



PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA
Legal and Social Issues Standing Committee – Legislative Council

MEDIA RELEASE

Homelessness hearing focuses on Victoria's south west

On Monday 13 July 2020, the Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee will hold the next public hearing for its inquiry into homelessness in Victoria.

Focusing on homelessness in and around Geelong and the Barwon South West region, the public hearing will involve a range of community organisations and service providers.

It will be broadcast live on the Victorian Parliament's [website](#) from 10:00 am to 4:30 pm and the schedule is available from the Committee's [website](#).

"The submissions we have received from organisations in Geelong and the Barwon South West region point to an unprecedented demand for services to assist people who are homeless or facing homelessness," Committee Chair Fiona Patten said.

"We will be hearing from organisations operating in the region about the needs they have and what can be done to help address homelessness in the south west," Ms Patten said.

Among those presenting at the hearing will be representatives from The Geelong Project, which is a program working to reduce youth homelessness through early intervention.

"The Committee is interested in hearing about some of the early intervention work that is being done, particularly to assist young Victorians facing homelessness. We want to hear what's working and what further support would help to assist young Victorians to avoid homelessness," Ms Patten said.

Other organisations presenting at the hearing are dealing with homelessness as a result of domestic violence.

"We will be speaking with representatives from Emma House operating in Warrnambool, who are focusing on solutions for people who are forced into homelessness because of violent domestic situations," Ms Patten said.

"Hearings such as this are important to ensure that we get the information we need to recommend actions that can make a real difference to the lives of people faced with homelessness in regional Victoria."

The Committee has already held 11 public hearings in regional Victoria and Melbourne, and has received 395 [submissions](#).

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