



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

MEDIA RELEASE

Parliamentary inquiry puts spotlight on homelessness

To coincide with Homelessness Week, the Legislative Council’s Legal and Social Issues Committee is commencing an inquiry into homelessness in Victoria.

“It’s a timely opportunity to put the spotlight on homelessness in our state, to assess the scale of it and to identify ways in which we can best address it,” Committee Chair Fiona Patten said.

“Having a place to live is vital to our well-being and to the overall health of our community. It’s an issue in which we all have an interest, and this inquiry will ensure that we as parliamentarians play our part in finding genuine and lasting solutions,” Ms Patten said.

Under the inquiry’s terms of reference, the Legislative Council has requested the Committee to provide an independent analysis of the changing scale and nature of homelessness across Victoria.

The Committee has been asked to investigate the many social, economic and policy factors that impact on homelessness.

It will also seek to identify policies and practices from all levels of government that have a bearing on delivering services to the homeless.

“Many people have been calling for action on homelessness. By consulting with community organisations, service providers and people who have experienced or are experiencing homelessness, the Committee will be seeking to ensure that there is an evidence-based approach that guides our responses to it,” Ms Patten said.

An important focus for the inquiry will be hearing the lived experience of people who are or have recently been homeless.

“As part of our inquiry, we will be having face to face consultations, so we would like to hear from people who want to speak with the Committee in person,” Ms Patten said.

“Those with lived experience of homelessness know better than anyone how people become homeless and what would help change their situation or more importantly prevent it from happening,” she said.

Through an online form that the Committee will make available on its website in the coming weeks, people will be able to submit their information to the review.

“We will be calling for organisations and community members with knowledge about homelessness to share their information with us through our submission process,” Ms Patten said.

To ensure adequate opportunity for people to participate, written contributions can be made until January 2020.

For more information on the inquiry, go to the Committee's [website](#).

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