ATTACHMENT THREE

Homelessness in Eastern and Southern Melbourne

ABS 2016 Census data indicates that there are 7,916 homeless persons across Eastern and Southern Melbourne. 32% of Victorians without a home, live in Eastern and Southern Melbourne. [i]

Homelessness figures are likely to be higher as the Census is not able to capture every resident, living in every situation, particularly those sleeping rough in locations where they may not be visible to Census takers. [ii]

Reasons people are seeking homelessness services help

The most common reasons people are seeking homelessness services help in Victoria are *housing issues and financial reasons* (50%) and *domestic and family violence* (38%). [iii]

The gendered nature of homelessness East and South

Data collected by homelessness services in Melbourne's East and South in 2016 – 17, highlight that women and children, and young people are the most common clients of homelessness services. 18,369 (60%) of women and girls accessed homelessness services during this time, compared to 12,225 (40%) men and boys. [iv]

Types of homelessness in East and South

The types of homelessness experienced across the Eastern and South-Eastern region include, people *sleeping rough, supported in accommodation for the homeless, boarding houses, severely overcrowded dwellings, temporary staying with other households* and *other temporary lodgings.* [v]

Main driver of growing homelessness

The main driver of growing homelessness is rising rents in the private rental market and the inadequate supply of social housing. [vi]

This means that more Victorians are unable to find a home, and more low income households are cycling between marginal forms of accommodation likes rooming house and overcrowded dwellings, and homelessness. [vii]

Bottleneck in crisis accommodations and refuges

Lack of access to affordable housing is a significant barrier to exiting homelessness and it results in a bottleneck in crisis accommodation and refuges.

Long stays in congregate crisis accommodation result in poor health, wellbeing and educational outcomes for children.

These environments are highly stressful for adults, both because living in close proximity with many highly vulnerable people creates its own challenges and stress, and because people can't move on with their lives while they don't know where they will be living longer-term.

The **solution** to this is to provide an effective safety net for people unable to afford private rental housing. [viii]

* These datasets were taken prior to the COVID-19 pandemic

REFERENCE LIST

[i] Council to Homeless Persons 2019, *'Making a Difference – Effective Local Government Responses to Homelessness'*, commissioned by Monash Council October 2019, p.5

[ii] Council to Homeless Persons 2019, *'Making a Difference – Effective Local Government Responses to Homelessness'*, commissioned by Monash Council October 2019, p.5

[iii] Council to Homeless Persons 2019, *'Making a Difference – Effective Local Government Responses to Homelessness'*, commissioned by Monash Council October 2019, p.4

[iv] Council to Homeless Persons 2019, *'Making a Difference – Effective Local Government Responses to Homelessness'*, commissioned by Monash Council October 2019, p.3

[v] Council to Homeless Persons 2019, *'Making a Difference – Effective Local Government Responses to Homelessness'*, commissioned by Monash Council October 2019, p.2

[vi] Council to Homeless Persons 2019, *'Making a Difference – Effective Local Government Responses to Homelessness'*, commissioned by Monash Council October 2019, p.1

[vii] Council to Homeless Persons 2019, *'Making a Difference – Effective Local Government Responses to Homelessness'*, commissioned by Monash Council October 2019, p.1

[viii] Council to Homeless Persons 2019, *'Making a Difference – Effective Local Government Responses to Homelessness',* commissioned by Monash Council October 2019, p.1