



# Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee

**Inquiry:** Inquiry into Climate Resilience

**Hearing Date:** 20 November 2024

**Question[s] taken on notice**

**Directed to:** Geelong Sustainability

**Received Date:** 13 December 2024

## 1. **Wendy LOVELL, page 25-26**

**Question Asked:**

The Climate Safe Rooms – you say that you are doing that for low-income households. Are they public housing households or private rentals? What are the criteria on that side?

**Dan COWDELL:** Yes, we have selection criteria. In our pilot program it was a requirement to have some sort of low income, be it a healthcare card or a pension...

**Wendy LOVELL:** Are you aware of Homes Victoria doing this themselves on their properties?

**Dan COWDELL:** I am not specifically across the work of Homes Victoria myself.

**Wendy LOVELL:** That is DHHS – or DFFH, whatever they call themselves. I was housing minister between 2010 and 2014, and we actually had this in place for people who had a medical condition. We would upgrade a portion of the house so that there was a cooler space for those people. I would be really disappointed if the current government has discontinued that program, because it was very, very valuable to people.

**Dan COWDELL:** If I can comment on that, I believe we had three, possibly four – in our trial – DHHS properties. They certainly did not have an adequate, efficient air conditioner, as such. There was work needed to be done in those homes, and insulation and draught proofing was a big focus on those properties. But I am happy to provide further detail on that, if you would like that.

**Wendy LOVELL:** It would be interesting if you could find out if the department are doing it or not.

**Response:**

The Parliamentary Inquiry is best placed to directly seek a response from Homes Victoria or DHHS on this matter. However, Geelong Sustainability can comment on the three DHHS properties included in the Climate Safe Room pilot project, 2019 to 2021.

During the trial an energy audit of the properties was conducted by a qualified assessor which identified that all three homes were very draughty and had relatively low ceiling insulation levels. In addition, all three homes had new gas wall heaters and only one home had air conditioning.

The following work was carried out on each home to create a Climate Safe Room:

#### Home 1

- Sealed draught on doors, windows and exhaust fans
- Topped up ceiling insulation
- Installed a solar system
- Replaced lights with LED

#### Home 2

- Sealed draught on doors, windows and exhaust fans
- Topped up ceiling insulation
- Installed a solar system
- Replaced lights with LED
- Installed a new split system air-conditioner

#### Home 3

- Sealed draught on doors, windows, exhaust fans and wall vents
- Topped up ceiling insulation
- Installed a solar system