

OFFICERS' REPORT**EVERYBODY'S HOME CAMPAIGN**

Submitting Councillor: Cr. Josh Fergeus

MOTION

That Council signs up to the 'Everybody's Home' Campaign as a campaign partner.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications for supporting this motion.

IMPACT ON INTERNAL RESOURCES

There is no impact on internal resources as a result of this motion.

COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICIES

This motion strongly aligns with Council's Monash Housing Strategy, in particular section 5.3.5 Affordability and Accessibility. The strategies contained within this that Council has committed to include;

- Locate social housing or housing that meets special needs close to public transport and retail and community facilities
- Require a variety of dwelling sizes and types to promote greater affordability of housing and choice in medium and large urban developments
- Investigate affordable housing options that can be promoted in the City, including joint ventures with housing associations, developers and/or other government agencies, or education providers

The actions that Council has committed to in the Monash Housing Strategy are;

- Monitor the supply of, and demand for, affordable housing and investigate different models aimed at facilitating affordable housing including evaluating examples of best practice in the provision of well-designed affordable housing
- Advocate to the State Government for the introduction of new initiatives in support of housing affordability, diversity and accessibility
- Investigate affordable housing options that can be promoted in the City, including joint ventures with housing associations, developers and/or other government agencies or education providers

RELEVANCE TO WORK ALREADY UNDERTAKEN BY OFFICERS OR COMMITTEES

In May 2017 Monash Council responded to the increase in numbers of community members rough sleeping by creating the Homelessness Response Coordinator (HRC) position. The HRC responds to all reports of rough sleeping and supports these community members into appropriate housing and other services. The HRC also provides support to community members who are at risk of becoming homeless. To be effective, the HRC provides ongoing support and is currently supporting 14 community members through weekly contact. There is an average of 5 new reports of rough sleeping per month.

The HRC convenes the Monash Homelessness Network, a collective of local agencies that support some of the most vulnerable and at risk members of the Monash community. The experience of this Network gives firsthand knowledge of the challenges that the community faces not having affordable, accessible and appropriate housing.

Over the last two years these agencies who provide financial and material aid have reported a steady increase in marginalised members of the community seeking support. What has fundamentally changed is that support is increasingly being sought by individuals who previously would not be seeking assistance including, those who are employed and/or families with a mortgage. These agencies have seen considerable growth in the number of Monash families and pensioners who are struggling to get by on a monthly basis.

Monash Council is a member of the Eastern Affordable Housing Alliance and a number of Officers regularly attend these meetings.

Monash Council's Strategic Planning team are currently developing an Affordable Housing Strategy which aligns with the key messages in the 'Everybody's Home' campaign.