



Homelessness Week
2017
Action and Innovation

Media release

Rental affordability plummets in ‘cheap’ areas triggering call for 100k new social housing units

Media enquiries: Lanie Harris, Council to Homeless Persons, 0418 552 377 or lanie@chp.org.au

Local homelessness services are getting behind a soon-to-be launched ‘100K Homes’ campaign calling for 100,000 new social housing properties over five years in light of new rental data showing that low-income households are being pushed out of traditionally affordable areas of Melbourne.

In the lead-up to Homelessness Week, and the kick-off of the ‘100K Homes’ campaign, the Council to Homeless is releasing data that reveals once-affordable areas of Melbourne for low-income renters have experienced the greatest declines in affordability over the last 10 years.

CHP has produced a league table of the top 15 worst municipalities for plummeting affordability.

Local homelessness services will use the data during Homelessness Week to highlight how the housing crisis is driving more people to the brink of homelessness, and to call for more public and community (social) housing to provide relief from skyrocketing rents.

“It’s a grim situation for low income earners, who find that there is nowhere to escape high rents, and that the social housing safety net is inadequate. Moving further out is no longer the silver bullet to reducing rent stress,” said Kate Colvin, Policy and Communications Manager, Council to Homeless Persons.

“Our housing system is failing the most vulnerable, and the result is rising homelessness. Victoria’s public housing levels are the lowest in history, and 35,000 people are waiting for social housing.”

CHP says that the State Government’s Homes for Victorians plan will deliver 6,000 new social housing properties over five years, but that given the scale of the problem, Federal action to boost social housing is needed. “Otherwise the State is just fighting a battle with one hand behind its back.”

“Providing housing that people can afford is the single most important way to reduce homelessness. We want to see 100,000 homes dedicated to low income earners delivered over five years nationally, 30,000 of which would be allocated to Victoria,” said Ms Colvin.

The ‘100K Homes’ campaign is now live. Visit www.endthehousingcrisis.org.au to sign the petition calling for 100,000 new social housing properties over five years

Table: Top 15 LGAs where rental affordability has declined the most

Ranking	Local Government Area	What % rentals were affordable in March 2007?	What % rentals were affordable in March 2017?
1.	Greater Dandenong	70%	9%

2.	Casey	70%	13%
3.	Frankston	66%	10%
4.	Brimbank	73%	19%
5.	Hume	68%	14%
6.	Cardinia	74%	30%
7.	Yarra Ranges	46%	7%
8.	Wyndham	70%	32%
9.	Whittlesea	52%	16%
10.	Melton	74%	40%
11.	Hobsons Bay	34%	3%
12.	Maroondah	33%	2%
13.	Knox	31%	3%
14.	Maribyrnong	27%	3%
15.	Kingston	19%	1%

About Homelessness Week (7-13 August)

Homelessness Week is an annual, nation-wide campaign to highlight the work of the homelessness sector and recognise barriers to ending homelessness across Australia.

It is an opportunity to raise awareness about why people become homeless, the effect on individuals and the community as a whole. The 2017 Homelessness Week theme is Action and Innovation.