

# FIND OUT THE TRUTH ABOUT PRIVATE ROOMING HOUSES IN VICTORIA

## CALL THIS A HOME ?

Campaign for safe rooming houses in Victoria

Victoria has a severe shortage of affordable housing. This has led to increasing homelessness and a proliferation of privately operated rooming houses.

More and more individuals and families, including women and children, are turning to private rooming houses as their last option before sleeping on the street.

Sub-standard private rooming houses are the most dangerous form of accommodation in Victoria. Poor regulation and the lack of minimum standards mean they can operate for maximum profit, with little regard for the safety or amenity of residents.

They do not offer residents security, privacy or safety. Shared areas such as bathrooms and kitchens are often stages for violence, intimidation, drug dealing and other illegal activities. There is no control over who enters or stays in the house. Some residents lack an adequate lock on their door.

Imagine your food and possessions being regularly stolen or having to stand outside the bathroom door to make sure your daughter is safe. *Would you call this a home?*

Victoria lacks the regulatory tools required to adequately control this segment of the private housing market. It is time for the introduction of a statewide set of standards and a regulatory scheme that will protect vulnerable residents from exploitative conditions and predatory management practices.

### Call This A Home?

AIMS TO CHANGE THE WAY SUB-STANDARD ROOMING HOUSES OPERATE IN VICTORIA TO MAKE THEM SAFE, SECURE AND AFFORDABLE FOR RESIDENTS

### Call This A Home?

is calling on the Victorian Government to introduce:

- A set of comprehensive minimum standards to ensure the basic needs of all rooming house residents are met
- More effective registration, monitoring and enforcement to bring hundreds of unregistered rooming houses into the system and ensure compliance with standards
- A licensing system to regulate the management of private rooming houses to prevent exploitative practices

### TAKE ACTION

- Sign on to the campaign as a supporter by signing below and emailing to [diana@chp.org.au](mailto:diana@chp.org.au) or by mail to **Call this a home?, PO Box 1466, Collingwood, VIC, 3066**
- Support our campaign launch in early July
- After the launch, help us get the message out through events, posters, postcards, an online campaign and the media

### Call This A Home?

is a coalition of peak bodies, organisations and individuals committed to safe rooming houses in Victoria. We believe every Australian has a fundamental right to safe, secure and affordable housing.

### Call This A Home?

is supported by the Tenants Union of Victoria, Council to Homeless Persons, Victorian Council of Social Service, Community Housing Federation of Victoria, Anglicare, Eastern Access Community Health, Eastern Health, Family Support and Carer Respite Program, Hanover, Box Hill TAFE, HomeGround Services, Melbourne City Mission, Neami, North East Housing Service, PILCH Homeless Persons Legal Clinic, RMIT Human Rights Campaign Workshop, Rural Housing Network, Sacred Heart Mission, The Salvation Army, St Mary's House of Welcome, St Vincent de Paul, Wesley Mission, Westcare, Wintringham, Women's Housing, Yarra Community Housing and Youthlaw.

### Support the call for safe rooming houses in Victoria

We support the aims of Call This A Home? (above) and support urgent reforms to make all rooming houses safe for residents.

Name/Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

