

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Working Group - Regional Local Government Charter Homelessness & Social Housing



Chair

Fee Harrison, Manager Community Strengthening, Monash Council

All meetings to be hosted and coordinated by Monash Council on Microsoft Teams

Secretariat

Emily Halliburton, Coordinator Social Policy & Health Planning, Monash Council

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Background

On November 26 2019, CEOs and executive staff representing 14 Eastern and South-Eastern Councils came together in a forum focused on homelessness and social housing by Monash Council. The explicit objective of this forum was to develop a unified, local government response to homelessness and to advocate for major reform to increase the supply of social housing across Victoria.

The *CEO Forum: Local Government Regional Response to Homelessness* reached consensus that adopting a regional charter with three clear leverage points for local government would create the power and pressure for systemic change. The systemic change sought by the coalition of Councils is to influence an increase to the supply of permanent, safe, appropriate and timely housing for the most vulnerable members of our community and to seek the move towards housing first as a key foundational principle. The 14 metropolitan Councils representing more than 2 million residents are united in propelling an improved homelessness policy-setting and service sector.

Purpose

The purpose of this short and intensive time-specific regional agenda piece is to develop a Regional Local Government Charter for Homelessness & Social Housing. The Charter will outline a unified, local government response to homelessness and advocate for major reform to increase the supply of social housing across Victoria. The Charter will articulate clear leverage points for local government to create the power and pressure for systemic change. The Charter is to represent the position of 14 Eastern & South-East Councils.

Membership

- 14 Eastern & South-East Councils: *Bayside, Boroon dara, Casey, Cardinia, Frankston, Dandenong, Knox, Kingston, Manningham, Maroondah, Monash, Mornington, Whitehorse & Yarra Ranges*
- Eastern Region Group of Councils [ERG]
- Eastern Affordable Housing Alliance [EAHA]

Supported By

- Municipal Association of Victoria
- Department of Health & Human Services

Reporting & Resourcing

Monash Council has been nominated to lead the governance and coordination of Charter meetings for this action-oriented, time-specific piece of work. Agenda and minutes to be circulated by Monash Council to members with collective input by all members.

Term of Group

February 2020 – August 2020

Meetings to now be held monthly via videoconferencing on Microsoft Teams due to COVID-19 adjustments.

Meeting Schedule 2020

- Meeting 1, Monday 10 February 2020, 10am – 11.30am (Monash Council)
- Meeting 2, Monday 2 March 2020, 10am – 12pm (Monash Council)
- Meeting 3, Thursday 23 April 2020, 11am – 12.30pm (Microsoft Teams)
- Meeting 4, Thursday 21 May 2020, 11.30am – 1pm (Microsoft Teams)
- Meeting 5, Thursday 11 June 2020, 11am – 12.30pm (Microsoft Teams)
- Meeting 6, Thursday 9 July 2020, 11am – 12.30pm (Microsoft Teams)
- Meeting 7, Thurs 6 August 2020, 11am – 12.30pm (Microsoft Teams)

Scope

The scope of the Charter Working Group will be to develop a Regional Local Government Charter for Homelessness & Social Housing to be endorsed by the 14 Councils represented in the Charter at July 2020 Council meetings and to ensure its implementation in each Council's respective strategic policies and planning going forward.

Quorum

All 14 Councils must have representation at each meeting and be in agreement with finalised Charter product before it is submitted to July 2020 Council meetings.

Role of Members

- Each Council's CEO to nominate Council Charter Champions to attend Charter meetings
- Charter Champions to attend each meeting to actively contribute to the development of the Charter
- Charter Champions to coordinate the required response from the executive leadership team of each of the respective Councils
- Charter Champions to ensure Charter is submitted to July Council 2020 Council meeting
- Each Council Charter Champion to ensure that the Charter is implemented into each Council's respective strategic policies and planning following endorsement at July 2020 Council meetings
- Original CEO group to be invited to attend final meeting of Charter

Priorities and Timelines

- Jan 2020: 'Towards a Regional Local Government Charter for Social Housing Uplift in Melbourne's South and East' paper sent to nominated 'Champions' representing the 14 Councils and date set for the first meeting in Feb

- Feb & Aug 2020: Collaborative partnership consultation with all 14 Councils and relevant government and service sector partners through action-based milestone meetings
- July 2020: Charter taken to Council meeting for endorsement
- Aug-Oct 2020: Meetings with State Government officials
- July – Dec 2020: Charter implemented by 14 Councils
- Dec 2020: Determination of state-wide engagement and take-up of Charter’s agenda and identification of long-term ownership of Charter

For further background to this regional piece, please review:

- ‘Towards a Regional Local Government Charter for Social Housing Uplift in Melbourne’s South and East January 2020’ Stimulus Paper (Attached)
- [Video](#) (3:40 mins duration): Highlights Video - *CEO Forum: Local Government Regional Response to Homelessness*
- *Making a Difference – effective local government response to homelessness*, Council to Homeless Persons, commissioned by Monash Council, October 2019
- *Local Government Regional Response to Homelessness Survey Results – 14 South and South-East Councils*, designed and prepared by Andrew Hollo, Workwell, Commissioned by Moash Council, November 2019
- *Stimulus Paper – Housing Targets for Regions: How Feasible is this for Melbourne’s South and East*, Professor Carolyn Whitzman, Phd, Fellow, Planning Institute for Australia, October 2019