

# Mornington Peninsula Women's Shelter Community Forum

Women's homelessness and domestic violence are reaching crisis levels on the Mornington Peninsula. Join us at a special community forum where you can learn how Women's Community Shelters (WCS) is working at a grassroots level to find a solution. Together with the local community, we plan to open a new shelter, 'created for the community, by the community.'

The forum is an opportunity to find out more and get involved. Whether it's becoming a board member, assisting in the property search, donating time, resources or skills, or joining the fundraising effort - there are numerous ways for you to contribute and help support more women and children at risk.

Hear from our expert speakers as they shed light on the urgent need for a new crisis shelter and the positive impacts it can have on the local community.



Annabelle Daniel OAM,  
WCS CEO, Chair DVNSW &  
Member of Coercive Control  
Taskforce



Peter Hunt AM,  
WCS Founder and  
Board Member



Cr. Sarah Race,  
Mornington Peninsula  
Shire Council



Lisa Holt, Principal,  
Rosebud Secondary  
College



Tracy Meyer, Detective  
Senior Sergeant,  
Somerville Family Violence  
Investigation Unit

## WE NEED HELP WITH

- Finding a property
- Shelter set up and operational costs
- Board Members
- Fundraising
- Developing community and corporate partnerships
- Lobbying Government

Join Us

**Wednesday**  
**8th MAY**

7.00pm - 9.00 pm



Rosebud Secondary College (Auditorium)  
245 Eastbourne Road Rosebud VIC

# HELP US CREATE CHANGE AND ESTABLISH A NEW MORNINGTON PENINSULA WOMEN'S SHELTER FOR AT RISK WOMEN AND CHILDREN



## A NATIONAL CRISIS

Women's homelessness, often a consequence of domestic and family violence, is a pressing national crisis in Australia. Each night, 58,000 women find themselves without a safe place to call home, highlighting the critical importance of addressing the interconnected issues of domestic violence and homelessness.

WCS, in partnership with the Mornington Peninsula council, local community and local steering committee, is mobilising its unique social franchise model of shelter establishment to open a new crisis shelter for women and their children.

## TOGETHER WE CAN SUPPORT MORE WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Over the past 12 years, WCS has opened 11 crisis shelters and over 65 transitional properties offering support to over 1300 women and children in crisis, and provided nearly 60,000 safe bed nights to the sector each year.

This support encompasses vital funding, project management, intellectual property guidance, and governance expertise.

But we need to do more.

## WHY IT MATTERS

WCS has changed the paradigm on women's homelessness and domestic and family violence (DFV) in NSW and we want to do the same in Victoria.

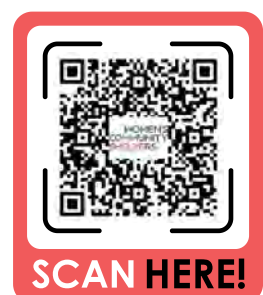
Working with the Mornington Peninsula Council and local communities, the first WCS Victorian Shelter will pave the way for nationwide expansion to support the 1000's of women and children needing safety and support across Australia each night.

## CALL TO ACTION

We invite you to work with us to combat women's homelessness and help break the cycle of domestic and family violence.

By working together, we can establish a new Mornington Peninsula Women's Shelter within the next 18 months.

We can't do it without you, so please get in touch today.



For more information on how you can get involved, or to support the Mornington Peninsula Women's Shelter, please scan the QR code.

For attendance and any enquiries, please **RSVP here** by 26th April.

## THE CHALLENGE

- Insufficient government-funded crisis shelters for women and children on the Mornington Peninsula.
- Improving NGO support for homelessness prevention compared to the urgent need.
- Mornington Peninsula's housing costs now exceed the median price in Melbourne.
- Pandemic-induced population growth and short-stay tourism worsen homelessness.
- Rough sleeper rates on the Peninsula are almost three times the national average, estimated at 20%.

## THE SOLUTION

A new Mornington Peninsula Women's Shelter will:

- Provide crisis accommodation for up to 70 clients within the first year, including 30 women and 4 children, totaling over 3400 bed nights.
- Collaborate with community partners to repurpose underutilised properties into transitional homes for women.
- Implement WCS's prevention program in two local high schools, educating and connecting 300 students with the shelter.
- Develop a blueprint for expanding WCS's services across Victoria to support more women and children in need.