



Beyond criminalisation: Reflecting on Melbourne's experience

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An increase in people sleeping rough in the City of Melbourne by 74% (to 247) between 2014 and 2016

Media like this

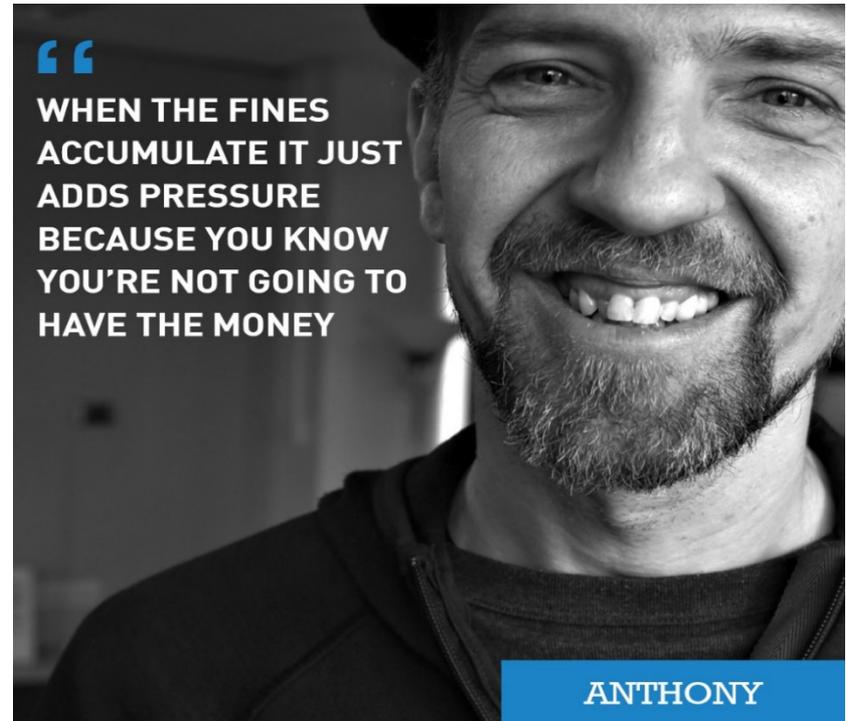
A proposal to use the local law to tackle rough sleeping and unattended items

The evidence and the risks

1. Physical isolation and increased risk
2. The justice system is costly for individuals and the community
3. Strain on enforcement officers
4. Human rights concerns and reputational – is this the kind of city Melbourne wants to be?
5. ... ineffectiveness

NATIONAL VICTORIA

'Violation of human rights': UN condemns Melbourne's homeless camping ban



Justice Connect Homeless Law, *In the Public Eye: Personal Stories of Homelessness and Fines*

Working together toward alternatives



www.justiceconnect.org.au/CBDhomelessnessframework

Where we got to

- 84% of 2500 consultation respondents opposed the proposed laws
- Operating Protocol
- Reliance on existing laws (e.g. amenity and begging)
- Victorian Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Plan
- City of Melbourne funding for innovation, storage workshops, service co-ordination and Connect Respect



Looking ahead

- Even without new laws, there are still abundant ways people sleeping rough can be fined, charged, moved on or have their belongings confiscated
- It's crucial we're connected with people directly affected to understand their experiences of enforcement
- Communication and leadership are vital:
 - So people sleeping rough understand their rights, responsibilities and options
 - So people enforcing the laws do so consistently and fairly in a way that's compatible with Victoria's *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act*
 - So the broader community understands homelessness and contributes to effective, appropriate responses (e.g. the University of Melbourne research regarding businesses)

We need an ongoing effort from all corners of the community and government to be accountable for effective, compassionate and proven approaches to ending homelessness.