Parliamentary inquiry into homelessness in Victoria

Submission

January 2020

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The MAV is the statutory peak body for local government in Victoria. The MAV would like to acknowledge the contribution of those who provided their comments and advice during this project. The MAV contact officer for any questions about this submission is Jan Black, Policy Adviser. Email jblack@mav.asn.au

While this paper aims to broadly reflect the views of local government in Victoria, it does not purport to reflect the exact views of individual councils.

MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

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INTRODUCTION

The MAV welcomes the opportunity to make a submission on behalf of Victorian councils to the parliamentary inquiry into homelessness. This submission responds directly to the following terms of reference as described by the Legal and Social issues committee of the Victorian Legislative Council:

- provide an independent analysis of the changing scale and nature of homelessness across Victoria;

- investigate the many social, economic and policy factors that impact on homelessness; and

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

Homelessness has increasingly taken the attention of councils across Victoria in recent years. The issue, often characterised as people sleeping rough, is far more layered, nuanced and hidden than the enduring stereotype of the nameless man sleeping on our streets. Homelessness takes many forms and in certain parts of Melbourne impacts on women in far greater proportion than men, and can be expressed by couch surfing, sleeping in cars, public parks and accommodation of last resort such as caravan parks and illegal rooming houses.

For the past three years the MAV State Council has resolved to request the Victorian Government take a stronger role in developing the levers and mechanisms, including those available to councils, to address homelessness and housing. As such the MAV strongly believes this is an important conversation for Victoria, and a crucial public policy debate for all local councils in which to have a voice. This submission will explore the key drivers of homelessness, the populations effected and provide recommendations from a local council perspective.

While this submission focuses on the role of local government, the MAV will continue to work with other key stakeholders to develop partnerships that will lead to better outcomes for people who are homeless.

The role of local government in Victoria

The 79 Victorian local government authorities, also known as local councils, play an important role in supporting communities by delivering over one hundred services, caring for the environment and managing land and community infrastructure.

As the third level of government in Australia, established in Victoria under the the Local Government Act 1989, democratically elected councillors and employees manage assets while working in collaboration with the Victorian and Australian governments.

NATURE AND SCALE OF HOMELESSNESS IN VICTORIA

The following details the broad scale of homelessness across Victoria. These high-level statistics inform the council experience of this complex and growing issue:

The broad scale

- Nearly 25,000 Victorians are experiencing homelessness on any given night (ABS, 2016)
- The number of Victorians experiencing homelessness rose 43% in the 10 years to 2016 (ABS, 2016)
- 82,000 Victorians are waiting for social housing, including 25,000 children (Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into social housing, 2018)
- The number of people waiting for social housing is growing by 500 people each month (Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into social housing, 2018)
- 35% of homelessness clients indicate housing affordability is the reason for their homelessness (AIHW, 2018)
- 38% of homelessness clients indicate family violence is the reason for their homelessness (AIHW, 2018)
- Despite the stereotype of the older homeless man, more than 60% of people who seek help from homelessness services are women (AIHW, 2018)
- Victoria has the lowest proportion of social housing of any state or territory, with just 3.3% of all housing being social housing (Council to Homeless Persons, 2019)
- There are only 2 rental properties in Australia which would be affordable for someone on a Newstart income (Anglicare Rental Affordability Index, 2019)

Victorian councils and homelessness

Inner Melbourne

To augment broad data sets from the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare local councils have embarked on various ways to understand the issue at the local level. These include street counts, by name lists and partnerships with local providers which often give a personalised overview of this complex issue at the local level.

The local council experience of homelessness is varied. Rough sleeping is the most visible and present form of homelessness and often takes the attention of the general public and councillors alike. The high level of visibility can often result in emotive debate among local communities and prompt calls for action by councils. Many councils have opted to undertake a street count to provide a point in time snapshot of people sleeping rough and provide direction for policy and service delivery.

The City of Melbourne has undertaken a Street Count since 2008.

In 2018 **279 people** were counted (Appendix 1)

- 33% on the street
- 12% in parks
- 48% in other locations
- 77% men
- 21% women

Table 1. Street count numbers, City of Melbourne (2008-16)

Year	Male	Female	Unknown Gender	Total
2016	195	35	17	**247**
2014	102	20	20	142
2012	87	14	0	101
2011	81	13	11	105
2010	72	14	15	101
2009	51	13	11	75
2008	78	16	18	112

Source: City of Melbourne Pathways Homelessness Strategy 2014-17; City of Melbourne 2016.

In 2018 neighbouring councils to City of Melbourne felt the issue had grown to a substantial enough scale that warranted a combined Street Count to quantify the issue. The cities of Port Phillip, Stonnington, Yarra, Maribyrnong and Melbourne all jointly undertook a street count.

In 2018 **392 people** were counted (Appendix 2).
Where people were sleeping

- 35% on the street
- 13% in parks
- 48% in other locations
- 77% men
- 22% women

Limitations of Street Counts are the point in time nature of the data set and their strong focus on rough sleeping. As a result, Street Count's often skew towards men, as women often feel sleeping rough can be unsafe relative to other forms of homelessness, however the number of women sleeping rough has grown in recent years. When year on year comparisons are made, particularly with the City of Melbourne Street Count the number of women presenting on Melbourne's streets has gone from 14% in 2008 to 21% in 2018.

Figure 1: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Specialist homelessness data 2017 – 18, people using homelessness services in the eastern and southern local area service network.

The above charts highlight the gendered nature of homelessness experienced in the more suburban parts of Melbourne. The data was prepared by the Council to Homeless Persons for a forum held for the fourteen Eastern Melbourne councils in November 2019. The forum was a response to increasing numbers of people experiencing homelessness in Melbourne's east.

The coastal experience

The experience in more coastal parts of Victoria is quite different to that of more urban parts of the state. Mornington Peninsula Shire in their submission to this parliamentary inquiry recently noted:

> *'Small traditional caravan parks on the Mornington Peninsula are home to a roughly estimated 1,000 people. There is a significant risk that the trend of the past decades for the closure of such parks will catapult residents into homelessness and stretch, already overstretched homelessness services.*
>
> *Mornington Peninsula was the sixth worst Victorian municipality (4.2% of the Victorian total) after Melbourne, Port Phillip, Yarra, Frankston and Geelong for persons who were sleeping rough (i.e. living in improvised dwellings, tents, or sleeping out) according to the ABS 2016 census. This was despite having one of the lower levels of total homelessness for the southern region*
>
> *For the Mornington Peninsula, 298 people were estimated as homeless with 48 of these in "improvised dwellings, tents or sleeping out" (i.e. rough sleeping).*
>
> *Western Port Community Support reports that their new Program has case managed 143 clients who were either homeless or at risk of homelessness. They were mainly female (58%) and mainly under 55 years of age (77%). Fifty-nine of the 143 presented as homeless and either sleeping rough in cars, on the foreshore or in bushland (19) or intermittently living in rooming houses or couch surfing (40)*
>
> *Outreach to people who are sleeping rough is difficult on the Mornington Peninsula because of the sheer size of the municipality, 723 square kilometres, with about 10% of Victoria's coastline) and a tendency for people who are sleeping rough to resort to various coastal and bushland reserves.'*

The unique factors depicted through the above analysis of rough sleeping in a coastal setting is expressly different to that of the inner urban experience. The Mornington Peninsula Shire state that there are also significant service and funding gaps which make it challenging to support the increasing numbers of people presenting to services. The MAV would ask the committee to note these factors and calibrate their recommendations accordingly, particularly noting the geographical issues mentioned.

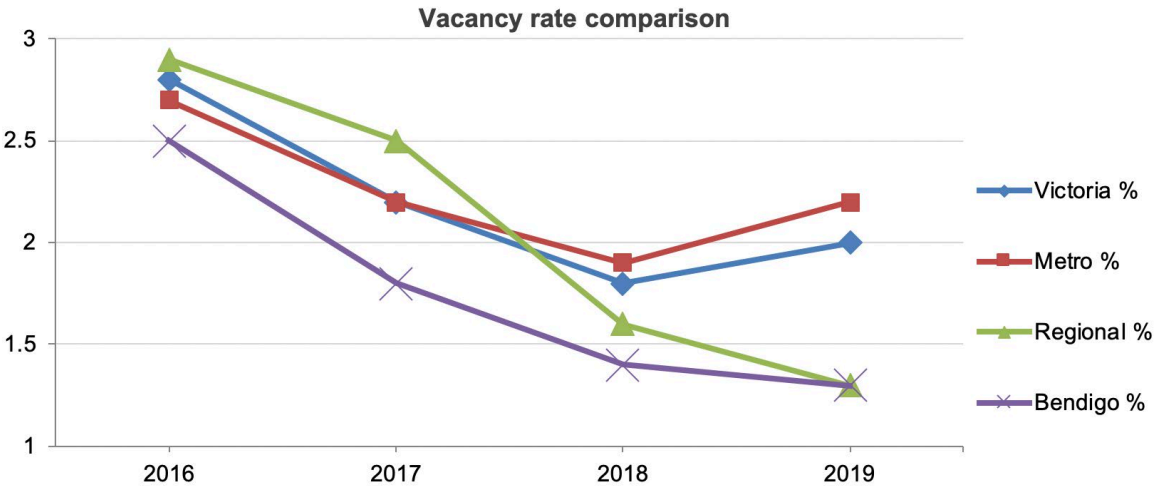
Regional Victoria

Homelessness in regional Victoria is similar in its presentation to the experience in coastal councils. Vulnerable populations can be found in caravan parks and temporary forms of accommodation, all of which is against the backdrop of an increasing lack of social housing. Rental affordability, and the overall availability of rental properties is also in decline leaving many people with limited housing options. The City of Greater Shepparton reports:

> *The evidence of housing need is alarming, with Greater Shepparton estimated to have a rate of 5.56 homeless persons per 1,000 people, the highest in regional Victoria, with 1041 households on the waiting list for social housing. Rental affordability has fallen by 10% between 2008 and 2018, and 27% of low-income households are experiencing housing stress.*

Regional Victoria is experiencing declining vacancy rates in rental properties when compared to other parts of Victoria. Tight rental markets place even further pressure on lower income households by adding to the existing challenges for renters. Such housing vulnerability and lack of secure tenure is often the first step on the pathway into homelessness.

Figure 2: Annual vacancy rate



In recently years there has been a sharp increase in people presenting to homelessness services in regional Victoria. The City of Greater Bendigo report:

> *In 2006 the ABS Census estimated 257 people were experiencing homelessness in Greater Bendigo and in 2016 this estimate increased to 295 people. However, due to the difficulty in counting homeless individuals as part of the Census, this is*

likely to significantly undercount the numbers of homeless individuals. The number of people accessing government funded specialist homelessness services has also increased. In Greater Bendigo there was a 34 per cent increase from 2015 (1,969) to 2018 (2,646).

The MAV asks the Legal and Social Issues Committee to note the rising numbers of people accessing specialist homelessness services in regional Victoria, as evidenced by the experience in City of Greater Bendigo and consider options for the Victorian government addressing this increasing need.

Melbourne's North and West

The experience in Melbourne's north and west is similar to the experience in other parts of Victoria. There is growing demand for housing and in some parts a notable increase in demand for emergency accommodation.

Northern and Western Homelessness Networks have identified increasing demands for emergency accommodation as a result of increasing rates of homelessness, which is linked to Melbourne's housing crisis, particularly to the lack of affordable housing (NWHN 2018).

As at September 2018, there were 4,251 'priority access' social housing applicants on the Victorian Housing Register in Melbourne's west (Victorian Government, 2019).

Since the mid 2000's City of Darebin, in Melbourne's north, has played an active role in addressing family violence. Darebin was one of the first councils to identify the leadership role local government can play in addressing family violence, both through its many settings for which it has management responsibilities and the capacity for advocacy by its elected councillors. Darebin council through their work has noted that women over 55 years are now the fastest-growing cohort of homeless people in Australia and that experiencing family violence is the single most common reason women seek the support of the homelessness service system.

The City of Darebin also advise that women experience economic inequality as a result of wage, wealth and retirement income gaps - increasing their risk of vulnerability to housing stress, insecurity and homelessness. Women who are older and living alone will be significantly more disadvantaged than men their age, less able to maintain homeownership and less able to compete in the private rental market for affordable accommodation. The range of challenges and complex issues increase the need for emergency accommodation arising from crisis situations and there is a paucity of service options in this sector.

The MAV would ask the committee to consider the varied experience of councils across Victoria and specifically note the gendered nature of homelessness and particularly the growing cohort of older Victorian women.

SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLICY FACTORS

There are a range of contributing factors influencing why people experience homelessness. The *Specialist homelessness Services in 2017-18 Victoria Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report* states that:

> *One in 54 people in Victoria (Vic) received homelessness assistance, higher than the national rate (1 in 85). The top 3 reasons for clients seeking assistance were:*
>
> 1. *domestic and family violence (47%, compared with 39% nationally)*
> 2. *financial difficulties (40%, compared with 39% nationally)*
> 3. *housing crisis (37%, compared with 39% nationally).*
>
> *On average, 90 requests for assistance went unmet each day.*

These data sets are confirmed by the experience of Victorian councils in their submissions to this inquiry. Many councils report their interactions with local service providers that the three largest contributors to homelessness are family violence, the lack of access to affordable housing and financial hardship.

Family Violence

Family violence is the number one cause of women experiencing homelessness in Australia. Our Watch, established in July 2013 through the *National plan to reduce violence against women and their children 2019 2022* states:

> *'Domestic or family violence against women is the single largest driver of homelessness for women'.*

The MAV submission to the Royal Commission into Family Violence in 2015 provided a detailed overview of the link between family violence and homelessness:

> *We know that a lack of accessible and affordable housing deters victims from leaving violent relationships, pushes victims into homelessness, and can make perpetrators more isolated and increase the risk of repeated or escalated violence.*

There is a need for a long-term affordable housing strategy that addresses the nexus between family violence and homelessness, including options for women and children to live safely, where possible in their own homes, and affordable housing pathways for perpetrators to ensure they remain engaged with relevant services to help prevent the risk of further violence.

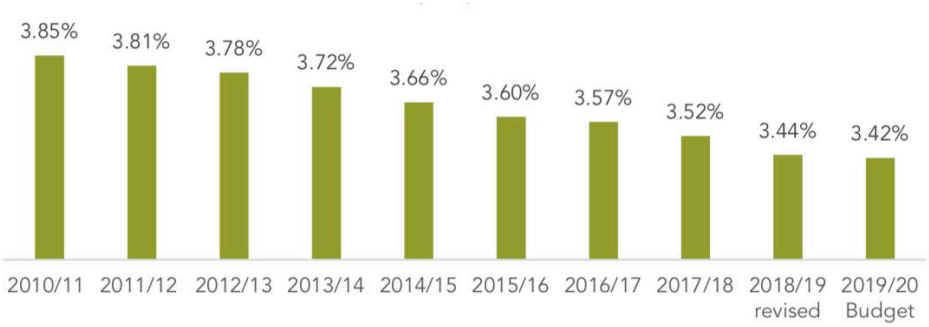
The MAV commends the Victorian Government for implementing the Family Violence Housing Blitz as part of the recommendations emanating from the Royal Commission and urge that the link between family violence, housing and homelessness continues to be addressed through future policy initiatives.

Housing investment

In a report prepared for the Eastern Metropolitan Region councils the Council to Homeless Persons note the importance of increased investment in social housing by the Victorian Government. The report states:

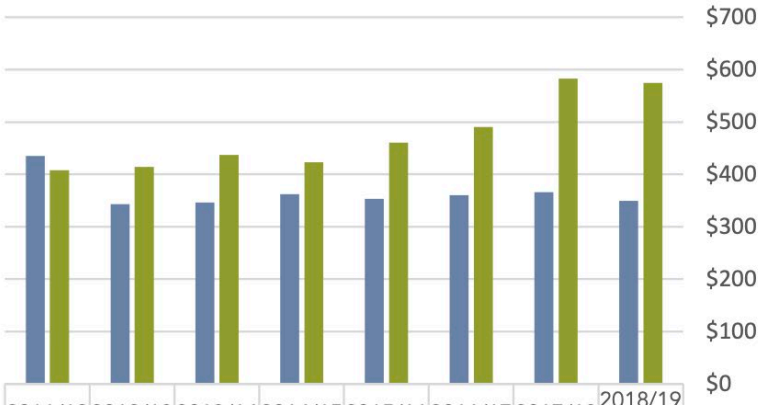
Despite the critical importance of social housing for prevention of homelessness for low income households, it has become progressively more difficult to get into social housing, because the proportion of all Victorian housing that is social housing has been reducing as Victorian investment in new social housing has not kept pace with population growth. There are now 44,152 Victorian households on the wait list for social housing, including 17,717 households in the South and East of Melbourne'

Figure 3: Social Housing as a proportion of all dwellings



The Victorian Government receives funding for social housing and homelessness services via the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement. The chart below details the Victorian and Commonwealth funding via this agreement since 2011/12. It should be noted that while Victorian funding has been increasing the Commonwealth contribution has been decreasing.

Figure 4: State Government spending on social housing and homelessness (millions)



	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19 budget
State Government spending on social housing and homelessness	407.4	414.2	436.6	422.7	460.4	489.9	583.0	574.8
Commonwealth housing and homelessness grants to Victoria	434.7	342.8	346.2	362.2	352.9	360.0	366.0	349.0

The MAV concurs with the contention put by many councils and the Council to Homeless Persons that there is an 'urgent need' for both the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments to deliver more social housing as a homelessness prevention measure.

Lack of safe last resort accommodation

In 2017 the *Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute* at University of Melbourne released a report calling for government investment in last resort housing. The authors note that there has been:

> *'a reduction in the supply of "last resort housing". Last resort housing refers to legal rooming and boarding houses, and emergency accommodation'.*

The report:

> *'calls on governments to build more new, permanent last resort housing to help the homeless, because the benefits outweigh the costs. Existing last resort housing should be protected and maintained. These are issues for local, state and federal governments.'*

The MAV supports this contention given the experience of Mornington Peninsula Shire and the City of Greater Bendigo and their concerns that the closure of caravan parks can result in people sleeping rough given the low-cost housing caravan parks can provide. Councils in Melbourne's north and west have also raised concerns regarding the lack of emergency and last resort accommodation.

POLICIES AND PRACTICES

Housing

Significant investments have been made by some councils in providing land and buildings to address the short fall of housing for homelessness.

The Victorian Government has also provided guidance to local councils regarding how to enact voluntary 'Section 173' agreements for inclusion of affordable housing with developers (DEWLP, 2018). However, there is considerable difficulty in negotiating an affordable housing contribution, requiring resources from council, developers, and often from community housing organisations, with no guarantee that there will actually be an increase in the affordable housing stock. The efforts of councils and community housing organisations could be better spent assisting DELWP to develop a robust, transparent, and consistent mechanism and process to apply, rather than negotiating for each individual development as it arises.

At present, 17 councils are participating in projects funded via the *Social Housing Investment Planning* grants program. The MAV commends the Victoria government for such strong investment in collaborative planning with local councils. Some councils have gone so far as to identify housing targets at the local or regional level. For example, a stimulus paper has been prepared by Professor Carolyn Whitzman PhD *'Housing targets for regions: how feasible is this for Melbourne's South and East'*. The paper, commissioned by City of Monash, highlights the collective efforts emerging across multiple local governments to address the interlinked issues of lack of housing and homelessness.

Children and young people

One of the key service platforms for local councils are services provided for infants, children and young people. Through its Maternal and Child Health Service, Victorian councils see nearly every infant born across the state. Collectively councils have rich data on key ages and stages of a child's life until they are four years old. A majority of children then transition into a council coordinated kindergarten program prior to commencing school. Council also provides youth services, which are primarily funded by councils and often works with vulnerable young people from 12 – 25 years of age. The combined reach of these universal and targeted services provides a strong platform for collaboration with the Victorian Government to leverage engagement at critical points of a person's life to prevent homelessness.

Best practice from councils

Local government is increasingly turning its attention to the issue of homelessness. A growing number of councils have invested significant resourcing into addressing homelessness in direct and indirect ways. Service responses range from direct funding to local homelessness providers, providing land on which to develop housing, data collection to understand the scale of the issue and strategic advocacy campaigns all the way through to enforcement and compliance-based interventions.

The approach is varied across Melbourne. In coastal and regional areas, councils have strong partnerships with local providers to ensure local people experiencing homelessness can access outreach services, accommodation and emergency relief. Local councils are also active members of formal regional homelessness networks across Melbourne.

For the past 20 years the City of Melbourne has had a strategy to address homelessness and a Street Count to provide a series of data sets to track the issue over time. The City of Port Phillip and City of Yarra for some time have also had a range of protocols, projects and agreements with service providers to address homelessness and rough sleeping in the main across their respective municipalities.

The following examples provide an insight into the range of, and often reactive approaches, undertaken by Victorian councils to address homelessness.

Land

Port Phillip Balaclava Community Housing

The project is for a 31 unit community rooming house, considered a 'flagship' demonstration project for the City of Port Phillip and the Office of Housing. Council owned the site which functioned as car parking supporting the adjacent retail strip. The goal for the clients is to enable the location of a rooming house facility for long-term residents of the City of Port Phillip.

http://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/MGS_Woodstock_Display_2008.pdf

Leadership

Monash regional response to homelessness forum

In November 2019 fourteen eastern region councils, led by City of Monash, met to form a regional response to homelessness. Solutions put forward ranged from leveraging land for housing,

leveraging regulative powers as well as leveraging collective effort. Link to proceedings from the forum involving 14 councils:
Forum proceedings

Innovation

City of Melbourne and Council to Homeless Persons Connect respect
The Connect Respect program was developed to address an increase in reported concerns by local businesses about the growing impact of rough sleeping and street begging on their operations, and the safety of their staff and customers. The program provides training to businesses on how to connect with people experiencing homelessness so that they have the confidence and knowledge to respond in an inclusive and respective way.

https://magazine.melbourne.vic.gov.au/connect-respect

Darebin Community Shower Access Program
The City of Darebin has recently released its shower access policy, giving those experiencing homelessness entry to recreation facilities. This program provides access for people experiencing homelessness and rough sleeping to the Reservoir Leisure Centre and Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre.

Advocacy

Everybody's Home Campaign
Several local governments including the City or Moreland, Melton and Port Phillip have partnered with the national Everybody's Home campaign to advocate to the state and federal government around the need to invest in social housing. The Council of Capital City Lord Mayors have also partnered with Everybody's Home in a series of high profile public events, including in this message to supporters from Federal Parliament.

https://everybodyshome.com.au

Protocols

Many councils have developed protocols to provide advice and direction for council and council staff to respond to people who are homeless and ensure that council services are inclusive.
City of Yarra: How to respond to rough sleeping and squatting in Yarra protocol
City of Port Phillip: Protocol for assisting people who sleep rough
City of Boroondara: Homelessness Protocol

RECOMMENDATIONS

This submission highlights the growing number of councils grappling with this complex issue and that ultimately, the patchwork of interventions being delivered comes at a significant, often unbudgeted cost. Taking a reactive approach is not sustainable. It brings into sharp relief the need for a more timely and coordinated approach across all levels of government to address this complex social issue.

The MAV would welcome the opportunity to work more strategically with the Victorian Government to advocate to the Commonwealth Government to establish a whole of government taskforce on homelessness. The taskforce would focus on ensuring adequate funding is available for service delivery across all levels of government and that the three largest contributors to homelessness are prioritised for discussion, namely; family violence, the lack of access to affordable housing and financial hardship.

The following recommendations represent the issues highlighted in this submission and summarise the sentiment of councils across Victoria regarding the priority issues to be addressed by the Victorian Government**.** The MAV calls on the Victorian Government to put resources towards working in partnership with the MAV to address the following recommendations in a coordinated way.

Recommendation 1: Identify land to increase social housing

The MAV commends the Victorian Government for the *Homes for Victorians Strategy* and their investment in the Social Housing Growth fund. The MAV would welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively with the Victorian government to increase its investment in social housing through local municipal based partnerships.

Recommendation 2: Better mechanisms for affordable housing

As discussed in this submission, there is considerable difficulty in negotiating an affordable housing contribution, requiring resources from council, developers, and often from community housing organisations. The MAV would welcome the opportunity to work with the relevant departments of the Victorian Government to develop the appropriate mechanisms to ensure that Section 173 agreements are understood, activated and upheld.

Recommendation 3: Investment in services

The MAV suggests that the Victorian Government put resources towards the establishment of a ‘by name’ list across Melbourne. This would provide a single point of information regarding people sleeping rough, in order to match them with services, avoid duplication of effort and right size investment in outreach and support. Investment in specialist homelessness services is particularly

required in coastal and regional Victoria given the increase in people presenting to existing services noted in this submission.

Recommendation 4: Investment in family violence prevention

The MAV urges that the link between family violence, housing and homelessness is continued to be addressed by the Victorian Government through the implementation of the recommendations from the Royal Commission and future policy initiatives. The MAV asks the committee to note the growing number of women over 55 years of age experiencing homelessness.

Recommendation 5: Building resilience and bolster protective factors

Local government has a rich platform of services. Maternal and Child Health nurses across the state have a deep connection with families as a result of seeing every infant born in Victoria. This universal service provides a strong platform of engagement and a building block for strengthening protective factors for families. Equally local governments' youth services platform is an additional avenue to strengthen protective factors for young people aged 12 – 25 years of age. The MAV would encourage the Victorian Government to consider undertaking a joint piece of work to better understand the opportunities for homelessness prevention emanating from these unique council services.

Recommendation 6: Good Practice Guide for local government

Document good and promising practice for local government to capture successful models of addressing homelessness and showcase their outcomes.

STREETCOUNT 2018:
A SNAPSHOT OF PEOPLE LIVING ROUGH

Municipality of Melbourne

StreetCount 2018 aims to continue to develop an understanding of rough sleeping in Melbourne. This was the eighth count of people sleeping rough in the City of Melbourne since 2008. Thank you to the many volunteers and partner organisations who assisted in StreetCount 2018.

STREETCOUNT 2018

When
2018
TUESDAY 19 JUNE 2018

Time
CONDUCTED BETWEEN 3AM – 3PM

Where
100% OF THE MUNICIPALITY

Areas
131
ACROSS THE MUNICIPALITY

Volunteers
180
VOLUNTEERS ASSISTED WITH THE COUNT

Total count
279
PEOPLE SLEEPING ROUGH

DEMOGRAPHICS

Age[4]
58% AGED 26-40
27% AGED 41-60

Gender[5]
79% MALE
21% FEMALE

29% PRESENTED AS SINGLE[6]

Country of birth[7]
77% WERE AUSTRALIAN BORN

Identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander[8]
9%

LOCATION

Where people were sleeping[1]

on the street	in parks	in other locations
33%	12%	48%

Length of time in current location[2]

34% UNDER 1 MONTH — had stayed in their current location for under one month

18% OVER 1 YEAR — had stayed in their current location for over one year

Number of places stayed in last month[3]

had stayed in the one place in the last month	had stayed in seven places or more in the last month
32%	14%

Length of time moving around[3]
14% transient for more than five years

USE OF SERVICES

Planned service usage[7]
65% planned to use a service later in the day

Public housing[9]
34% were on the public housing waiting list

Smartphone usage[9]
56% said they used a smartphone

KEY COMPARISONS BETWEEN 2018 AND 2016 STREETCOUNT DATA

15% Decline in rough sleepers between 2016 and 2018 in the same StreetCount area.^

247 Total number of rough sleepers counted in 2016 in the City of Melbourne

210 Number of rough sleepers counted in 2018 in the City of Melbourne in the same area^ as the previous StreetCount.

Inner Melbourne Action Plan
Making Melbourne More Liveable

Appendix 2

STREETCOUNT 2018:
A SNAPSHOT OF PEOPLE LIVING ROUGH

Five Inner Melbourne Municipalities

StreetCount 2018 aims to continue to develop an understanding of rough sleeping in Melbourne. This was the first joint count of people sleeping rough in the Cities of Melbourne, Maribyrnong, Yarra, Stonnington and Port Phillip. Thank you to the many volunteers and partner organisations who assisted in StreetCount 2018.

STREETCOUNT 2018

When
2018
TUESDAY 19 JUNE 2018

Time
CONDUCTED BETWEEN 3AM – 3PM

Where
APPROX. 70% OF THE FIVE MUNICIPALITIES

Areas
176
ACROSS ALL FIVE MUNICIPALITIES

Volunteers
400
VOLUNTEERS ASSISTED WITH THE COUNT

Total count
392
PEOPLE SLEEPING ROUGH

DEMOGRAPHICS

Age[5]
54% AGED 26-40
34% AGED 41-60

Gender[6]
78% MALE
22% FEMALE

31% PRESENTED AS SINGLE[7]

Country of birth[8]
79% WERE AUSTRALIAN BORN

Identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander[9]
14%

LOCATION

Where people were sleeping[1]
35% on the street
13% in parks
48% in other locations

Length of time in current location[2]
42% UNDER 1 MONTH had stayed in their current location for under one month
15% OVER 1 YEAR had stayed in their current location for over one year

Number of places stayed in last month[3]
31% had stayed in the one place in the last month
22% had stayed in seven places or more in the last month

Length of time moving around[4]
14% transient for more than five years

USE OF SERVICES

Planned service usage[10]
68% planned to use a service later in the day

Public housing[11]
42% were on the public housing waiting list

Smartphone usage[11]
49% said they used a smartphone

Inner Melbourne Action Plan
Making Melbourne More Liveable

CITY OF MELBOURNE · CITY OF PORT PHILLIP · City of STONNINGTON · CITY OF YARRA · Maribyrnong CITY COUNCIL · VICTORIA State Government