



Update, February 2024

Homelessness in the West

Young people

- There is no accommodation in Melbourne affordable for a young person on Youth Allowance.
- Services report that 90% of the young people they are assisting are experiencing mental health issues.
- The number of 16/17 year olds is increasing. Child Protection is overloaded and isn't available to participate in care team meetings.

Single people

- Funding for emergency accommodation is prioritised for families and sometimes young people. There is almost no capacity to support single people who have nowhere to live.
- The longer people remain homeless, the more complex the issues that they are experiencing become. Consequently, services are seeing an increase in the numbers of people who are using substances and who are very vulnerable.
- Services have reported an increase in the number of people over 65 years of age, who are navigating private rental for the first time in their lives.

Families

- A higher number of families are presenting for assistance, who are unable to find affordable housing.
- Families are stuck in emergency accommodation for long periods of time.

General

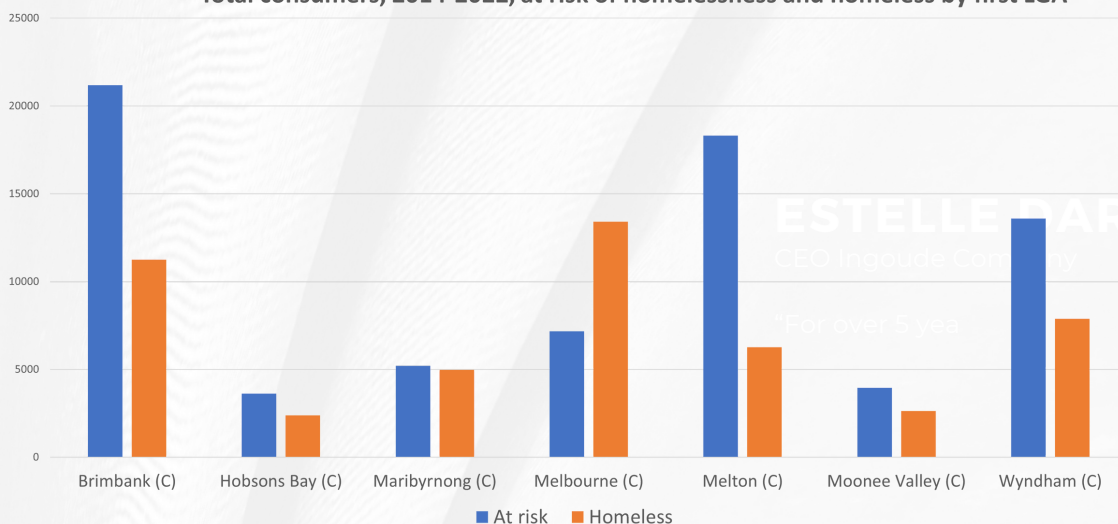
- The total number of individuals assisted has increased 23% in 8 years and 28% in five years.
- Increased numbers of people are presenting to the access point (front end) services. With no increased capacity, services are turning away more people than ever.
- More people are presenting for homelessness assistance as a result of financial difficulty and lack of affordable housing options. Previously family violence was the primary driver.
- Services have seen a change in demographics with more people presenting who are South Sudanese, Sudanese and Ethiopian than NZ residents. People of Indian birth are presenting for assistance in visible numbers for the first time.

AT A GLANCE

Many people are unable to access even an initial appointment for homelessness assistance:

- One access point (front end) service has to turn 800 people away a month.
- The number of people presenting who are homeless has increased 65% in four years.
- Nearly 40% of people are still homeless after seeking homelessness assistance.
- 90% of young people supported are experiencing mental ill health.
- The workforce is stressed and burnt out. Staff retention and recruitment is difficult.

Total consumers, 2014-2022, at risk of homelessness and homeless by first LGA

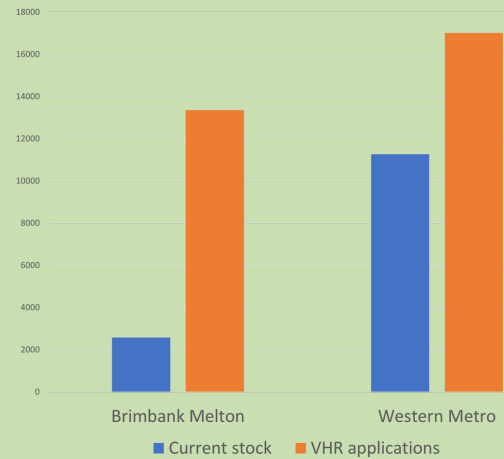


ESTELLE PARCY
CEO Ingham Community
"For over 5 years"

Housing issues in the West

- Anglicare reports that there is not a single rental property affordable for one or two parents with 1-2 children, in receipt of income security, in Melbourne.
- Allied service systems (family violence, health, settlement services) report that they are spending more and more of their time trying to help clients find housing, without success.
- People presenting for assistance report that landlords are selling properties, due to their own financial issues.
- Landlords are also pushing tenants out, in order to re-rent properties at a higher rate.
- Consumers report huge rental increases i.e. \$250 a week increase.
- There is a complete lack of emergency accommodation funding and options for single adults and young people.

Current social housing stock vs applications:
Melbourne's west



If all the social housing in Melbourne's west suddenly became available, we could fill it twice over with those on the wait list.

What can be done?

- **Negotiate with the Federal Government for the next National Housing and Homelessness Agreement (NHHA, due 1st July 2024) to be broad ranging in scope to address all the drivers of the housing crisis.**
- **Commit to social housing targets, particularly public housing. In the UK 20% of all housing is social housing. In Victoria it is 3.7%.**
- **Legislate for inclusionary zoning.**
- **Lobby the Federal Government to end negative gearing and capital gains tax.**
- **Fund innovative solutions for provision of temporary housing.**

