



Media release - 1 May 2018

## State Budget falls short in boosting low-cost housing

The peak Victorian body for homelessness says the State Budget funds many important services providing much needed support for vulnerable Victorians. However, with Victoria's population growing rapidly, the proportion of social housing in Victoria is set to reduce from 3.52 to 3.44 per cent, in the absence of any new money for social housing.

Jenny Smith, CEO, Council to Homeless Persons (CHP) said new investment in mental health services, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, family support, and educational opportunities will make a difference to many people's opportunities, health and lives.

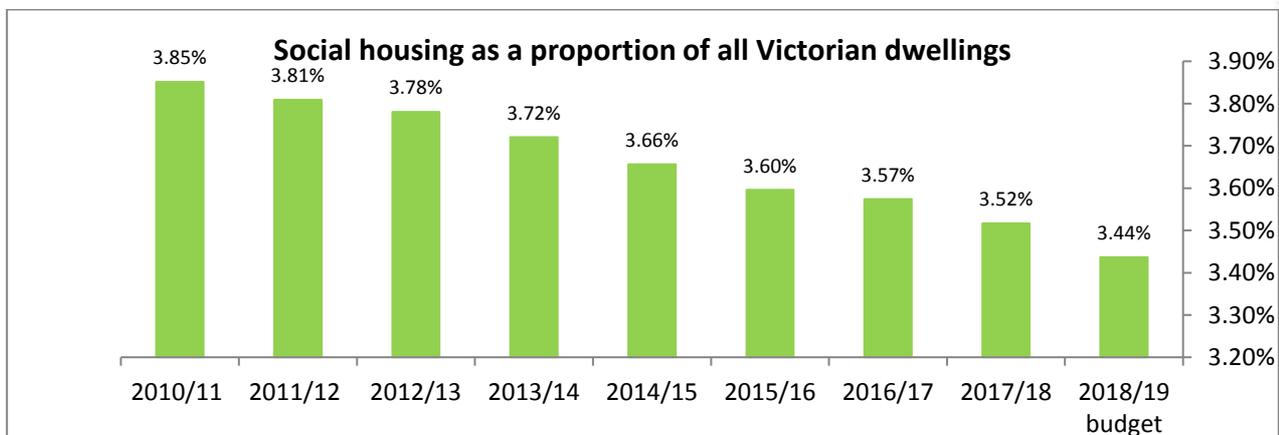
The Government has also confirmed its investment in best practice support and some housing to end homelessness for rough sleepers and people experiencing chronic homelessness. The budget has continued investment in flexible funding packages for people escaping family violence, and support for young people at risk of disengaging from school.

"This Government has made significant investments in housing and homelessness initiatives over the last few budgets, but with our population growing fast, and homelessness increasing rapidly, we have to keep up that pace of investment."

"Today's homelessness crisis is the result of years of neglect and under-investment in social housing, by successive State and Federal Governments, and it's going to take years of sustained investment to reverse the situation," said Ms Smith.

"We know that housing is a central foundation of people's lives, and that social housing ensures that those on the lowest incomes have a place to call home and to raise their family."

The peak says that while the 2018-19 Budget makes a series of important infrastructure investments, it does not act on the recommendations of Infrastructure Victoria, which last year placed social housing as one of the top three priorities for Victorian Infrastructure spending.



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