

"I know for certain my life has been unfathomably happier and more constructive when I have people who believe in me and a support network to fall back on if I need it. It's something everybody needs, and if we cater to those needs, who knows what we as a community could accomplish."

- Verity, an Education First Youth Foyer student



Dear {{FirstName}},

I want to share a special message for your consideration about the upcoming Voice referendum.

This weekend, Australians will head to the voting booths and make a decision that will help shape our future.

We want to be on the right side of history.

First Nations Australians represent about 1% of Victoria's population but close to 10% of our clients.

As one of Victoria's largest Specialist Homelessness Services, we work to tackle the root causes of inequality contributing to homelessness.

That's one reason why we're supporting the Voice to Parliament.

A First Nation's Voice is not just a seat at the table; it's a first step to truly listening and correcting the imbalances that have created disparities in health, housing and beyond.



Bevan Warner



BEVAN WARNER
Chief Executive Officer

The City of Yarra joins the Zero movement



Photography courtesy of the City of Yarra/Matt Krumins

"Yarra Zero is a human-centred approach to a very human problem... We recognise the line between having a home or not can change very quickly, and the ways in and out of homelessness are not straightforward."

- City of Yarra Deputy Mayor Edward Crossland

Last night, we celebrated the official launch of the [City of Yarra's commitment to end homelessness](#), starting with ending rough sleeping. "Yarra Council is proud to have had a long-standing partnership with Launch Housing, whose teams have undertaken homelessness outreach in our city for many years. We were one of the first municipalities in the state to develop a homelessness protocol that ensures a human rights-based approach to homelessness at a local level," said City of Yarra Deputy Mayor Edward Crossland.

From Collingwood to Abbotsford and Richmond to Carlton North, local services have begun collaborating to get to know each person sleeping rough by name, understand their needs and support them to find and sustain housing.

"We know that working with the State Government and local councils is critical to grow housing supply & develop a pathway from rough sleeping to a home", said Launch Housing Chief Executive Bevan Warner.

Yarra is the sixth Victorian LGA to join the Zero movement to end street homelessness.

[Check the progress of each LGA here](#). If your LGA isn't on the list, consider contacting your LGA to ask them about their plans to increase affordable housing and end street homelessness.

Sandra's story



"It wasn't easy to find myself at the age of 64 and without anywhere to live."

As a single woman in her 60s, Sandra is part of a demographic increasingly vulnerable to experiencing homelessness in Australia.

Sandra was connected to our [Private Rental Assistance Program \(PRAP\)](#), which supports people who are experiencing rental stress from entering the homelessness system by providing financial assistance to maintain their housing or establish a new tenancy.

"That's where I met this beautiful lady called Julie, who was magnificent. Every time I called her, she'd answer the phone. And that's when things started to happen."

With the help of our PRAP team and [HomeGround Real Estate](#) – our ethical real estate agency, which reinvests 100% of profits back into Launch Housing and hosts a growing number of affordable rate rental properties, Sandra now has a forever home in Melbourne.

"It's really precious. I'm more relaxed. I feel safe, it's my little home. I'm relieved and comfortable".

"Launch was my saviour. That's really all I can say about that."

Stay tuned for news on how your support is helping to end homelessness in Melbourne

Our annual Impact Report is coming next month, tracking the positive change we're making in Melbourne thanks to supporters like you!