



Media release

Wednesday 27 April 2016

## Budget will make a real difference to people in housing crisis and experiencing homelessness

CHP applauds the significant investment in today's budget for housing and homelessness, particularly the focus on rapidly rehousing women and children experiencing family and domestic violence and the increased acquisition of new stock for social housing.

Also welcome is new capacity in crisis accommodation for young people and vulnerable adults, the continued investment in the Kangan Youth Foyer, and upgrades of rooming houses.

"These are important investments that will make a tangible difference to many people who are experiencing homelessness, or in housing crisis," says Jenny Smith, CEO Council to Homeless Persons.

Particularly welcome is the investment in 130 new social housing properties, an important step in an anticipated longer-term strategy to increase the supply of affordable housing.

CHP also welcomes the [Treasurer's commitment](#) yesterday to a 'very substantial housing affordability package' later in 2016 to address the current housing crisis, which is particularly acute for low-income renters.

With Victoria experiencing strong population growth alongside economic challenges like the decline in manufacturing, more households, not less, will inevitably experience housing crisis and risk of homelessness.

Already over 22,000 people are homeless on any given night; more than half of whom are young people under 25.

We look forward to continuing to work with Government to address these challenges, and end homelessness in Victoria.

[Ends] **Media enquiries:** contact Kate Colvin on 0418 103 292 or [kate@chp.org.au](mailto:kate@chp.org.au)  
Jenny Smith, CEO Council to Homeless Persons is available for interview

Also available to interview:

### **1. Single mother and child waiting for public housing ... struggled in private rental**

Alana\* (43) and her daughter (14) are currently living in transitional housing and are waiting for permanent public housing. Childhood abuse, relationship breakdown, and the consequent development of multiple mental illnesses and a severe back injury have left Alana unable to work. Formerly a married homeowner, Alana was forced to sell her home and return to private rental. As a single mother on a limited income she found it near impossible to secure an affordable place for her and her daughter, and ended up couch-surfing, staying in crisis accommodation, and staying in

a house that was about to be demolished. Alana tells of filing 48 rental applications - all of which were rejected. Finally, Alana secured a rental property with a friend on the lease agreement that she was able to afford because she sublet an extra room. This was unsustainable and led to a mental breakdown and later hospitalisation. In the time that Alana was in hospital, she and her daughter were evicted from their home.

### **2. Single woman living in public housing ... survived domestic violence**

Sara\* (55) fled and survived two violent relationships and now lives in public housing. Sara was formerly a private renter with a stable job and income, but the abuse suffered - teamed with a disability - made it impossible for her to sustain private rental.

### **3. Single male living in public housing ... endures mental illness**

Jason (40s) is currently living in public housing. He battled mental illness and drug addiction for more than a decade. Jason has navigated rooming houses, emergency shelters, and has slept rough in various squats and corners of Melbourne. Now Jason volunteers at St Mary's House of Welcome in the CBD (a meals service that helped him greatly) and is studying to be a child psychologist. Jason hopes to be a drug and alcohol counsellor for young people.