



## NOT IN OUR TIME

We understand the Victorian Labor Cabinet has just endorsed a decision to privatise 70% of Victoria's public housing stock. Under the guise of improving "community", "social" and "affordable" housing, in Victoria, they have agreed to transfer the management and ownership of the majority of public housing to "community", "social" and "affordable" housing groups that are privately owned and run. The transfer of taxpayer funded public housing to non-government organisations deals a death blow to the idea access to affordable housing for all Australians who require it is primarily a state and federal government responsibility.

A strong vibrant public housing sector not only ensures all Australians, who cannot access the private housing market, have access to affordable housing, it also places downward pressure on private rents and helps first home buyers to enter the property market as many investors will sell their private rental properties if rents fall.

Having a strong public housing sector that is owned and managed by government helps to decrease crime and family violence as well as provide a stable environment that gives children the opportunity to access educational opportunities they would not normally have access to. A strong public housing sector can be financed by using a proportion of the revenue raised by land taxes and stamp duty to maintain and update existing stock and build new public housing in Melbourne and regional Victoria.

We will be holding public rallies on the steps of the Victorian State Parliament, Spring St Melbourne, between 11:30am – 1:30pm on:

- **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October**
- **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November**
- **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December**

To demonstrate to the government, the Opposition and the cross benchers in the Legislative Council our opposition to governments outsourcing their responsibility to provide affordable housing for all Victorians to a private and not for profit non-government sector that, at best, will only be able to provide for the needs of sections of the community, not all Victorians.

We encourage you to join us in a campaign which, if supported by you, has the potential to force the state government to abandon its plans to privatise the public housing sector.

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

This campaign is being co-ordinated by Public Interests Before Corporate Interests (PIBCI [www.pibci.net](http://www.pibci.net)) and is endorsed by PIBCI, Friends of Public Housing – Victoria and the Wednesday Action Group. We expect many more organisations to endorse this campaign over the coming weeks. Let us know if you wish to endorse the Defend and Extend Public Housing campaign.

You can help by coming along to the rallies that have been planned, writing to or emailing your local, state and federal representative, advertising these rallies among your family and friends and using social media to bring this issue to the attention of as many people as possible. This is a campaign Victorians and all Australians can ill afford to lose – JOIN US NOW!!

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

*Committee: Ms. Beryl Jarrett, Ms. Julie Jones, Mr. Roger Pereira, Ms. Fae Roth*



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

PO Box 20 Parkville VIC 3052 | 0439 395 489