



Closing the gap on Aboriginal homelessness

There are 48,000 Aboriginal Victorians,¹⁸ 9,000 of whom sought help from one of Victoria's specialist homelessness services last year.¹⁹ A 19 per cent rate of homelessness across the course of a year is a tragedy writ large across our society. Yet there are few Aboriginal specific homelessness services or supported housing providers for Aboriginal people.

Aboriginal Victorians make up 0.8 per cent of the total population, but 9.5 per cent of all homelessness service users. Homelessness compounds other disadvantages experienced disproportionately by Aboriginal Victorians, including poor health outcomes, over-incarceration, parent and child separations, and family violence.²⁰

Working together to build a shared future means ensuring that Aboriginal Victorians can determine the solutions and programs to meet their own needs. Where this happens, it means more service utilisation and better outcomes.²¹ More than just a process issue, it requires strong and well-resourced Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations empowered to develop and deliver unique, responsive solutions to Aboriginal homelessness.

Alongside ensuring that mainstream services are culturally competent, we need to deliver new and additional capacity for Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to deliver more prevention, early intervention, and ongoing support.

CALL FOR ACTION

- 3. Expand homelessness service delivery in prevention, early intervention, and ongoing support capacity delivered by Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.**

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