



Thursday, 16 October 2014

Dear Candidate,

**Re: State Election 2014 – Policy regarding Homelessness & Low-Income Housing**

A joint Working Group on "Homelessness" formed by the Seaford Community Committee and the St. Anne's Parish Social Justice Group is seeking views in relation to public housing in this electorate prior to the forthcoming State election.

We are asking each candidate and MP identical questions. We will circulate your responses to these questions among our constituents and networks and will not alter them in any way.

The questions to which we would like answers are below.

We would also be grateful if you could include a copy of your party's latest Housing Policy for the forthcoming election.

It would be appreciated if your response to our questions could be received **by Friday the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2014**, as we will be forwarding the replies to the local media after this date. The content of these articles will of course be at the discretion of those newspaper editors.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any queries in relation to these issues.

Yours sincerely,

*On behalf of the joint Working Group on "Homelessness"*

David Moloney  
Chairman,  
St Anne's Parish Social Justice Group  
0417 704 427  
(03) 9785-7676  
[dmo74189@bigpond.net.au](mailto:dmo74189@bigpond.net.au)

Noel M Tudball B.Bus  
Chairman,  
Seaford Community Committee  
0412 111 251  
(03) 9786 5740  
[seafordcc@gmail.com](mailto:seafordcc@gmail.com)

## QUESTIONS TO ELECTION CANDIDATES

### *Background*

The Australian Bureau of Statistics census figures show a 35% increase in 'homelessness' in the Frankston electorate between 2006 and 2011. While the number of homeless was stable in the Carrum electorate in this period, it increased even more dramatically (65% - 85%) in the Hastings, Mornington and Cranbourne electorates, which depend substantially on Frankston for emergency accommodation.

Access to appropriate affordable private rental and public housing, as well as emergency housing, are critical and increasingly visible issues in the Frankston electorate and on the Mornington Peninsula. New ABS analysis shows that Frankston is one of ten Victorian electorates experiencing 'housing stress', wherein people are paying a high percentage of their income on rent. The Council to Homeless Persons describes this situation as 'causing stress, anxiety and contributing to family breakdown'.

The Victorian Council of Social Services advises that some of the people evicted as a consequence of being unable to meet rent payments will seek public housing. Yet Department of Human Services reports show that the number of public housing dwellings in Frankston between 2009 and 2012 (the last year in which this data was published) was stagnant, the only growth being in community-owned social housing units. There are over 1800 people already on the waiting list for public housing in Frankston and the Mornington Peninsula.

In 2011, there were 360 people homeless every night in Frankston. We are distressed to hear of assaults and robberies of most people who have been forced to sleep in cars, along Kananook Creek, and on the foreshore.

We believe that social housing is essential for maintaining the socially diverse and inclusive community in which we wish to live.

### *Questions to Candidates*

We would appreciate your responses to the following questions:

1. Would your party increase State government investment in public or social housing if elected?
2. Can you give us a clear understanding of what monies will be allocated for new public housing and when this will become available?
3. What is your party's policy in regard to the sale of existing public housing? Is it proposed to sell existing public housing in this electorate?
4. What new permanent, crisis and public housing will your party commit to providing in this electorate?