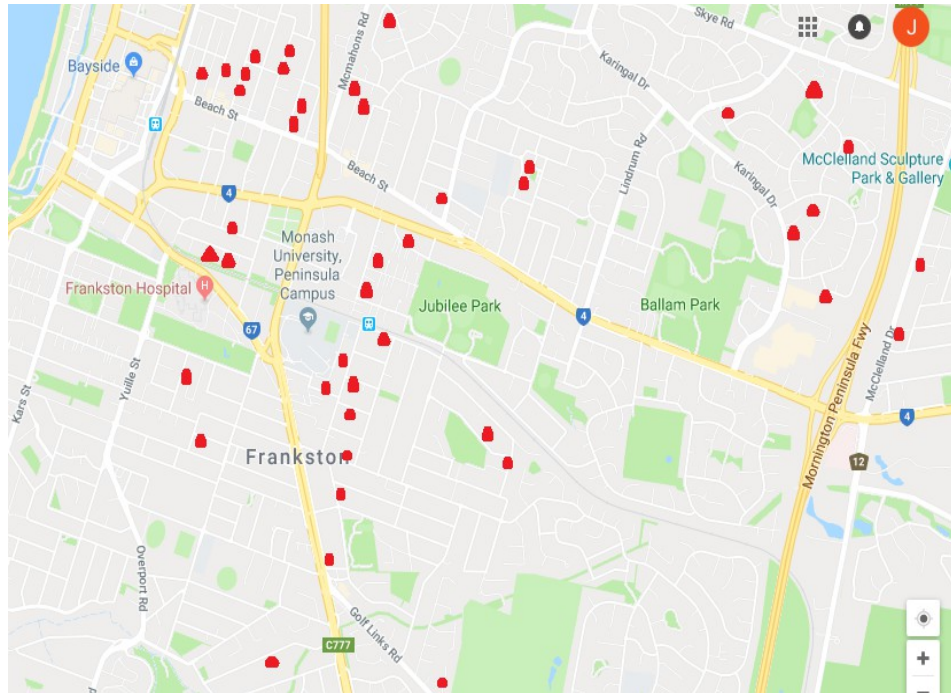


# Why does Frankston have so many Rooming Houses ?

There are **45** Rooming Houses in Frankston on the public register



Approximate locations of the registered Rooming Houses in Frankston from the public register of Rooming Houses, January 2018

Why does Frankston need so many Rooming Houses ?

Why do welfare agencies refer people to Rooming Houses ?

How can the stock available for emergency and transitional housing be improved ?

SHAC is calling for better and safer emergency and transitional housing. SHAC believes the Seaford Beach Cabin Park provides one strong example of an improved service that could be replicated.



SHAC is a community group promoting community responses to homelessness.

Rooming Houses are similar to share houses except residents sign individual leases. For the bedrooms. Locks are fitted to the bedroom doors and the kitchen, bathroom, laundry and yards are usually shared facilities. Rent is typically around \$200 /wk .

In the Frankston area most Rooming Houses are standard detached suburban homes. Houses are often modified to create extra bedrooms, there is typically from 5 to 9 bedrooms per Rooming House.

In Frankston all the Rooming Houses are private businesses. In some suburbs, St Kilda for example, some are run by not-for profit charities.

The Vic government has recently reviewed regulation of Rooming Houses and set new standards. The implementation of the new standards is a collaboration between local and state government. It is estimated there are still at least as many unregistered Rooming Houses operating as registered.

Most residents arrive at a Rooming house via a referral from a Welfare and Housing agency. Residents are a diverse population including many who are vulnerable and have limited financial resources. Many homeless people have reported their fear and dislike of rooming houses and prefer to live on the street rather than a Rooming House.

The Frankston Council report from 2015 "*Building a Good Society: Housing Affordability and Homelessness*" clearly expresses this concern;

The volatility within many rooming houses are sites of chronic use of hard drugs, dangerously low standards of sanitation, criminal and violent behaviour to the point where many homeless people are fearful of staying in them and neighbours health and safety are deleteriously impacted. Consequently, rooming houses are completely inappropriate for children, mixed gender and people highly vulnerable to sexual violence. (item 2.3)

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