



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

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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# **Frontline agencies to present at hearings on homelessness**

This Wednesday and Thursday, 9 and 10 September, the parliamentary inquiry into homelessness in Victoria will continue its online public hearings, speaking with a number of frontline agencies and service providers responding to homelessness.

Both days of hearings by the Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee will commence at 10 am and will be streamed live on the Victorian Parliament's [website](#). The schedule is available from the Committee's [website](#).

“These are important hearings for the inquiry as we will be speaking with a number of key agencies and service providers responding to homelessness in Melbourne and regional Victoria,” Committee Chair Fiona Patten said.

“We will be particularly interested to hear how the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting their important work and to find out what responses they would like to see going forward. It may be that there are some important lessons to be learned from this disruptive time,” Ms Patten said.

Wednesday's hearing will include a panel discussion with Ambulance Victoria and Victoria Police. The Director of Housing from the Department of Health and Human Services will also be presenting.

“We're looking forward to hearing from Health and Human Services as they will be able to tell us about the overall scale and nature of homelessness in Victoria and what services are already being provided,” Ms Patten said.

Thursday's hearing will focus on homelessness in and around Bendigo and Maryborough. There will be panel discussions with representatives from local government, Aboriginal corporations and local service providers.

“The circumstances of and responses to homelessness in regional Victoria are different to those in metropolitan Melbourne. The panel discussions will build on the evidence we have already collected from other regional centres,” Ms Patten said.

The Committee has received more than 400 submissions to the inquiry and has already held 16 days of public hearings. The submissions received and transcripts from hearings already held are available from the Committee's [website](#).

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