WEST HEIDELBERG COMMUNITY LEGAL



“Who’s the landlord”

Social Housing Legal Program – responding to a rapidly changing housing landscape

08 October 2026

Holstep Health
Community care. For life.

SOCIAL HOUSING LEGAL PROGRAM

W H
C L

A recently established specialist service of Inner Melbourne Community Legal (IMCL) and West Heidelberg Community Legal (WHCL).

- bridging existing knowledge and service gaps for social housing renters
- assisting renters through dedicated and specialist legal assistance and representation
- advocating for improved rights, best practice regulation and provider accountability



Transformation

"The future system will be multi-provider, with a strong public housing system working alongside a larger community housing sector, **which will be the focus and driver of growth."**

Establishing a 10-Year Strategy for Social and Affordable Housing, Sector Consultation Paper (Homes Victoria – 2020)

2020

38 registered agencies

2026

86 registered agencies

Housing Registrar – Public Register



Impact

There is disparity in the standards experienced by renters in community and public housing. At a policy level these can be understood by considering the following characteristics:

- Content
- Consistency
- Transparency
- Enforceability

“Without improved regulation … and stronger protections for renters, the replacement of public housing with community housing will have the effect of eroding rental standards for social housing residents. The changing makeup of Victoria's social housing landscape is already impacting renters - including in relation to evictions, rental costs and engagement with the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT).”

Social Housing Legal Program submission to the Inquiry into the Redevelopment of Melbourne’s Public Housing Towers (2025)





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INNER MELBOURNE COMMUNITY LEGAL

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