



Western Homelessness Network
The Year in Pictures: 2019

“nothing good where you sent me.
the system is flawed. u you put me up
in a motel @ \$120/nt . i have been
from pillar to post and treated like
second class citizen. I preferred
sleeping on the streets compared to
where you good people sent me”

“Really dirty, did not have any amenities. staff were unhelpful. would not stay there again.”



“The landlord at the rooming house caused much trouble. she would open tenants rooms and go through personal belongings stealing valuables.

The house was dirty and unkempt.

i have never felt so used and abused in my whole life. “



**“Felt like no-one
cared”**

What would make crisis accommodation better?

“Cleanliness, no bed bugs, safety, female only sections”

“a kitchen to cook food in”

“clean it and get rid of the dangerous people”

“proper locks on the doors”

“make it clean, private, cheaper”



Launch of the Crisis in Crisis report

A Crisis in Crisis

The appalling state of emergency accommodation in Melbourne's north and west

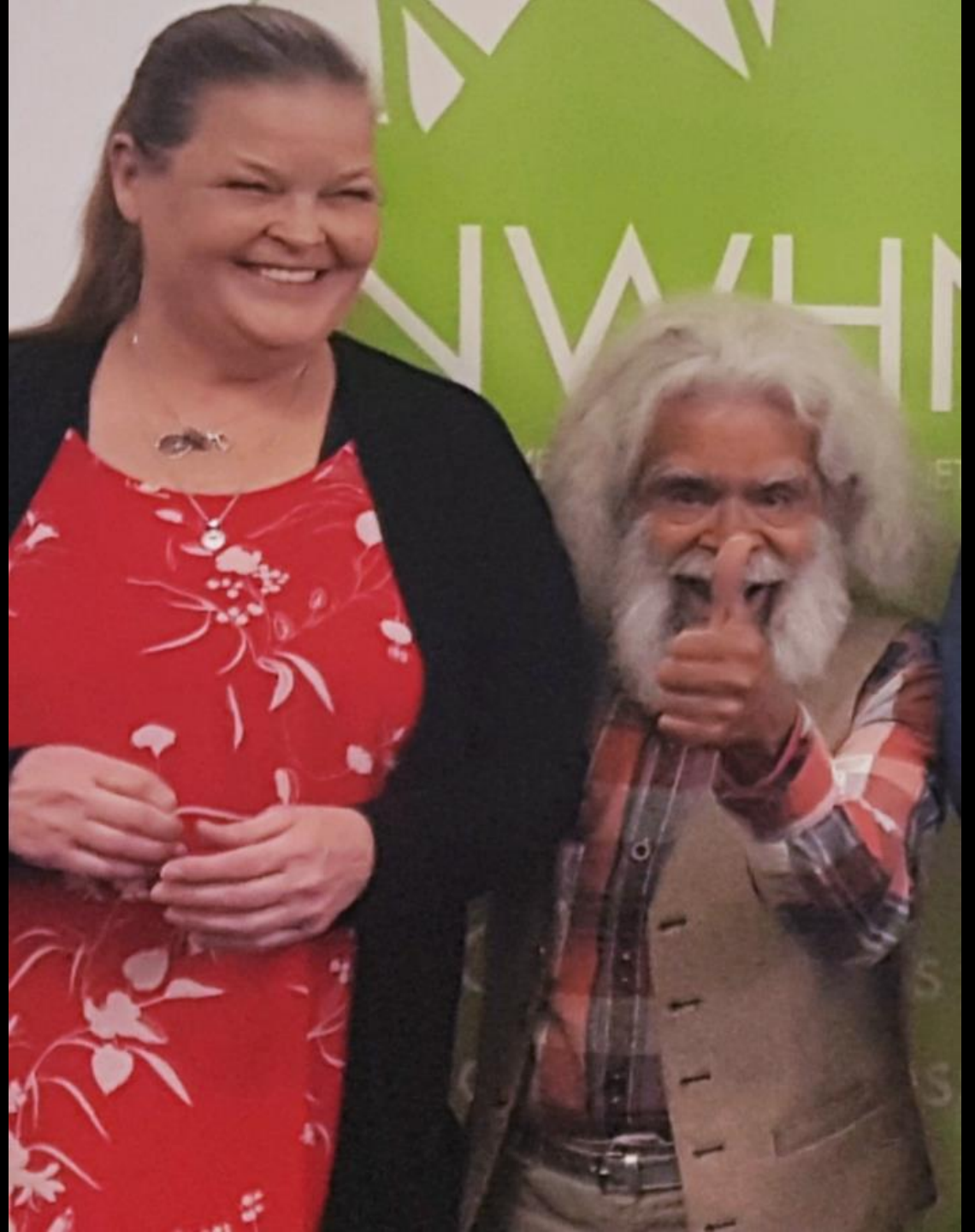
Prepared by the Northern and Western Homelessness Networks

"Horrific/degrading; felt like a cell"

"The worst nights of my entire life."

"Unsafe, uncomfortable, scared, lonely, worried."





No more referrals to dodgy crisis housing, warn homelessness services

By Michaela...

February 14, 2019 - 11:15am



City homelessness and family violence organisations in Melbourne will no longer refer people to unsafe and squalid motels and boarding houses as a form of emergency housing.

The group of services in Melbourne's north and west will today discuss a chilling 'report' of dodgy accommodation providers as it introduces a new report, *A Crisis in Crisis*.



There's not enough crisis accommodation in Melbourne. Homelessness services are forced to send needy people to...

MOTELS AND MISERY

Read the report on the appalling state of emergency accommodation in Melbourne. www.nwhn.net.au

15 February 2019

North & West Homelessness Network

'Appalling, extremely unsafe' motels pocket millions from homeless, family violence victims

ABC News Breakfast By James Hancock

Updated Fri at 9:59am



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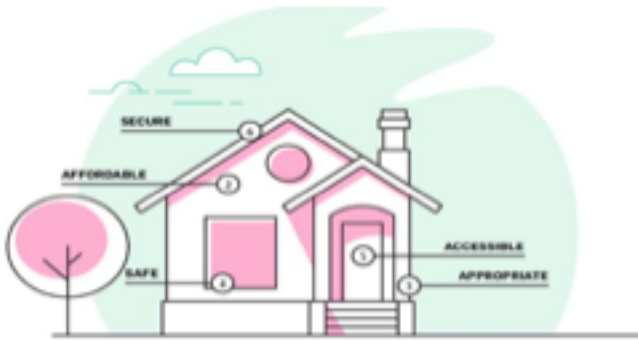
15 February 2019





Letters to all MPs;
Meetings with 13
Ministers, MPs &
advisors





Ending homelessness in Melbourne's West

"I got caught up with the wrong people and became involved in drugs - being homeless has ruined my life."

A massive impact you want the best for your kids and when you can't provide a safe and affordable home for them you start judging yourself and making yourself feel smaller than you already did. It takes a toll mentally, emotionally and physically. Knowing you can't provide a roof over their heads and make them feel safe as you can't afford to give them the basics.

Prepared by the Western Homelessness Network
April 2019



Homelessness meeting with MPs at Parliament House

Breaking the cycle of mental health and homelessness

Submission by the Western Homelessness Network to the
Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System

July 2019



Royal Commission
into Mental Health





What impact has
homelessness had on
your life?

<http://nwhn.net.au/Home.aspx>

“Devastating. Just don't know what's going on. You can make any plans because you just don't know”

“Very hard with children. Children need a good and safe home to live. Sharing and couch surfing is stressful on family.”

“The ability to trust people. My safety. My mental health - depression. Isolation. Striped my confidence in life.”

“It led to drug use and lost my son.”

“Extreme stress. Not being able to play a protective role for my children. Not feeling safe.”

“Mental health and physical health has declined and I am surviving by feeding off charity support - which cannot fully provide as allocations are exhausted.”



What impact has being without a suitable and affordable home had on your life?

<http://nwhn.net.au/Home.aspx>

“Constant worry, losing time chasing options, stress, sleeping problems, nightmares, financial stress, depression, panic attacks”

“It was just really bad and you pretty much feel lost like as if you don't belong anywhere or that no-one cares. As I used to have all doors shut on me which left me with no choices. There should be more and more accommodation out there for people, especially the ones with kids. Or kids that have special needs. ”

“Rape, financial hardship, scared, feared, syringes everywhere, seeing people die”

“It's a feeling of hopelessness and despair which led to depression in all of us that one of us suicide if we were not reunited.”

“Loss of employment. No money. Without food. ”

“Anger/depressions/resentment. Constantly feeling unsettled. This has affected my ability to be in the present moment with my children. Feelings of worry and anxiety about where we will live. Feeling outside of the rest of the world who have secure housing. Not being able to give my children things because I can't afford to.”

“Made me reliant on Drugs (ICE) to stay awake cause I've been taken advantage of and sexually abused touched while I have been asleep I haven't been able to be a mother to my kids/ can't see them and made me suicidal”



"The worst thing was having no-one around and no-one out there to help you, as many out there just turn their back and don't realise what others are going through. So in the end this experience has affected me mentally and physically as well as my daughter. No-one out there should face or deserve to face homelessness."

"RAPE"

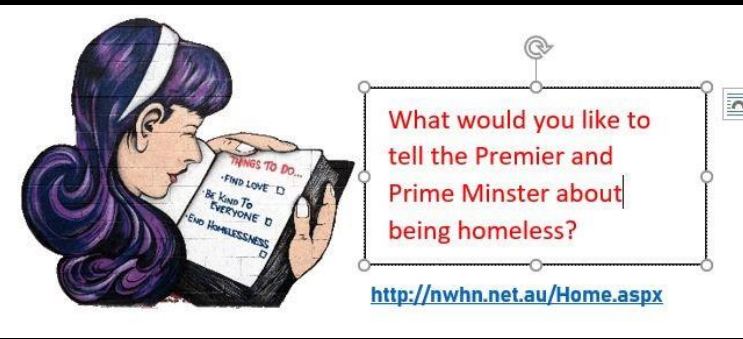
"The most difficult thing that has happened to me was not knowing where my children would go to sleep."

"Being scared of what people are going to do. Being vulnerable and afraid. "

"Being separated from husband and children. Friend I was living with placed restriction on when I can stay in the house. I had to leave in the morning and return at 6pm. During this time, I went to shops, library to keep busy. It was very stressful because I couldn't relax."

"Being assaulted. Being in fights. Using drugs. Losing my health. "

"I got sexually assaulted being homeless, then put in a hostel for men and women"



“Housing prices are out of control, has been for over a decade. Even basics in life (e.g. food, groceries, public transport, electricity/gas prices) are way more expensive than other 1st world countries. When found with a reduced income this makes like almost impossible to live as a normal person.”

“The worst situation you would experience except illness is not to have a shelter for you and your family. We need more organisations that can help these people in need.”

“It is ridiculous how the rental market is and we should have affordable housing. ”

“They need to get off their backsides and do something about it. Provide more housing. So many ministry houses seem vacant - system's not run well.”

“To have a real look at how bad the situation has become with homelessness.”

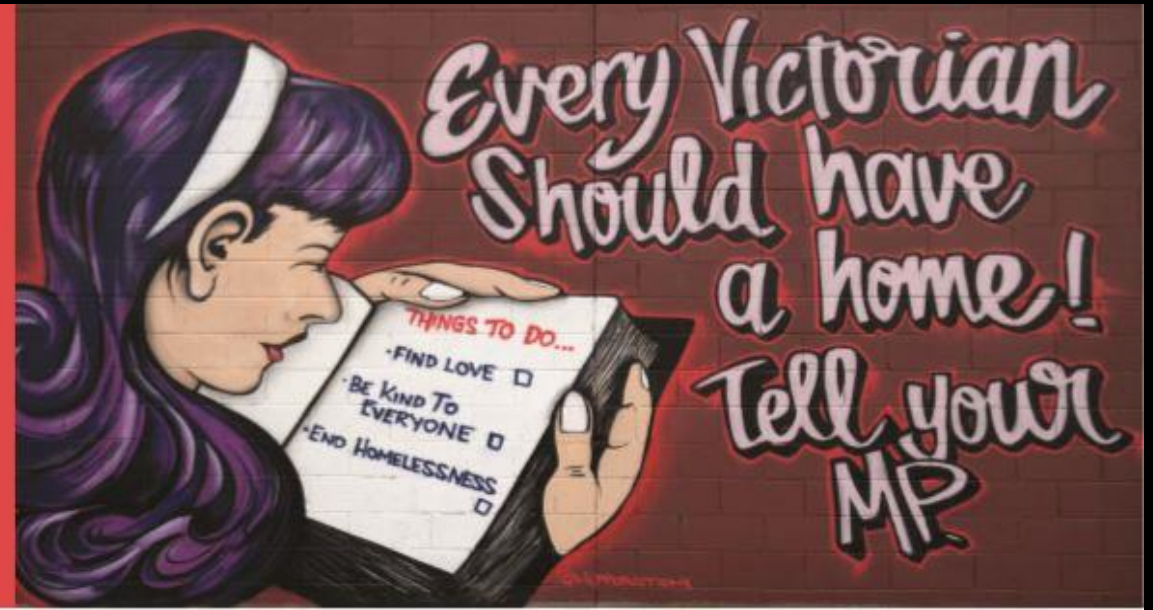
“Australia is a big country with not enough housing. Please provide more stable and affordable housing for people. This can include OoH, community housing or private rental. ”

“Need to look after the people - low income people. Living costs are expensive. We need houses. Look after the children/education/wellbeing. Need to be in touch with homelessness and give more support.”

“How would you like to be homeless for 5 years without your kids?”

The campaign

- A monumental boost to social and public housing
- Legislation that requires a portion of any new housing development to be allocated to those awaiting this housing
- Construction of innovative temporary accommodation that is safe and self contained.



The Housing Crisis in Melbourne



Melbourne is growing by almost 1.4M people a week

Melbourne is experiencing a housing crisis

We have a housing supply problem.
We have insufficient housing to accommodate our population.
We will need to build **1.6M more houses by 2051** to house our increased population.

We have a housing affordability problem.

Professional housing experts estimate that the average Melbourne household spends 30% of their income on housing costs.

- Melbourne is the most expensive city in the world to live in.
- In 2014, 1.6M households were unable to afford to buy a house in Melbourne.
- In the last five years, there has been a 40% increase in the number of people who are unable to afford to buy a house in Melbourne.



3 in 4 home owners experience mortgage stress

We have a housing affordability problem.



- The number of people who are unable to afford to buy a house in Melbourne has increased by 40% in the last five years.
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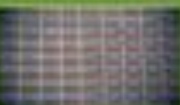


We have inadequate social housing supply.

There is a shortage of social housing in Melbourne. The current supply is insufficient to meet the demand for social housing.



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Impact of being without a stable home



Women experience:

- Depression and anxiety
- Substance use
- Homelessness
- Physical health problems
- Family breakdown
- Being unable to find housing
- Being unable to find housing
- Being unable to find housing

Men experience:

- Depression and anxiety
- Substance use
- Homelessness
- Physical health problems
- Family breakdown
- Being unable to find housing
- Being unable to find housing
- Being unable to find housing

Rough sleeping is the tip of the iceberg



- In 2014, almost 100,000 people were experiencing homelessness.
- The number of people sleeping on the streets are the tip of the iceberg in terms of the real numbers of people experiencing homelessness.

What will reduce homelessness in Melbourne?



Houses
Houses
Houses

Melbourne is experiencing a housing crisis
so more people are becoming homeless

Every Victorian Should Have a Home!



So what do we need?

If we do not address the bigger issues of housing supply and affordability in Melbourne, we will find that more and more people will be forced to sleep in cars and on our streets.

Already in the last five years there has been an increase of 40% in the numbers of people experiencing homelessness in Melbourne's West and an increase of 70% in people who are visibly homeless in the CBD.

We need:

- A monumental boost to social and public housing
- Legislation that requires a portion of any new housing development to be allocated to those awaiting this housing
- Construction of innovative temporary accommodations that is safe and self contained.

What can I/you do?

- Ring, email or write to your local member of parliament to tell them that every Victorian should have a home
- Talk to your friends, family and colleagues about the housing crisis in Victoria
- Sign the Everybody's Home online petition.
everybodyhome.com.au/petition



The Northern and Western Homelessness Networks are networks of 50 community service organizations managing 180 homelessness programs in Melbourne's north and west.

For more information contact Meredith Gorman Meredith.gorman@reachhousing.org.au or Sarah Langmore sarah@wombot.org.au



Homelessness Week



MELTON & MOORABOOL

Homeless on the rise in the west

AUGUST 5, 2019 12:00 PM

BY [ALESHA CAPONE](#)

COMMUNITY | HOMELESS



Homelessness workers say more people are sleeping rough in the west.

Northern and Western Homelessness Network





I AM
ART
EXHIBITION
Art created by people
who have experienced
homelessness

All artists receive 100% of the sales
from their art
7am-3pm
7 days a week
Apollo Cafe, West
Melbourne

In collaboration with:
HoMie
Artist: Claude



Homelessness
Week





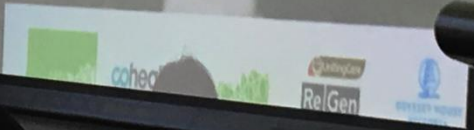
Shadow Federal Minister
for Homelessness



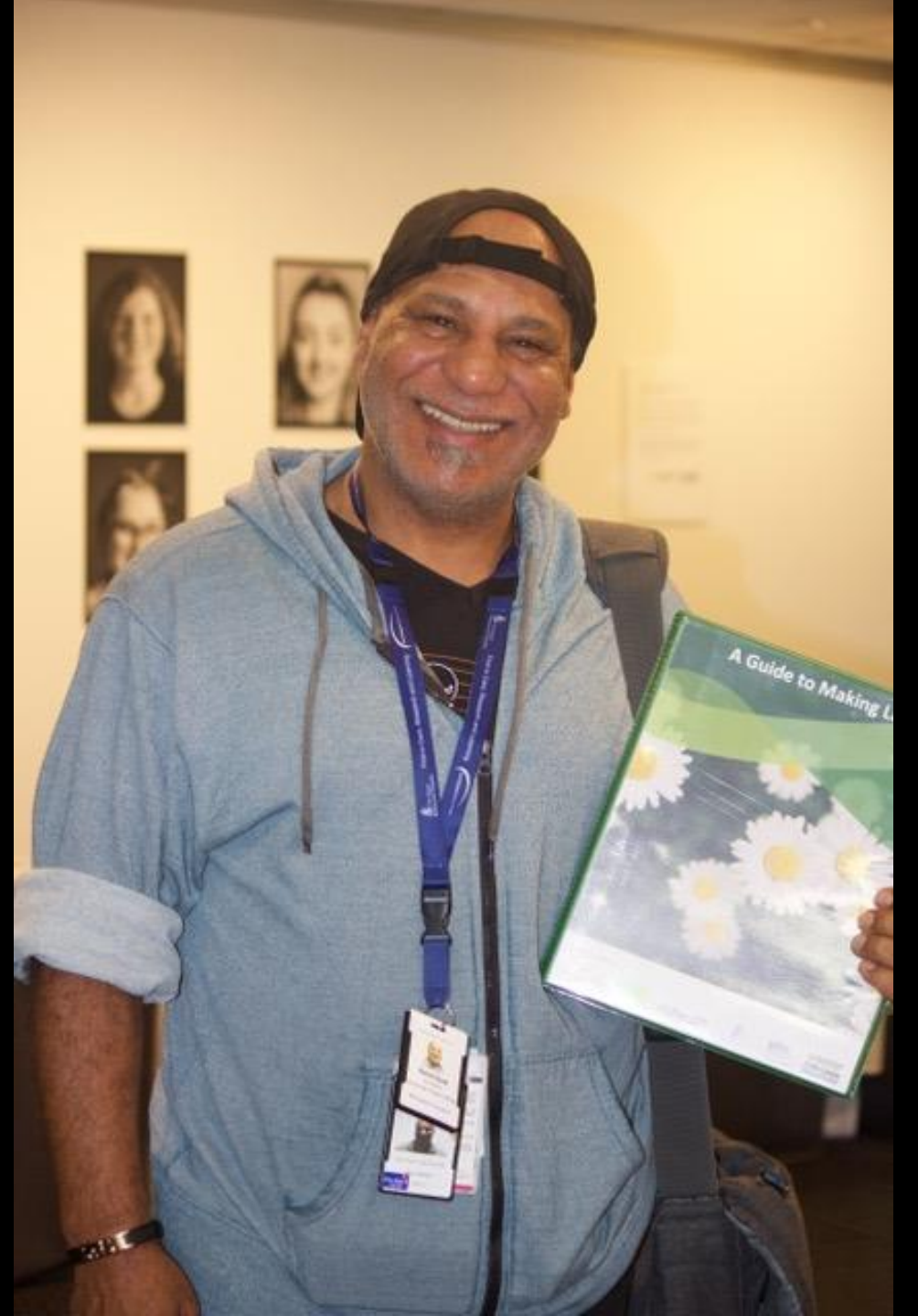


A Guide to Making Links

A coordinated project between AOD, Homelessness and Mental Health
Community Support Services in Melbourne's North and West



Making Links: AOD, Mental Health & Homelessness Partnership





Homelessness Roundtable



Long term solutions to homelessness in the West

Federal	State	Local
Build public housing		
<p>Re-establish NRAS</p> <p>Federal Government offers a 50% contribution to the cost of building public housing in the West. This includes the cost of land, construction and fit-out. The Government also provides a 50% contribution to the cost of building public housing in the West.</p>	<p>The Government's contribution to the cost of building public housing in the West is 50%.</p>	
Inclusionary zoning		
	<p>Require private developers to include a certain percentage of affordable housing in their developments.</p>	<p>Require private developers to include a certain percentage of affordable housing in their developments.</p>
Vacancy tax and vacancy management		
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<p>Wraparound services for consumers with complex needs</p> <p>Provide wraparound services for consumers with complex needs, including mental health services, substance use services, and other support services. These services are provided to consumers who are at risk of homelessness or are currently homeless.</p>	
<p>Prevention strategies: Housing guarantees for young people leaving care</p> <p>Provide housing guarantees for young people leaving care, including rental assistance, security of tenure, and other support services. These guarantees are provided to young people who are at risk of homelessness or are currently homeless.</p>	
<p>Prevention strategies: Mortgage and rental stress responses</p> <p>Provide mortgage and rental stress responses, including financial counseling, debt management, and other support services. These responses are provided to consumers who are at risk of homelessness or are currently homeless.</p>	



Matter of Public Importance: State Parliament

Myth: People choose to be homeless

Truth: Low income earners have been pushed out of the private rental market, and there's no social housing safety net to catch them. Homelessness is the result of a lack of affordable homes.

Discover #HomelessTruths
www.vhn.org.au



Myth: Only people living on the street are truly homeless

Truth: Couchsurfing, living in refuges and staying in rooming houses are all forms of homelessness. Homelessness is traumatic and destabilising no matter its form.

Discover #HomelessTruths
www.vhn.org.au



Homeless Truths

Campaign toolkit

#worldhomelessday
#HomelessTruths

Post Roundtable Working Group

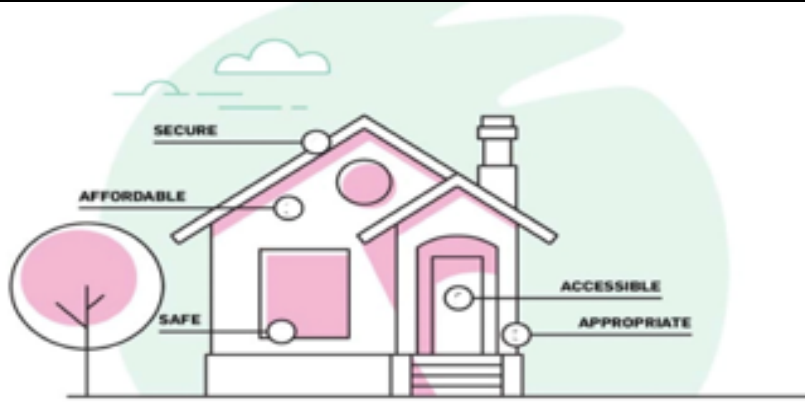
*Homelessness in Footscray:
Short-term Responses and
Inclusionary Zoning as a Long-term
Solution*



Ged Shearer

*Swinburne University of Technology, prepared for Victorian
Parliamentary Library on Behalf of Ms Katie Hall MP for
Footscray*





Western Homelessness Network submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Homelessness

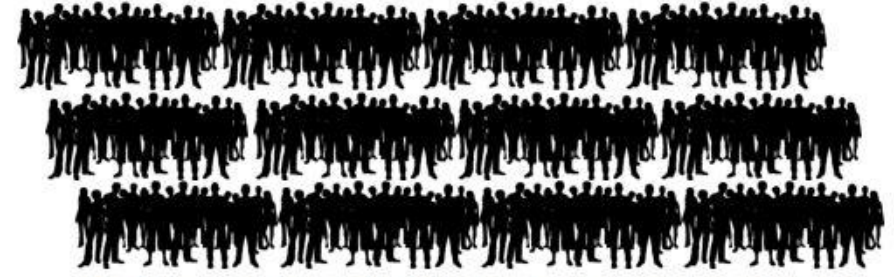
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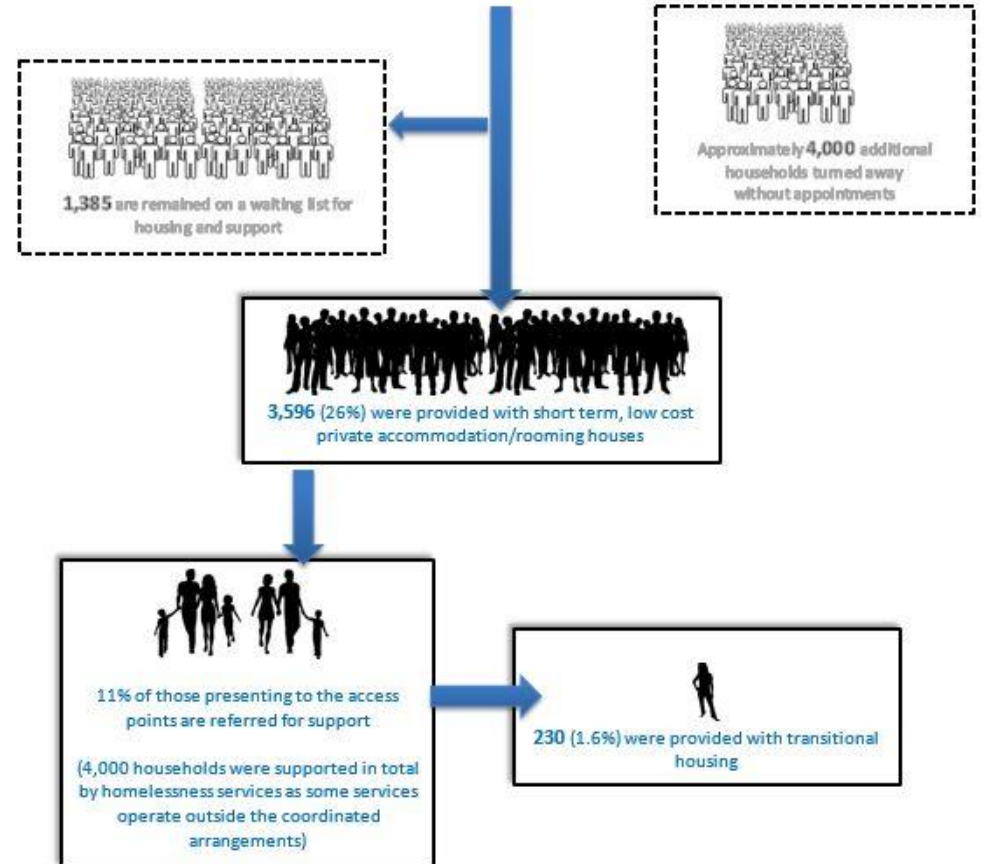
Prepared by the Western Homelessness Network
December 2019

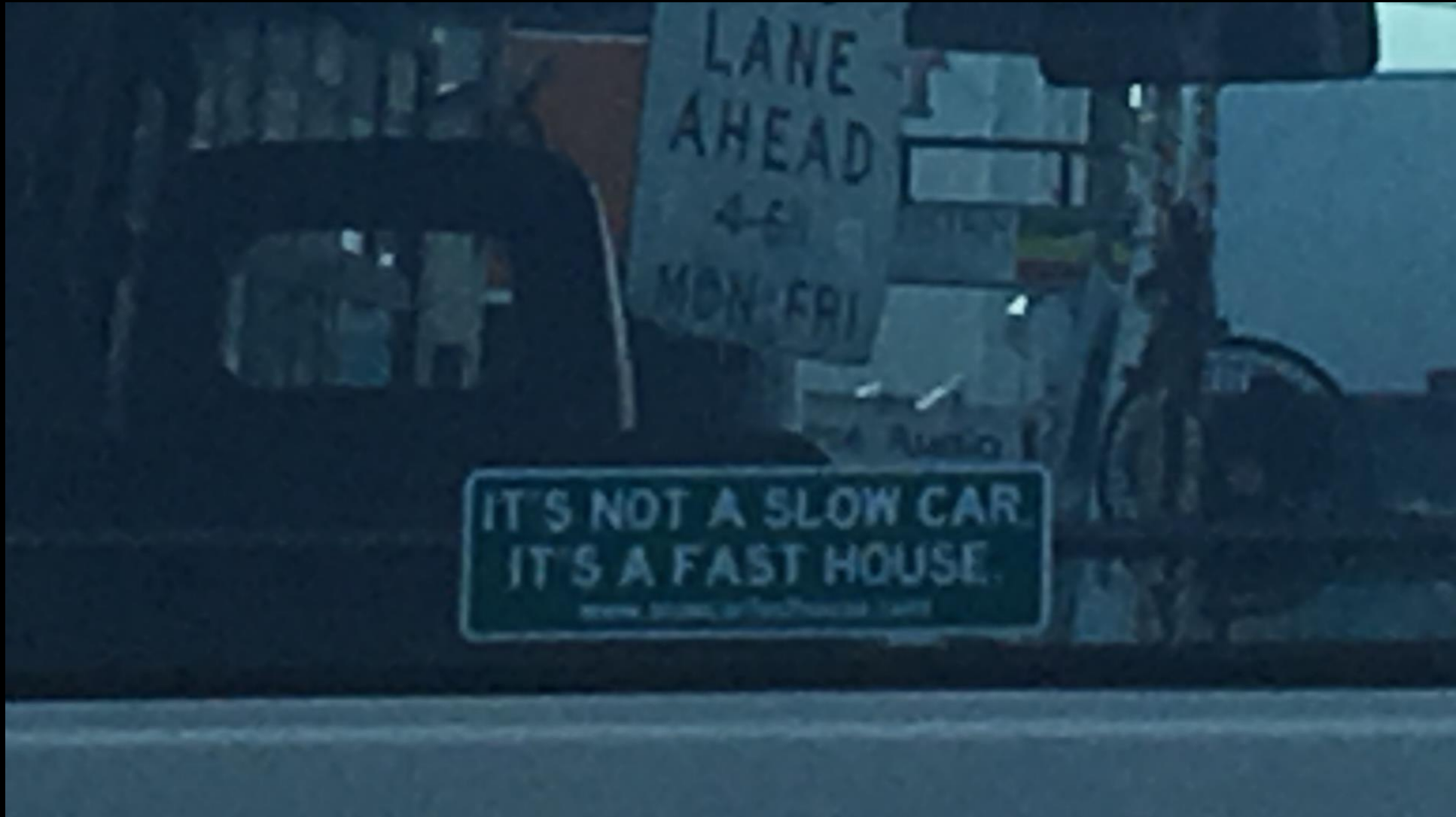
WHN

The system is overwhelmed



13,546 households presented to Western homelessness services in 2017/1818





A great year of work... but the work continues