



## Department of Justice and Community Safety

Secretary

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Melbourne Victoria 3000  
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Our ref: 25103187

Coroner McGregor  
Coroners Court of Victoria  
65 Kavanagh Street  
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

By email: [cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au](mailto:cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au)

Dear Coroner McGregor

### **Finding into death without inquest – Jay Harrison – COR 2023 006521**

I refer to your findings and recommendations delivered on 24 September 2025 regarding the death of Jay Harrison. I extend my sincere condolences to the family of Jay Harrison. The Victorian Government is committed to addressing the significant issue of homelessness in Victoria.

The Department of Justice and Community Safety (the department) is responding to Recommendation C on behalf of the Victorian Government. The department's response to this recommendation is as follows:

#### **Recommendation C**

That the Victorian Government, in line with recommendations outlined by *The Rental and Housing Affordability Crisis in Victoria* and the *Legal and Social Issues Committee Inquiry into Homelessness in Victoria*, include the right to housing<sup>1</sup> in the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* (Vic).

#### **Response to Recommendation C**

The Coroner's recommendation is under consideration.

As stated in the Victorian Government responses to recommendation 34 of the *Inquiry into Homelessness in Victoria* and recommendation 2 of the *Inquiry into the Rental and Housing Affordability Crisis in Victoria*, the Victorian Government is committed to protecting and

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<sup>1</sup> *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (ICESCR), Article 11(1): The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions ... Whilst Australia ratified ICESCR on 10 December 1975, it has since then failed to ratify the concomitant Optional Protocol complaints procedure.

promoting human rights and understands the importance of ensuring safe, secure and affordable housing for all Victorians.

The *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities* (Charter) contains twenty rights that promote and protect the values of freedom, respect, equality and dignity. While the Charter does not contain a positive right to housing, it contains other rights that provide some protection, such as the right to privacy (section 13).

Any future reform to rights in the Charter will require detailed and thorough consideration of the resourcing and economic impacts on Victorians.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Emma Cassar', written in a cursive style.

**Emma Cassar PSM**

Secretary

19/12/2025