



Melbourne Citymission Affordable Housing Position Statement

Melbourne Citymission has been providing assistance and support to disadvantaged households in Melbourne for over 150 years. Every week over 4,000 people seek our assistance or participate in our range of programs.

Homelessness and housing stress are key factors associated with social disadvantage and marginalisation faced by our service users: on average, 14% of our clients are homeless and over one-third are likely to move home within the next 12 months.

Despite sustained economic growth over the past decade, housing – either home ownership or private rental has become less affordable especially for households on low incomes. However, governments have been reluctant to invest in public housing.

Melbourne Citymission believes that:

1. Affordable, safe and sustainable housing is a fundamental right and necessity for all people in a civil society.
2. Housing should offer security of tenure to maximise community participation and social inclusion.
3. Housing should be available and accessible to people of all abilities to maximise independent living within their community.
4. Housing should be close to work opportunities, public transport, community assets and other essential services to enable full social and economic participation.

Melbourne Citymission will advocate strongly for the development of policies and models that ensure there is sufficient housing available to meet the needs of Victorians experiencing disadvantage. Our advocacy will be based on defensible evidence and practice wisdom to promote realistic social policy solutions.

Melbourne Citymission will collaborate with other organisations who share our aspirations for affordable housing for all Victorians and the elimination of homelessness.