



Monday, 23 April 2018

Presentation to 23 April 2018 FCC Meeting

FCC Housing Strategy

SHAC (Seaford Housing Action Coalition) is concerned with homelessness. We are pleased to have the opportunity to speak on the Draft 'Refresh' Frankston Housing Strategy 2017.

We have a few points to make regarding Rooming Houses.

There is a significant number of Rooming Houses in Frankston.

On today's count on the Public Register of Rooming Houses there are 43 properties listed. At an average of from 5 to 9 beds per house this could easily be around 300 beds. Then there are the unregistered Rooming Houses. We note the expectation mentioned in the 'Strategy' document that the number of unregistered Rooming Houses is potentially double the number that is registered. So that could mean that the number of beds in rooming houses in Frankston is getting up toward 1000.

The Herald Sun of 11 April, in a story on Homelessness in the peninsula, quotes the Salvation Army homelessness and support services (peninsula) manager Loretta Buckley as saying

“It's harder to get people into a rooming house. People are not moving on as much as they did in the past. Three or four years ago you could find a vacancy in a rooming house, but now it's getting harder.”

This is a substantial indicator of poverty and homelessness in Frankston. Firstly that so many Rooming Houses exist, and secondly that the Emergency Relief Services are using rooming houses to refer people to, because they have no other option.

SHAC's position is that these numbers indicate that a very serious need is emerging and being demonstrated here - a need which will require a concerted and ongoing effort to effect improvements. SHAC supports Council in recognising homelessness in the 2017 Housing Strategy, and calls for far greater work to improve this situation.

SHAC will continue working on these issues and is willing to participate with Council to support initiatives to address these issues.

John McKenzie, David Moloney

Coalition Members:

- St. Anne's Parish Social Justice Group

- St Vincent de Paul Mt Eliza Conference Social Justice Group

- Seaford Community Committee

- Residents of the Seaford Beach Cabin Park