



CHP eNews 2017

9 March 2017

Dear <<First Name>>,

Victorian Government housing plan released

On Monday, Victorian Treasurer Tim Pallas released the affordable housing plan '[Homes for Victorians](#)'. This includes several recent announcements, including the \$1 billion fund to grow social housing announced last month, as well as new initiatives. The sections that will have most impact on homelessness include:

- [\\$1 billion social housing fund](#) - this fund will operate as a 'future fund' with the \$1 billion of capital invested in equities (shares). The fund will generate \$70-\$80 million in annual dividends in perpetuity for both new build and headleased social housing. Community housing agencies seeking grants from the fund would need to participate in the Housing Register. New rules for agencies participating in the register include the requirement that they allocate 75% of vacancies to priority applicants. [Read our full analysis here](#).
- [\\$1 billion social housing loan guarantee and \\$100 million revolving loan fund](#) - these will decrease the cost to community housing of borrowing money for new social housing
- [\\$109 million over five years to address homelessness](#) and [\\$152 million housing blitz over three years for family violence](#) - released last year, these packages provide new emergency accommodation, rental subsidies and support across a range of homelessness services. [Our analysis of the \\$109 million is here](#).
- [\\$30 million over three years to upgrade rooming houses](#)

We encourage you to explore the full plan, which also includes strategies to lower the cost of home ownership for first home buyers, the introduction of a 'vacancy tax', and some small scale pilots of inclusionary zoning. [You can read our media release here](#).

CHP Updates

Parity

Calls for contributions

You are invited to contribute an article to the April edition of Parity "Giving Voice: Young People Experiencing and Responding to Homelessness". Contributions must be submitted by Friday 17 March 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](#).

CEDA Keynote address:

Affordable housing

Victorian Housing Minister Martin Foley and Chief Executive of Infrastructure Victoria **Michel Masson** will examine demand, new investment, policy changes and alternative approaches to the growing issue of housing affordability.

Date: Thursday, 16 March 2017

Time: 12.00pm to 2.00pm

Speak up against proposed homeless by-laws

The campaign to stop proposed City of Melbourne by-laws that would ban camping in the CBD and inner Melbourne continues to gain momentum.

The current focus is on getting as many [submissions](#) as possible in via Council's community consultation process before the deadline of Friday 17 March. We would encourage you and any organisations you are part of to put in a [brief online submission](#) highlighting both the harm of these proposed laws for people sleeping rough, and providing examples of the lack of housing options that results in rough sleeping.

We were also pleased to see ASU Victorian Branch Secretary Richard Duffy [release a video](#) about the by-laws highlighting the role of ASU members in homelessness services and local government compliance. [Read more on our blog here](#) or Justice Connect's ['Don't Criminalise Homelessness'](#) website.

International Women's Day 2017

Did you know that almost 60% of people supported by specialist homelessness services are women? And that over half of all women experiencing homelessness do so due to family violence?

This week on Twitter, we have been highlighting the sobering statistics about homelessness and women and connecting the dots between issues of equality and issues of housing and homelessness. Homelessness is inherently a women's issue and we can't achieve equality until all women have access to the housing and support they need. [Read our IWD blog post here.](#)

There's also some great work happening over at JusticeConnect in their Women's Homelessness Prevention Project with their 10 Calls for Change Campaign. [Check it out 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, the result will be 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.](#) Please also join in support of this campaign by emailing the [Tenants Union of Victoria](#) for more information.

Challenging homelessness solutions that won't work

Last week 3AW radio presenter Tom Elliott developed [a](#)

RSVP: [Online](#)

Training

Trauma-Informed Care and Practice in Domestic and Family Violence Services

Provides the trauma-informed information and skills needed by personnel working with people and families with experiences of domestic and family violence, past and current.

Date: Friday, 10 March 2017

Cost: from \$279

Register [here](#)

"...but he's a good dad, right?" Responding to fathers who perpetrate family violence

Understand the risks and opportunities in working with fathers who perpetrate family violence.

Date: Wednesday 22 March 2017

Cost: \$25

Register [here](#)

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

[solution to homelessness](#), which was widely promoted on 3AW and in the Herald Sun. This involved building a multi-story boarding house in the outer suburbs with hundreds of rooms and relocating people sleeping rough. To encourage homeless people to accept the accommodation, Tom proposed reintroducing vagrancy laws to enable prosecution of any one who remained on the street.

CHP responded to the proposal with a background briefing for Tom, and then discussed the plan and our proposed alternatives on his show. Using this link go to the podcast for March 3, and [listen in at the 35 -43 minute mark to what was a great discussion](#).

What's on?

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

In the news - in case you missed it!

- AFR [Victoria's vacant housing tax: 1 per cent seen as thin edge of the wedge](#) 7 March
- ABC [Victorian stamp duty changes aimed at making housing more affordable for first-time buyers](#) 5 March
- Saturday Paper [Criminalising the homeless of Melbourne's CBD](#) 4 March
- The Age [What homeless people really need is a home, not a clean shirt or bowl of soup](#) 4 March
- Herald Sun [Tom Elliott: Carrot and stick can solve homelessness problem](#) 2 March
- Herald Sun [New Melbourne homeless camp after Flinders Street furore](#) 1 March
- Herald Sun [Homelessness activists defend campaign to trash Melbourne streets](#) 1 March
- The Guardian [Welfare crackdown ineffective in creating budget savings](#) 1 March
- The Australian [Super cities set to house two in three people](#) 1 March
- Herald Sun [Victorian Government's new suburbs promise for housing affordability](#) 28 February
- The Age [Tens of thousands of new homes set for city fringes as sprawl keeps spreading](#) 28 February
- New Matilda [Nelly Thomas on how her mate became homeless](#) 27 February

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