



## CONFUSED

If you are confused about the terminology that is used by the Victorian State government, the Opposition, government bureaucracy, the community and social housing sector, the corporate owned media and the ABC about public housing, then read on.

Public housing has been traditionally owned and managed by the state on behalf of the taxpayer. It was initially established to provide housing for people who, for a variety of reasons, found it difficult to rent or buy a home. The growth of public housing in the 1960's, 1970's and the 1980's went a long way towards overcoming the housing needs of most Victorians. Over the past 25 years, governments of all political colours have neglected the public housing sector. They have relied on government subsidies to property owners (through rental assistance subsidies to people on social security benefits) who privately rent and through generous negative gearing taxation exemptions to investors who rent properties they own.

Over the past decade, housing affordability has become a critical issue for an increasing number of Australians who have been priced out of the property market and rental market. Governments have increasingly relied on community and social housing groups to fill the shortfall. These organisations are privately owned and run (some are not for profit), they rely on government support and subsidies to provide their services. Over the past decade we have seen an increasing number of these organisations taking over the management of public housing. Over the past six years both the Andrews led Labor government and the former Liberal/National government have been increasingly reliant on the private sector to provide public housing. Publicly owned land is given away to the private sector to develop if they build some public houses/units. In most of these new developments the ratio of privately owned houses/units to publicly owned houses/units is **THREE to ONE**.

We understand the Andrews led government has made a decision (that has not been publicly announced) to **transfer the titles** of a substantial proportion of public housing (approximately 70% according to some authorities) to privately owned organisations. This will allow these privately owned social and community housing groups to use the titles to borrow money to expand their empires. It will also mean the end of the security public housing tenants currently enjoy. For all intents and purposes, they will become part of the private rental market – rents will increase and housing security will decrease.

*Co-Convenors: Dr. Joseph Toscano / Mr. John Tweg*

*Committee: Ms. Beryl Jarrett, Ms. Julie Jones, Mr. Roger Pereira, Ms. Fay Roth, Mr Howard Marosi*



[info@defendandextendpublichousing.com](mailto:info@defendandextendpublichousing.com) | [www.defendandextendpublichousing.com](http://www.defendandextendpublichousing.com)

[www.facebook.com/DefendAndExtendPublicHousing](https://www.facebook.com/DefendAndExtendPublicHousing) | PO Box 20 Parkville VIC 3052 | 0439 395 489



In 2016/2017 the only people who can access public housing are those who find themselves in desperate circumstances. Low income individuals and families languish on the public housing waiting list for years.

We do not need the government to outsource its responsibility to provide public housing for people who need housing. We need more public housing, not less. We need this housing to be managed and owned by the State, not owned and managed by privately owned organisations.

We will be holding monthly rallies until the next State election in 2018 on the steps of Parliament House until our Parliamentary representatives in the Victorian Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council support policies that will ensure:

- 1. No more public titles will be transferred or sold to privately owned organisations.**
- 2. Current and future governments will not enter into anymore public/private public housing partnerships.**
- 3. The management of public housing will not continue to be transferred to privately owned organisations.**
- 4. Public housing stocks are substantially increased.**

We look forward to hearing the opinions of each and every member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council about these proposals.

***Access to affordable housing is the glue that is the key to social cohesions.  
Affordable housing – a right, not a privilege.***

We will be holding public rallies on the steps of the Victorian State Parliament, Spring St Melbourne, on:

- Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2017 – midday – 2:00pm**
- Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017 – midday – 2:00pm**

Dr. Joseph Toscano / Joint Convener Defend And Extend Public Housing

*Co-Convenors: Dr. Joseph Toscano / Mr. John Tweg*

*Committee: Ms. Beryl Jarrett, Ms. Julie Jones, Mr. Roger Pereira, Ms. Fay Roth, Mr Howard Marosi*



info@defendandextendpublichousing.com | www.defendandextendpublichousing.com  
www.facebook.com/DefendAndExtendPublicHousing | PO Box 20 Parkville VIC 3052 | 0439 395 489