



16 November 2020

Premier Daniel Andrews
Office of the Premier
1 Treasury Place
Melbourne, Victoria
Australia, 3002
daniel.andrews@parliament.vic.gov.au

**REF: NOTE OF APPRECIATION FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF INVESTMENT IN PUBLIC,
SOCIAL AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

Dear Premier,

I am the Executive Officer of Community Information & Support Victoria (CISVic), the peak body representing 55 local community information and support services, across 64 sites in Victoria. We are also the lead agency in a consortium of 29 local centres delivering federally funded Emergency Relief under contracts. In the year 2019-2020 we distributed over \$2.8 million in emergency relief to community members from 34 sites. Services provided by our member agencies include: material aid, food, information, advocacy, referral, case management, budgeting assistance, financial counselling, No Interest loans, and personal counselling. Each year we have contact with around 500,000 Victorians and we are very often the 'first port of call' for people seeking assistance.

Lack of affordable housing has long been identified as a major problem for people seeking help at CISVic member agencies, even before the pandemic. In fact it has been identified as one of the three top issues affecting community members who are struggling. We believe that homelessness is set to escalate even further in the context of high unemployment, and the winding back of JobKeeper and JobSeeker. But the problem is not new. While the housing crisis has been exposed by the pandemic, the problem is the lack of any real investment in public and social housing in Australia for many years.

Therefore, I am writing to congratulate you and your government, and to express appreciation for your announcement. Specifically, thank-you for committing to more than 9,300 new social housing properties, and 2,900 affordable and 'market housing' properties, and for such a positive utilisation of public revenue and public land. This will make the world of difference to thousands of people, freeing up funds to buy food and medicine, pay bills, and pay for children's education costs. Moreover, it will enable people to have a true, stable home base, from which they can build a life. For our agencies assisting people at the 'front line', housing is not an 'academic' issue. It is fundamentally important for health, wellbeing, community connection and fulfilment. Thus, your announcement really provides some light and optimism, in some very difficult times.

Please feel free to contact me regarding this letter or any related issues.

Community Information & Support Victoria



Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive, appearing to read 'Kate Wheller', written in black ink.

Kate Wheller
EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Community Information & Support Victoria

Suite 907, Level 9, 343 Little Collins St, Melbourne, VIC, 3000
M 0407 670 125
E kate@cisvic.org.au
T 039672 2000

Community Information & Support Victoria

Suite 907, Level 9 343 Little Collins St Melbourne VIC 3000
T 039672 2000 • F 03 9672 2099 • admin@cisvic.org.au • www.cisvic.org.au