

Parliamentary Inquiry into Homelessness in Victoria

Response to matter taken on notice at hearing on Wednesday 1 July

The [Victorian Housing Register](#) shows how many people are waiting to move and transfer to a social housing property. It is maintained by the Department of Health and Human Services (HousingVic) and is updated every three months.

Between December 2019 and March 2020, the Brimbank-Melton region saw a marginal increase in social housing (1.6%, 3,520 to 3,578) and transfer applicants (2.5%, 240 to 246). The March 2020 quarter includes the early weeks of the COVID-19 crisis, and the June 2020 quarter will provide further insight into the impacts on social housing wait lists.

Brimbank City Council has responded to the crisis through its [Coronavirus COVID-19 Response and Recover Strategy](#). The latest progress report (May 2020) was presented at the [23 June Ordinary Council meeting](#). Key actions achieved during this period that may be of interest to the Committee included:

- Providing an additional 6,944 meals to vulnerable people in the community, including carers of people with disabilities and their children
- Administering 335 infant vaccines, resulting in a 50 per cent increase from last month
- Supporting the Working for Victoria 'Cleaning Blitz' initiative which provided employment to 76 people to hand clean high pedestrian areas, focusing on major activity centres and playgrounds
- Responding to an increase in the frequency of Brimbank Community Register calls with close to 40 per cent of monthly calls now conducted weekly
- Approving 168 applications for rate deferral following adoption of the Brimbank COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy
- Distributing 300 BeActive Packs (including exercise sheets and exercise paraphernalia) through Meals on Wheels, Community Care and Community Wellbeing networks to vulnerable households
- Delivering a total of 13,862 collection items to 1,241 residents as part of the Library to Your Door service
- Responding to a 33 per cent increase in phone calls, email correspondence and live chat through Council's Customer Service Centre