



## ACCESS TO SERVICES

### HOUSING INVESTMENT PACKAGE

#### CURRENT SITUATION

Mitchell Shire has a current population of around 45,000<sup>1</sup> and is one of the fastest growing councils in Victoria<sup>2</sup>. In the next 25-30 years, our population is expected to grow to over 230,000<sup>3</sup>.

Although we are only at the beginning of our rapid growth, our communities are already experiencing limited access to human services<sup>4</sup>. Residents are frequently required to travel to services, and are increasingly having to seek services outside of the municipality. This is difficult for many families, with almost one third of households in Mitchell Shire having access to only one car or no motorised vehicle at all<sup>5</sup>.

Our community's lack of access to services is evident, as Mitchell Shire is presenting with rates of homelessness higher than Metropolitan Melbourne. As a Shire that comprises of rural and urban areas, and that is experiencing rapid population growth and social change, without intervention, these rates will continue to worsen.

#### HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS STATISTICS

- > Mitchell Shire has a higher rate of **housing and homeless** individuals than Metropolitan Melbourne (8.42% higher)<sup>4</sup>.
- > Mitchell Shire's rate for **homeless** individuals is 26.25% higher than Metropolitan Melbourne<sup>4</sup>.
- > Mitchell Shire's rate of **individuals at risk** is 24.39% higher than Metropolitan Melbourne<sup>4</sup>.
- > The leading cause of homelessness is domestic and family violence<sup>6</sup>, and Mitchell Shire has a higher rate of family violence than all of the councils located in and around Melbourne<sup>7</sup>.
- > In Victoria, there are approximately 35,000 people on the waiting list for public housing, with the wait time ranging from two to ten years on the general list, and up to three years for emergency shelters<sup>6</sup>.
- > Higher property prices are pushing people further out of the city, however due to the lack of infrastructure in growth areas, these people are spending increasing time and money to access affordable food and the jobs market<sup>6</sup>.

**MORE INFORMATION.**  
Advocacy and Community Services  
(03) 5734 6200



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2. Allan, G. and Allan, G. (2018). Australia's top 20 fastest growing areas, .id blog. [online] .id blog. Available at: blog.id.com.au/2017/population/population-trends/australias-top-20-fastest-growing-areas/ [Accessed 9 Jan. 2018].  
3. Potential Development Sequencing Northern Growth Corridor. (2016). Final Version, PATCH design and plan, (calculated on new figure of 17 dwellings/ha).  
4. Interface Council Group Human Services Gap Analysis. (2017). Final Report, Version 7.3. [Accessed 9 Jan. 2018].  
5. Profile.id.com.au. (2018). Car ownership, Mitchell Shire, profile.id. [online] Available at: profile.id.com.au/mitchell/car-ownership [Accessed 9 Jan. 2018].  
6. VincentCare Victoria. (2018). What causes homelessness? - VincentCare Victoria - Homelessness & housing support services for Melbourne & Victoria. [online] Vincentcare.org.au. Available at: vincentcare.org.au/get-help/advice-and-resources/what-causes-homelessness#inadequate-or-inappropriate-dwellings [Accessed 15 Jan. 2018].  
7. Family Support Fact Sheet. (2018). Mitchell Shire Council.



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*Mitchell Shire Council is seeking a commitment from the State and Federal Governments to provide greater support in Mitchell Shire for people who are currently homeless or who are at risk of homelessness, by funding additional crisis support services and investing in social and public housing.*

#### THE ASK

**THERE IS SIGNIFICANT NEED FOR INCREASED FUNDING FOR HOMELESSNESS CRISIS SERVICES ACROSS THE SHIRE AND TO SEEK GREATER INVESTMENT IN SOCIAL HOUSING (CRISIS, TRANSITIONAL AND LONG TERM AFFORDABLE HOUSING) IN ALL AREAS OF MITCHELL SHIRE.**

**THE ASK CONSISTS OF THREE PARTS, AND AN OVERALL INVESTMENT OF \$10,000,000 FOR:**

- 1. HOUSING INVESTMENT PACKAGE (CRISIS SUPPORT)**  
Specialist crisis support workers to assist in securing accommodation, as well as stakeholder engagement to assist with referral pathways.
- 2. SOCIAL HOUSING (INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT)**  
Managed by not-for-profit organisations offering transitional, short term and long-term affordable rental options for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.
- 3. PUBLIC HOUSING (INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT)**  
Government managed long-term rental for people on low incomes that are most in need, especially those who have recently experienced homelessness, family violence or have other special needs.

#### THE BENEFITS

##### **HOUSING INVESTMENT PACKAGE (CRISIS SUPPORT)**

Increasing the availability of housing crisis support is essential in ensuring our current and future communities will be supported in a timely manner. Timely support ensures that our most vulnerable community members can be quickly provided with shelter and security, and are not unnecessarily exposed to prolonged periods of homelessness. Timely and effective support also enables homeless individuals to take control of their life, and prevents possible harms occurring while experiencing homelessness.

##### **SOCIAL HOUSING/PUBLIC HOUSING (INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT)**

Increasing social and public housing in Mitchell Shire will ensure that members of our current and future community who experience low income, family violence or have special needs will have a safe and affordable place to live. Offering social and public housing that is affordable to our most vulnerable will ensure that these community members have the best opportunity to live a productive and healthy life. Social and public housing options may also prevent recurring homelessness, may prevent extra strain on the health services industry, in particular emergency departments and Intensive Care Units.