

**Labor will:**

- implement further reforms to the Residential Tenancy Act and Residential Tenancies Regulations to ensure greater consumer protection and improved housing standards;
- introduce a standard form long term lease agreement which will ensure renters can have stability and security;
- ensure access to transparent and independent mechanisms for reviewing rental increases;
- strengthen maintenance regimes for rental properties;
- reform minimum standards for rental properties to improve water and energy efficiency standards;
- outlaw the practice of rental bidding or rental auctions;
- work with all levels of government to encourage greater investment in affordable rental housing, increasing the supply of homes available for private rental across a diverse range of sizes and locations;
- improve protection of people living in relocatable housing and caravan parks, by allowing compensation when parks close, strengthening pre-contractual disclosure and improvements to their rights.
- ensure that public housing tenants are not discouraged from social and economic participation by the prospect of immediate rent rises when their income increases; and
- eliminate bias in private rental market applications for people from diverse backgrounds.

**6.3.5 HOMELESSNESS**

Having a home is a basic human right. Labor believes that people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness should be supported to achieve sustainable housing and social inclusion.

**Labor will:**

- continue to implement a Housing First model to ensure that secure affordable housing is offered as quickly as possible to Victorians in crisis;
- focus on prevention and early intervention to stop people, particularly young people, becoming homeless;
- work with relevant organisations to support strategies that break the cycle of homelessness;
- improve and expand the service response to homelessness, with the goal of providing long-term, integrated housing to those in need;
- ensure that crisis and transitional housing accommodation is in locations where it is needed;
- support tenants in crisis and transitional housing to obtain longer-term housing by providing support with rental bonds; and
- ensure drug and alcohol and mental health treatment and support are available for people who are homeless or transitioning into accommodation.

**6.4 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION**

Community participation is at the heart of a healthy and vibrant society.

**Labor will:**

- continue to support important community organisations like neighbourhood houses in recognition of the important work they do in being places of inclusion for many people, as well as assisting in social cohesion, the provision of education and the opportunity to volunteer in local communities; and
- continue to provide support to men's sheds in recognition of the important role they play in enhancing the health and wellbeing of men and connecting men with their local communities.

**6.5 ARTS, CULTURE AND CREATIVITY**

A strong, vibrant and diverse creative communities are essential in building a more inclusive and connected society. Every Victorian should have the opportunity to participate in, or enjoy the best of what our arts, culture and creativity has to offer.

**Labor will:**

- strengthen and revitalise the assets and infrastructure of our major cultural institutions and agencies to ensure they are world class;
- ensure our major cultural agencies create opportunities to collaborate with our medium and small creative organisations, especially those in regional and suburban areas, to advance the whole sector;
- stimulate local economies and grow tourism by offering a greater diversity of cultural events in rural and regional areas;
- support individual creative practitioners in their important work, so that they may take the next steps in their career;
- continue to grow our State's live music sector, ensuring both long-term sustainability, growing new audience and market opportunities and making Melbourne's live music scene one of the best in the world;
- expand opportunities for Aboriginal Victorians to express their history, culture and creativity, through a range of artistic mediums;
- increase the diversity of the creative industries, giving greater opportunities and voice to those with disability, Aboriginal Victorians, CALD communities, those from the LGBTI community, and women in traditionally under-represented creative industries;
- expand Victoria's presence in the screen industry, opening new markets for our games, TV and film sectors and growing jobs in these industries; and
- create further opportunities for creative industries to collaborate and co-work in shared spaces.

**6.6 SPORT AND RECREATION**

Sport brings communities together, and creates a sense of belonging. It is essential to our health and wellbeing as well as bringing significant economic and cultural benefits to our state,

**Labor will:**

- support the development of athletes through the Victorian Institute of Sport and its regional academies;
- encourage and support sport across Victoria;
- ensure that community facilities are accessible to people with disabilities; and
- address the gender inequality in sports administration and encourage mainstream media to program more women's sport and fledging sporting codes.

**6.6.1 SPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE**

Labor understands that participation in sporting and recreational activities is important for social inclusion and personal health and wellbeing and that sporting facilities must be available to all Victorians.

The Andrews Labor Government has delivered the biggest boost to community sport in the state's history to upgrade facilities at suburban ground, local clubs and high-performance centres across the state.