

WRITTEN RESPONSE TO QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

Question asked by: Mr Rodney Barton (Member for Eastern Metropolitan Region)

Directed to: Minister for Agriculture

Asked on: 1/09/2020

Substantive Question:

What is the government's plans for accommodating the sudden increase of homelessness?

Supplementary Question:

How long is the government prepared to keep paying for hotels for the homeless?

Response:

I am informed that:

Homelessness data does not yet show homelessness rates increasing due specifically to the impacts of COVID-19.

The Victorian Government has invested nearly \$25 million in emergency housing and COVID-19 Isolation and Recovery Facilities to help keep people experiencing homelessness safe whilst also reducing the potential for community transmission of COVID-19. To date, this investment has enabled homelessness services to fund emergency accommodation for everyone who requires shelter. Approximately 2,000 households are currently being accommodated across Victoria.

The Victorian Government has committed a further \$150 million to assist people make the transition from insecure hotel accommodation into longer term housing. This package will enable homelessness services to extend current hotel accommodation until at least April 2021 while services work with people to develop tailored plans for them to move into longer-term housing. The package also includes funding to head lease 1,100 properties from the private rental market to provide longer term housing options and individualised wrap-around support packages for households with complex needs, helping them to successfully maintain their tenancies in long-term housing.



Jaclyn Symes MP

Minister for Agriculture