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Media Release
5 December 2017

**Community Legal Centres advise Victorian Government of their concerns
about the Public Housing Renewal Program**

St. Kilda Legal Service is part of a coalition¹ of 7 community legal centres (**Coalition**) concerned about the potentially unsustainable funding model, limited public housing outcomes, and inadequate consultation and relocation process of the Victorian Government's Public Housing Renewal Program (**Program**).

The Program involves 'renewal' of nine public housing estates across Melbourne, including two within our catchment – New St, Brighton, and Bangs St, Prahran.

While it is intended that the old rundown public housing will be rebuilt and brought in line with building standards, there will only be a 10% increase of public housing on the estates through the process, together with a dramatic increase in private housing.

"The proposal is to increase social housing by only 110 dwellings, in the face of a housing crisis and about 35,000 people on the public housing waiting list in Victoria", says Ms Agata Wierzbowski, Principal Lawyer at St Kilda Legal.

"Despite the proposed increase of 110 dwellings, due to an emphasis on 1 and 2-bedroom apartments, on the information currently available there is likely to be an actual decrease in total bedrooms at the sites. This will result in a decrease in overall public housing capacity, which is grossly inadequate."

St Kilda Legal is further concerned about the intention of government to remove third party appeal and notice rights through proposed planning changes.

The Coalition made a written submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Program on 10 November 2017,² and St Kilda Legal Service was one of three members of the Coalition to make oral submissions to the Parliamentary Inquiry today, 5 December 2017.

For further information and to arrange interviews please contact:

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¹ The Coalition includes St Kilda Legal Service, Fitzroy Legal Service, Northern Community Legal Centre, West Heidelberg Community Legal Service, Tenants Union of Victoria, Moonee Valley Legal Service and Inner Melbourne Community Legal.

² <http://www.skls.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/171110-Submission-to-PHRP-Parliamentary-Inquiry-FINAL.pdf>