



ARAFEMI

MEDIA RELEASE

Call for state election candidates to sign up for action plan to end homelessness in Dandenong District.

ARAFEMI today called upon all candidates in the Dandenong District electorate to commit to five actions to tackle homelessness in Dandenong and across the state.

On any given night there are 925 people in Dandenong who have no place to call home.

Homelessness can happen to anyone at any time. To ensure that people's basic human rights to shelter are upheld and timely access to affordable, stable housing is provided, the government and community need to commit and take action together.

ARAFEMI is partnering with leading homelessness, family violence and social justice organisations across Victoria in the *It Takes A Home...* campaign. The campaign calls on all local candidates in the upcoming state election to:

- Sign up for the federal government target to halve homelessness by 2020
- Commit to delivering 3,000 additional affordable homes across Victoria, every year
- Ensure a better start for children and young people experiencing homelessness through initiatives including a guarantee for kids leaving state care
- End the cycle of homelessness by providing support where it is needed, for as long as it is needed
- Invest in the homelessness workforce delivering services to those in need.

The campaign recently released the results of an independent survey showing 76% of Victorians surveyed support a proposal to quarantine 10% of state property taxes to provide homes for the homeless.

Manager of ARAFEMI's Housing and Outreach Support Programs, Hugo Steinbergs said "The results show Victorians not only care deeply about homelessness, they are also prepared to contribute financially towards ending it.

Last year the state government collected around \$5 billion in property taxes. Spending just one tenth of that on homes for those in need would make an enormous contribution to tackling homelessness in Victoria," Mr. Steinbergs said.

"Our research also showed that 89% of those surveyed believed tackling the issues of homelessness and access to affordable housing was important. Almost half described this as 'very important'," added Mr. Steinbergs.

"With such strong support for action on homelessness we hope we can count on all candidates in our region to support these simple, practical actions to ensure the people in our community have a place to call home."

For interview arrangements and further information:

ARAFEMI

Frances Sanders
Executive Director
Outreach Support)

T: 03 9810 9300

E: frances.sanders@arafemi.org.au
hugo.steinbergs@arafemi.org.au

Hugo Steinbergs
Manager (Housing &

T: 039810 9300

E:

Media please note:

Background information and key facts on homelessness in Victoria can be found on the campaign website at www.ittakesahome.org.au

About ARAFEMI

ARAFEMI is a non-profit community based organisation, which works from a recovery perspective. It is unique as it houses both the peak support agency for carers of people with a mental illness and a broad range of consumer services.

Our mission is to promote and improve the well being of people affected by mental illness.

For more information about ARAFEMI go to www.arafemi.org.au