



MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW POLL

Victorians back social housing push to end homelessness during COVID recovery

More than three quarters of Victorians want the State Government to “build significantly more public and community housing” as part of its response to COVID-19.

According to a new Essential Poll conducted on the eve of National Homelessness Week, support for more social housing was rock solid in all demographics, regions and age groups, and right across the political divide. *(Data tables attached.)*

This includes support for more social housing from:

- 84% of Labor voters and 78% of Coalition voters.
- 76% of women and 78% of men.
- 77% of Melbourne residents and 79% of people in country Victoria.

Support to build more homes for people on low-incomes and those who are homeless was also consistently strong amongst workers, retirees, parents and those without kids.

And whopping 83% of Victorians believe the Victorian Government should be doing more to end homelessness, in the poll conducted on behalf of Victoria’s leading housing and social advocacy groups.

The Victorian Council of Social Service CEO Emma King said:

“The Victorian people are speaking with one voice here. They want the Victorian Government to build more public and community housing. People want a Big Build to End Homelessness.”

The Community Housing Industry Association Victoria’s CEO Lesley Dredge agreed, saying:

“This issue is above politics. Everybody needs a home. The message is clear: let's get building.”

Victoria has lowest proportion of social housing in Australia. About 25,000 people are homeless on any given night, and more than 100,000 people are stuck on the state’s housing wait list.

Modelling done *before* COVID-19 found Victoria needs to build at least 6,000 new public and community housing properties each year for a decade. It called for state and federal governments to work together to address the shortfall.

The Essential Poll of 503 Victorians was conducted from July 23rd to 26th and was commissioned by the Victorian Housing Peaks Alliance.

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The Housing Peaks Alliance comprises: Aboriginal Housing Victoria, the Community Housing Industry Association (Victoria), the Council to Homeless Persons, Domestic Violence Victoria, Justice Connect, Tenants Victoria, the Victorian Public Tenants’ Association and the Victorian Council of Social Service.



QUESTION 1

“The Victorian Government should build significantly more public and community housing as part of the state's response to COVID-19.”

	Total	Gender		Age		
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Strongly agree	36%	33%	39%	35%	26%	48%
Somewhat agree	41%	43%	39%	44%	44%	35%
Somewhat disagree	9%	11%	7%	9%	14%	4%
Strongly disagree	5%	7%	4%	5%	5%	6%
Don't know	9%	6%	11%	8%	11%	7%
TOTAL: Agree	77%	76%	78%	78%	70%	83%
TOTAL: Disagree	14%	17%	11%	14%	19%	10%

	Location		Employment Status		
	Capital City	Non-Capital City	In paid employment	Not in paid employment	Retired
Strongly agree	37%	34%	27%	43%	50%
Somewhat agree	40%	45%	47%	33%	33%
Somewhat disagree	9%	8%	11%	11%	3%
Strongly disagree	5%	6%	5%	4%	7%
Don't know	9%	7%	10%	9%	6%
TOTAL: Agree	77%	79%	75%	76%	84%
TOTAL: Disagree	14%	15%	16%	15%	10%

	Federal Voting Intention			
	Labor	Liberal + National	Greens	Other
Strongly agree	45%	28%	49%	38%
Somewhat agree	39%	50%	25%	39%
Somewhat disagree	5%	12%	14%	6%
Strongly disagree	5%	4%	2%	10%
Don't know	6%	5%	10%	6%
TOTAL: Agree	84%	78%	73%	78%
TOTAL: Disagree	10%	17%	16%	16%

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Education

	Secondary Education	Professional Qualification	University Education
Strongly agree	45%	36%	31%
Somewhat agree	34%	40%	46%
Somewhat disagree	9%	9%	9%
Strongly disagree	5%	3%	7%
Don't know	8%	12%	7%
TOTAL: Agree	79%	76%	77%
TOTAL: Disagree	13%	12%	17%

Household Income

Household Composition

	Lower income	Middle Income	Higher Income	Dependent Children	No Dependent Children
Strongly agree	40%	37%	29%	28%	41%
Somewhat agree	39%	40%	45%	45%	38%
Somewhat disagree	9%	8%	12%	12%	7%
Strongly disagree	6%	5%	5%	5%	6%
Don't know	6%	10%	9%	10%	8%
TOTAL: Agree	79%	77%	74%	73%	79%
TOTAL: Disagree	15%	13%	17%	17%	13%

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QUESTION 2

“The Victorian Government should do more to end homelessness in Victoria, including providing homes and support for people without a home.”

	Total	Gender		Age		
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Strongly agree	41%	38%	44%	36%	37%	50%
Somewhat agree	41%	44%	39%	45%	43%	37%
Somewhat disagree	7%	9%	5%	11%	5%	5%
Strongly disagree	4%	5%	3%	3%	4%	4%
Don't know	6%	4%	9%	6%	11%	3%
TOTAL: Agree	83%	82%	83%	81%	80%	88%
TOTAL: Disagree	11%	14%	8%	13%	9%	9%

	Location		Employment Status		
	Capital City	Non-Capital City	In paid employment	Not in paid employment	Retired
Strongly agree	38%	51%	37%	40%	50%
Somewhat agree	43%	36%	44%	43%	36%
Somewhat disagree	8%	3%	9%	6%	4%
Strongly disagree	4%	4%	4%	3%	4%
Don't know	7%	6%	6%	9%	5%
TOTAL: Agree	82%	87%	81%	83%	86%
TOTAL: Disagree	12%	7%	13%	8%	9%

	Federal Voting Intention			
	Labor	Liberal + National	Greens	Other
Strongly agree	50%	34%	53%	42%
Somewhat agree	35%	52%	31%	39%
Somewhat disagree	7%	9%	2%	8%
Strongly disagree	4%	2%	4%	8%
Don't know	4%	3%	10%	4%
TOTAL: Agree	85%	86%	83%	81%
TOTAL: Disagree	11%	11%	6%	15%

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Education

	Secondary Education	Professional Qualification	University Education
Strongly agree	46%	37%	41%
Somewhat agree	37%	45%	42%
Somewhat disagree	4%	5%	10%
Strongly disagree	4%	4%	4%
Don't know	9%	9%	3%
TOTAL: Agree	83%	82%	83%
TOTAL: Disagree	8%	9%	14%

Household Income

Household Composition

	Lower income	Middle Income	Higher Income	Dependent Children	No Dependent Children
Strongly agree	47%	40%	38%	39%	43%
Somewhat agree	37%	43%	42%	45%	40%
Somewhat disagree	6%	7%	10%	6%	7%
Strongly disagree	4%	4%	4%	3%	4%
Don't know	6%	6%	6%	7%	6%
TOTAL: Agree	85%	83%	80%	83%	82%
TOTAL: Disagree	9%	11%	14%	9%	12%

Ends.