



VICTORIAN
WOMEN
LAWYERS

HOMELESSNESS AND THE LAW

Panel Discussion

Victorian Women Lawyers welcomes you to a discussion regarding the proposed changes to reform Melbourne city council by-laws and the broader issue of homelessness.

Since 2014, the number of people sleeping rough in Melbourne City has increased by 74% and almost half of all Victorians experiencing homelessness are women. The most common cause of homelessness for women in Victoria is family violence.

The Melbourne City Council has proposed to amend the *Activities Local Law Act 2009* (Vic) which regulates the use of public space in Melbourne. If implemented, these changes will impact people experiencing homelessness.

At this event, guest speakers will discuss the proposed changes, and potential ways in which law reform and other approaches can prevent and assist those experiencing homelessness (particularly focusing on women). This discussion will be moderated by Noelia Boscana, Special Counsel at MinterEllison.

All proceeds raised at this event will go towards **Justice Connect Homeless Law** and not-for-profit homelessness support organisation, **Blessing Bags**.

DATE

Thursday 31 August 2017

TIME

5:30 pm: registration and refreshments
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm: panel discussion

COST

\$10 for VWL members, \$15 for non-members

LOCATION

MinterEllison, Level 23, Rialto Towers 525 Collins Street, Melbourne

REGISTRATION

www.vwl.asn.au/events

PANELLISTS:



COUNCILLOR AMANDA STONE

An education consultant who has previously worked as a teacher, student counsellor and assistant principal, Councillor Stone holds a Bachelor of Arts and Graduate Diplomas in Education and Child Psychology. She is also a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

A member of the Greens who has been a representative on the Yarra Council since 2008, Councillor Stone believes that the challenges of a changing city can only be met by council in partnership with the community. She is an advocate for a fair and equitable community, where no one is left behind.



LUCY ADAMS

Lucy Adams is the Manager and Principal of the Homeless Law section of Justice Connect.

Justice Connect's Homeless Law is a specialised legal service for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. The team works to improve outcomes for its clients through holistic legal representation and evidence-based advocacy.



JODY LETTS

Jody Letts is a former defence force worker who has experienced sleeping rough in Melbourne CBD. Following suffering from work-related injuries, illnesses and mental health issues, Jody found herself living out of a van in the CBD.

Through her participation in Council to Homeless Persons' Peer Education and Support Program, Jody is committed to sharing her experiences for the prevention and potential support for those experiencing homelessness.