliament – *The St Andrew's Foundation Act 1997* - to receive gifts to the former hospital. Even today, the Foundation still receives such gifts and bequests.

As the hospital's successor, the Foundation was concerned to learn that the proposed sale of the site would not require any affordable housing to be included, despite the pledge in the government's Plan Melbourne strategy to increase the supply of social and affordable housing. You may be aware of the government's commitment in Policy 2.3.1 of the Plan Melbourne strategy that:

'[s]ites identified as being surplus to government requirements need to be re-used in ways that deliver broad community benefits – such as boosting the supply and spread of social and affordable housing.'

The Foundation believes that this significant location in East Melbourne should still be a place where all members of the community, including those who are marginalised, can be supported and helped. The Foundation itself, with its continuing direct link to this site, is required to support community service programs through grants and other assistance.

As the Committee conducts this important inquiry and delivers its findings, the St Andrew's Foundation asks that it consider the government's commitments in its Plan Melbourne Strategy and the opportunity presented by the redevelopment of this important site in East Melbourne.

The Foundation would be happy to provide further information or assistance if the Committee would find it useful.

On behalf of the St Andrew's Foundation,



Mr Lindsay J Ruddle
Chairman