

Here is a suggested letter for you to send and/ or email to all or some of the politicians listed below by 13 November.

If you would particularly like to send to your own electorate candidates, a full list of all candidates will be available from 13 November on <https://electoratelookup.vec.vic.gov.au/LocalityFinder.aspx>

You can add you own flair to the letter. **However, we do need to send to the politicians detailed below as soon as possible.**

Suggested letter

Name

Title

Address

Suburb

Dear [insert name here],

Homelessness should never be the safer option

I am writing to you to seek your support for more investment into services, housing, programs and policies that would help end homelessness for women and children who have had to leave their home as a result of family violence.

McAuley Community Services for Women delivers support and assistance to women and their children who have escaped family violence as well as women who are experiencing homelessness.

The organisation operates Victoria's **only** round the clock safe house for women and children as well as a refuge program. It is also one of only two of Victoria's specialist support and accommodation service focusing solely on women who are homeless.

As Jocelyn Bignold, the organisation's CEO, says: a common question is why women don't leave a violent partner. The answer is simple: they often don't have anywhere to go to if they do.

Victorians pride themselves on being good citizens who care for others, but we have dropped the ball on ending both homelessness and family violence.

This is an issue that I take seriously and your answer may impact my vote on election day, Saturday 29 November.

I want to encourage you to ensure policies and funding are put in place for:

- Funding for programs and an integrated service response to enable women and their children to stay at home without fearing for their lives.
- Funding for a range of housing options, giving women a choice according to their situation, preferences and needs. This includes women-only services.
- Funding for support services that address the specific needs of women, with or without children, and who are homeless either as a result of family violence or mental illness.
- Investment into gendered analysis of all homelessness programs and funding to make sure that women are not continually discriminated against.
- Investment into an affordable housing strategy to increase the supply of low cost homes.

Please keep me updated on further action that you are taking.

Yours sincerely

NAME

POSITION

ADDRESS

GOVERNMENT

Premier of Victoria

The Hon Denis Napthine

Level 1, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne, VIC 3002

premier@dpc.vic.gov.au

The Hon Wendy Lovell

Minister for Housing

Level 22, 50 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000

wendy.lovell@parliament.vic.gov.au

The Hon Mary Wooldridge

Minister for Mental Health and Community Services

Level 22, 50 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000

mary.wooldridge@parliament.vic.gov.au

OPPOSITION

Hon Dan Andrews
Leader of the Opposition
517A Princes Highway, Noble Park, VIC 3174
daniel.andrews@parliament.vic.gov.au

Ms Danielle Green
Shadow Minister for Women
Suite 3/14 Yan Yean Road, Diamond Creek, VIC 3089
danielle.green@parliament.vic.gov.au

Gavin Jennings
Shadow Minister for Mental Health
517A Princes Highway, Noble Park, VIC 3174
gavin.jennings@parliament.vic.gov.au

The Hon Richard Wynne
Shadow Minister for Housing
112 Smith Street, Collingwood, VIC 3066
richard.wynne@parliament.vic.gov.au

GREENS

Ms Colleen Hartland
Australian Greens
75 Victoria Street, Seddon, VIC 3011
colleen.hartland@parliament.vic.gov.au