



## CHP eNews 2017

6 April 2017

Dear <<First Name>>,

### Proposed Framework

The surge in rough sleeping in recent years has seen local governments across Victoria pressured to respond. The City of Melbourne's proposed bylaws banning camping in the CBD unfairly target rough sleepers whose only crime is not having a safe place to live. We recognise that municipalities are struggling to find a balance between supporting those in crisis and managing the needs of the general public.

The CEOs of 54 homelessness, housing and legal organisations have jointly released a [Proposed Framework For Responding Effectively To Homelessness In The City Of Melbourne](#). The Framework outlines 14 clear steps the City of Melbourne could adopt instead of introducing new laws. This provides the City of Melbourne, and potentially other municipalities with positive measures to address homelessness, and the associated concerns of local governments.

The framework makes it clear: punishing people for experiencing homelessness doesn't reduce homelessness. All the evidence shows that punitive responses will make those experiencing homelessness that much more vulnerable, harder to engage, and lead to longer episodes of homelessness. Read [our blog](#) about the Framework, and share our [60-second video](#).

### Youth Homelessness Matters Day

Youth Homelessness Matters Day was held on 5 April. One in three people experiencing homelessness is under 25 years of age. Having different support needs to other age cohorts and limited finances, youth homelessness can be particularly complex.

## CHP Updates

### Parity

#### Calls for contributions

You are invited to contribute an article to the May edition of Parity "Revisiting Homelessness Data". Contributions must be submitted by Friday 5 May 2017. Download the [contributions flier](#) for more details or contact Parity editor [Noel](#).

### Conferences and events

#### SAVE THE DATE: CHP

Conference 13-14

September, Melbourne Town Hall

Keynote speaker: [Professor Eoin O'Sullivan](#) from Trinity College Dublin is a leading academic on homelessness in Europe, and editor of the European Journal on Homelessness. His particular experience relates to [housing led approaches to ending homelessness](#), and to ending homelessness for [young people who are experiencing more entrenched homelessness](#).

#### April Parity Launch "Giving Voice: Young People Experiencing and Responding to Homelessness"

The program includes speakers from CHP, Melbourne City Mission, Hope Street Youth and Family Services. Most importantly,



A perfect storm of increased reporting of family violence, decreasing housing affordability for families with kids, a pitifully low Youth Allowance and rising youth unemployment is contributing to the crisis levels of homelessness we're seeing amongst our youth.

We need a national plan to end homelessness with a specific focus on youth homelessness. The plan needs to address the systemic issues underlying youth homelessness, including family violence, access to affordable housing, youth justice, young people leaving out of home care and unemployment.



### Save the National Affordable Housing Agreement

Treasurer Scott Morrison has repeatedly intimated that he may repurpose some of the \$1.34 billion funding agreement that currently delivers homelessness and family violence support, as well as public and community housing to 440,000 low income households in Australia (the National Affordable Housing Agreement or NAHA).

The [Victorian Government](#) suggests that any repurposing would draw funds away from the 56,000 Victorians per year currently accessing homelessness services, and put at risk the social housing system that provides stable homes for more than 170,000 vulnerable people.

CHP and Homelessness Australia are calling on you to email your federal MP, Senators and the Treasurer to oppose cuts to homelessness and family violence services and public and community housing. [You can sign the petition here](#). Help us to keep the campaign going by emailing your local Federal MP via this [webpage](#).

### What is a bond aggregator?

With the Federal budget due to be handed down on 9 May, and the Treasurer speaking of include a housing bond aggregator, now seems like the right time to ask: [what is a housing bond](#)

young people with an experience of homelessness will contribute to the conversation.

**Date:** 7 April 2017

**Time:** 10.30 am - 12 noon

**Venue:** The Atrium at the Hub in the Docklands, 80 Harbour Esplanade, Docklands VIC 3008

**Cost:** Free

**Register** [online](#)

### Royal Commission

#### Symposium: Creating Child Safe Institutions

This symposium will share findings from three research reports published by the Royal Commission titled Key elements of child safe organisations – research study, Safe and sound: Exploring the safety of young people in residential care and Disability and child sexual abuse in institutional contexts

**Date:** 1 May 2017

**Time:** 9.00 am - 12.30 pm

**Venue:** The Atrium at the Hub in the Docklands, 80 Harbour Esplanade, Docklands VIC 3008

**Cost:** Free

**RSVP:** By 18 April 2017 [via email](#)

### Training

#### [Download the Wodonga TAFE SHS Training Calendar](#)

#### Promoting recovery: understanding complex trauma and trauma-informed practice (1 day)

Trauma-informed practice influences every aspect of our work and encompasses key conditions for recovery, including: therapeutic relationships, group processes, therapeutic environments, organisational parenting and sense of community.

**Date:** Thursday 27 April

**Price:** \$44

**[aggregator?](#)** The first thing to clarify is this is not like a bond you pay on a rental.

The bond aggregator represents a form of government borrowing. Governments can borrow money at a much cheaper rate than community housing providers. 'Issuing bonds' will essentially mean that the Government takes out large-scale loans from institutional lenders on behalf of community housing providers. The housing associations then pay it back, but at those cheap interest rates.

The aggregator part comes into it because no one single community housing provider requires the amount of debt that is required to access cheap interest rates. But as a sector there is some preparedness to consider taking on that debt to build new housing.

So a bond aggregator enables governments to issue low-interest loans to community housing organisations so that they can build more low-cost housing.

What's CHP's view? We believe that the housing bond aggregator will lead to an increase in the availability of community housing stock, with little additional Government outlay.

Our community housing colleagues tell us that these loans may still be more expensive than they are able to service and an additional source of funding may be needed to support the gap.

While we can all support cheaper finance for community housing, it doesn't remove the need to provide funding for the new and the ongoing costs of public housing, such as that provided under the NAHA, which currently keeps a roof over the head of 320,000 public housing households. So it is vital that we continue to campaign to **[save the NAHA!](#)**

### **Caravan park closures drive homelessness**

CHP recently **[told The Age newspaper](#)** that the spate of suburban caravan park closures in recent years is contributing to the increase in homelessness, as low-cost housing options become scarcer and scarcer.

At least six suburban caravan parks home to hundreds of people on low incomes will have closed by the beginning of 2018. Two - in Brooklyn and Williamstown - have already shut their doors on the 200+ people that call them home.

As Melbourne's suburbs continue to lose marginal housing, there become fewer options for those in need, and more people faced with primary homelessness.

In our **[pre-Budget Submission](#)**, we called for 10,000 additional one-bedroom public housing dwellings over the next five years. The State Government's recent social housing announcements are encouraging, delivering around 6,000 dwellings over the next five years, but there are 33,000 people waiting for public housing in Victoria.

### **[Register online](#)**

#### **Supporting Practice with Complex Trauma Clients**

Provides practitioners with the foundational knowledge, skills and tools for working clinically with adult survivors of complex trauma.

**Date:** Monday 8 May 2017

**Cost:** from \$237 early bird (ends Mar 13) - full price \$310

**[Register online](#)**

#### **In the news - in case you missed it!**

- ABC **[Outpouring of support for Jacqui Lambie's emotional Senate speech re. proposed welfare cuts](#)** 23/3
- The Guardian **[Government cuts will mean 36,000 people will be denied probono legal advice](#)** 23/3
- Wangaratta Chronicle **[A hidden crisis in our city](#)** 24/3
- Star Weekly **[Maribyrnong officers back Launch housing project](#)** 24/3
- SMH **[The people overlooked in the housing affordability conversation](#)** 25/3
- ABC **[Victoria wants Feds to do more on housing](#)** 25/3
- The Age **[Caravan park closures shrink options for those on the brink](#)** 28/3
- The Age **[Proposed homeless camping ban in Melbourne CBD faces strong resistance](#)** 30/3
- New Matilda **[Public housing could offset our homelessness crisis](#)** 30/3

## The Home Stretch

CHP is part of the 'The Home Stretch' campaign, which is dedicated to extending support for young people in out-of-home care to the age of 21. Currently these formal supports end when a young person turns 18. Too many of these young people end up facing ongoing disadvantage, including homelessness.

[Research shows](#) that those who leave care at 21 are less likely to experience homelessness, alcohol or drug dependency, or have interactions with the justice system, and are more likely to engage with education and employment, and have better physical and mental health. Not every young person wants to stay at home; but young people who require support should always have that option.



## Federal Government review of emergency relief now closed

The Federal Government review into the 'Future Directions of the Financial Wellbeing and Capability Activity' is now closed. This funding provides about \$100M per year in emergency relief.

Once again the [PESP team](#) provided critical insights about what eligibility restrictions could mean. You can read our [submission here](#).

## The campaign for fair rental laws gathers pace

We are a proud supporter of the [Make Renting Fair Campaign](#) as we share the widespread concerns that weakening tenant protections will directly lead to homelessness for thousands of insecure renters. If private rental access and stability goes backwards for this group, we'll see longer housing waiting lists, more people in rooming houses and more people sleeping rough.

[Sign the campaign petition here](#) and add your voice to the call for fair rental reforms. [You can also read CHP's full submission to Consumer Affairs Victoria's options paper](#).

## CHP's top pick

- [April Parity Launch "Giving Voice: Young People Experiencing and Responding to Homelessness"](#)
- The Australian & New Zealand Addiction Conference, 15-17 May
- [Wheeler Centre Question Time: Homelessness, 7 June](#)

Visit [CHP's what's on page](#) for more events and information.

- ABC [How much has Victoria's response to family violence changed in the year since the Royal Commission's recommendations?](#)  
30/3
- ABC [I felt so much pain in my heart: When a young mum escapes her violent husband](#) 1/4/17
- Herald Sun [Don't bow to angry mob on homeless bylaws](#)  
1/4/17
- The Age [Police probe death of woman taken to hospital from Frankston boarding house](#) 2/4/17
- Monash Leader [Monash Council and authorities try to help rough sleepers in the suburbs](#) 4/4/17

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