

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

Inquiry into the Victorian Government's response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Council to Homeless Persons Hearing of Wednesday 20 May 2020

Witnesses:

- Ms Jenny Smith, Chief Executive Officer, Council to Homeless Persons
- Ms Kate Colvin, Manager of Policy and Communications, Council to Homeless Persons

REQUEST FOR UPDATED INFORMATION

1. At time of writing there had been no outbreak of COVID-19 among Victoria's homeless population. Is this still correct?

- Since 7 July 2020 there have been seven people experiencing homelessness who have tested positive to COVID-19. We are aware that five of these cases were linked to outbreaks in the Flemington high rise estates. The source of the other two are yet to be confirmed.
- At the time of being tested positive, four of these seven people were in homelessness accommodation, one at a congregate facility, another a resident of a youth foyer and one was sleeping rough.

2. As at the end of May, 4500 homeless Victorians had been placed in emergency accommodation. Can we please have an updated figure?

- As at 12 July 2020, there were 11,700 instances of households being assisted into emergency accommodation. Over 4000 of these assists were recorded as people sleeping rough in the week prior to entering emergency accommodation.
- Between 16 March 2020 and 12 July 2020, 3500 people have also been assisted to maintain their tenancies or obtain private rental through the Private Rental Assistance Program.

3. At time of hearings, 9 individuals had utilised DHHS COVID Isolation and Recovery Facilities for approximately two days each. Can we please have an update on this?

- As at 12 July 2020, 34 people residing in the COVID Isolation and Recovery Facilities (CIRF). Most of these people have been at the facilities for two or more weeks.