



Housing, homelessness and our fair share

Get people off the foreshore. Get our fair share.

Where I stand

Nobody should be sleeping rough. Full stop.

At the end of May, about 168 people were recorded sleeping rough on the Mornington Peninsula, up 32% in just six months.

That's the highest recorded number of any Victorian council using the same system, including the City of Melbourne.

Local frontline services say seven people sleeping rough have died on our foreshore in the past 18 months.

Seven people. On our foreshore.

In July, the Victorian Government announced \$2.1 million for two outreach workers over four years. That's welcome, and the local advocates who fought for it deserve the credit.

But two workers for 168 people sleeping rough is a first step, not an answer. Outreach workers also need somewhere safe for people to go.

More than 2,600 applications are on the local social housing waitlist, while just 1.4 per cent of Peninsula households are social housing.

The Peninsula also has more than 3,000 active short-stay accommodation listings. If the state raises a housing levy here, a fair share of that money should be spent on housing here.

Our metropolitan classification makes the problem harder.

We are forced to compete for funding with much larger Melbourne communities, but we don't receive our fair share. At the same time, we're locked out of regional programs that better reflect our geography, population and needs.

Independent benchmarking found that Frankston and the Mornington Peninsula together received about \$5,600 per person in planned state capital investment across three state budgets. Geelong and Queenscliff received about \$14,400 per person.

Too often, the Peninsula is out of sight and politically taken for granted.

Funding should follow need, not an outdated label.

What I'll do

1. Get people off the foreshore and into secure housing



Push for state funding to:

- build the proposed 22 crisis and transitional homes for women and children in Rosebud;
- expand crisis and transitional accommodation across the Peninsula;
- properly resource outreach, case management and mental health support;
- provide ongoing funding for the community support centres doing frontline work; and
- build more social, affordable and key-worker housing in suitable locations.

I'll track the \$2.1 million outreach commitment and publish what it delivers.

I'll also push for local housing targets based on actual need, a fair share of the short-stay levy raised on the Peninsula, and public reporting of how many homes have been promised, approved, started and completed.

A headline housing target means nothing unless suitable homes are actually built.

2. Reclassify the Peninsula and get our fair share

I'll fight to have the Mornington Peninsula reclassified as regional for Victorian Government funding, policy and investment purposes.

We are not metropolitan Melbourne. We are a dispersed community with regional challenges, an ageing population, limited public transport, severe housing shortages and communities a long way from Melbourne's services.

Regional classification would allow the Peninsula to be assessed alongside communities with similar needs and compete for regional funding, including housing and worker accommodation programs from which we are currently excluded.

We shouldn't be treated as metropolitan when that costs us money, then overlooked when metropolitan funding is allocated.

What progress looks like

More crisis and transitional accommodation, the Rosebud project funded, properly resourced local services, more social, affordable and key-worker homes, regional classification and fewer people sleeping rough.