

Media Release

The Hon Martin Foley MP

Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing
Minister for Mental Health
Minister for Equality
Minister for Creative Industries



Getting Things Done.
Making Things Fair.

Sunday, 11 March, 2018

MORE RAPID HOUSING FOR VICTIMS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE

The Andrews Labor Government is helping more Victorian women and children fleeing family violence into safe rental accommodation thanks to an expanded leasing program.

Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing Martin Foley today announced more than \$4 million in new funding for the *Rapid Housing Program* to ensure family violence victims have access to homes when they need them.

Under the program, homes are leased from private owners by community housing agencies, which sublet them to women and children at below market rent.

The program focuses on areas with high incidences of family violence and offers stable accommodation for up to 12 months.

The \$152 million Family Violence Housing Blitz has helped community housing agencies purchase 185 properties and lease 124.

A further \$2 million announced last year will help lease more than 120 properties for family violence victims.

These programs have successfully housed more than 300 Victorian women and children so they can live safely in the community.

One in 10 applicants on the Victorian Housing Register priority list identify family violence as a reason for seeking urgent housing assistance.

The Labor Government has invested more than \$285 million in the last two Victorian budgets to boost social housing stock, redevelop refuges and provide rental assistance to get family violence victims housed safely and quickly.

It builds on our \$1.9 billion commitment to tackle the scourge of family violence – more than any other state or federal government in the nation.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing Martin Foley

“We never want to see women and children with nowhere to go because of violence at home.”

“This investment is about providing more housing options for victims, so they can get a roof over their head quickly and rebuild their lives.”

Quote attributable to Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence Natalie Hutchins

“We’re proud to have made a huge difference in the lives of more than 300 Victorian women and children fleeing family violence, thanks to housing programs like this one.”