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Q1

Name of organisation

Sacred Heart Mission

Q2

Your name

Olivia Killeen

Q3

Position

Communication and Social Policy Officer

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Q10

Describe the experiences of people struggling to access affordable and suitable housing in the context of your organisation's work.

Sacred Heart Mission provides a wide range of housing and homelessness services in Victoria. Many of our clients first point of contact with us are our Engagement Hubs - Sacred Heart Central and our Dining Hall, and our Women's House. We are seeing more people who have never accessed homelessness services before coming to us, especially older women, and with increasingly complex needs. We are also seeing more women presenting with children to Women's House.

Q11

Describe the flow-on impacts of the housing crisis in the context of your organisation's work.

Sacred Heart Mission has partnered with a range of community housing providers to support our clients to access housing. However, overall this is difficult given the shortage of social housing in our community. We are also finding that the cost of living crisis is making it increasingly difficult for our clients to afford their essentials. We are creatively looking at ways to support our clients into housing, including philanthropically funded pilot projects.

Q12

Describe how current policy settings impact housing affordability and access to housing from your organisation's perspective.

Housing is a human right. The current policy settings, where rents and property values increasingly outstrip wages is becoming increasingly problematic, making it more and more difficult for each generation to afford housing without intergenerational wealth transfers.

Q13

Describe what actions your organisation believes should be taken by governments to most improve affordability and access to housing.

We fundamentally need the Federal Government to increase social security payments - particularly JobSeeker, and to reform the mutual obligations system. We also need ongoing, wide-scale investment into social housing nationwide, over the next decade. We need to find ways to change community attitudes to viewing property as wealth creation. For example, reforming negative gearing, and controlling/limiting short-stay accommodation.

Q14

Respondent skipped this question

Is there anything else your organisation would like to share with the Commission?
