

Justice Connect's Homeless Law program

A guide to eligibility



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Is the person 'experiencing homelessness' or 'at risk of homelessness' in Victoria?

'Experiencing homelessness' includes where a person is without conventional accommodation (e.g. sleeping in a park or car), moving frequently between temporary accommodation (e.g. refuges/emergency housing or friends), or living in marginal accommodation on a medium- to long-term basis (e.g. rooming houses, transitional housing, or caravan parks).

'At risk of homelessness' includes where a person has circumstances (e.g. mental illness, age, financial hardship, or family violence) or a legal issue that makes it difficult to access or maintain secure accommodation.

2

Does the legal matter fall within our areas of expertise?



Tenancy and housing

- Focusing on homelessness prevention, particularly:
- Defending a notice to vacate and VCAT eviction proceedings
 - Tenancies impacted by family violence
 - Defending compliance order applications.
 - Defending landlord compensation/housing debt claims
 - Creation and transfer of a tenancy



Fines and infringements

- Where 50% or more of the person's fines are directly related to their homelessness, including:
- Public transport fines
 - Being drunk in public
 - Begging
 - Littering
 - Unregistered vehicle or parking fines



Consumer debt

- Utilities and telco debts
- Consumer credit issues with financial institutions
- Judgment debts
- Debt collectors seeking payment

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They may be eligible for free legal help

Eligible people will be booked into one of Justice Connect's weekly Homeless Law outreach clinics and can receive ongoing legal representation, including advice, negotiation, and representation at courts and VCAT.



Our services and projects

People may also benefit from Justice Connect's Homeless Law targeted services and projects:

Women's Homelessness Prevention Project

Integrated legal and social work supports for women, focusing on tenancy and housing legal issues.

Closing the Revolving Door Prison Project

Specialised, holistic legal representation for people in or exiting prison.

Criminal legal representation

Advice and representation from a criminal lawyer for existing Homeless Law clients facing criminal charges in the Magistrates' Court.

Homeless Persons' Liaison Officer

Integrated social work supports for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness with matters in Victorian Courts or Tribunals.

Dear Landlord

A digital self-help tool providing support to take action and avoid eviction for renters in Victoria who have fallen behind in rent. justiceconnect.org.au/DL

This is only a guide. Justice Connect's Homeless Law supports are also subject to merits and means tests and service capacity. Please contact Justice Connect's Homeless Law to determine whether eligibility criteria are satisfied.

Contact us

Get in touch with Justice Connect's Homeless Law:



1800 606 313* or 03 8636 4408

*freecall from landlines



For people seeking help:

help.justiceconnect.org.au/homelesslaw

For workers making a referral:

help.justiceconnect.org.au/referral