



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

MEDIA RELEASE

Homelessness inquiry begins public hearings

This Friday 22 November 2019, the Legislative Council’s Legal and Social Issues Committee will commence public hearings for its inquiry into homelessness in Victoria.

The first public hearing will be held in the Legislative Council Committee Room at Parliament House from 9:30 am to 4:15 pm. The hearing will be broadcast live on the Victorian Parliament’s [website](#), enabling people across the state to view the discussions.

Presenting at this hearing will be the peak body representing organisations in Victoria seeking to end homelessness, the Council for Homeless Persons. Also presenting will be a range of organisations that have firsthand experience responding to homelessness, including Sacred Heart Mission, Launch Housing, the Salvation Army and Aboriginal Housing Victoria.

“This first public hearing for the inquiry will provide the Committee with the opportunity to hear about some of the key challenges that we as a state are facing in responding to homelessness,” Committee Chair Fiona Patten said.

“It’s important to hear first up from the organisations that day and night are assisting people who are or who may be facing homelessness,” Ms Patten said.

“We want to hear from them about the circumstances that lead to homelessness and what we can do about them.

“We want to learn about what the specific needs are in our diverse communities and how we can best respond to them.”

The Committee will also receive advice from Professor Guy Johnson from RMIT University, the Victorian Council of Social Service and Justice Connect.

The schedule for the first hearing is available from the Committee’s [website](#), along with the submissions received to date.

The Committee’s inquiry is putting the spotlight on homelessness in Victoria, to assess the scale of it and to identify ways in which it can best be addressed.

The Committee has invited community input to the inquiry, with an [online submission form](#) available for community members and organisations with experience of homelessness that want to put forward suggestions to the Committee.

The submission closing date has been extended until 31 January 2020. The Committee will now report on this inquiry in November 2020.

Media queries

Phone 8682 2814 or email news@parliament.vic.gov.au

For updates on the other public inquiries being conducted by the Legislative Council's Legal and Social Issues Committee, go to its [website](#).

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