



STUART GRIMLEY MP

Member for Western Victoria
State Leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party

MEDIA RELEASE



Stuart Grimley MP response to Victorian Government media release “Supporting Workers To Make A Move To Regional Victoria” released on 8 July 2021.

Quotes Attributable to Stuart Grimley MP:

“It is fantastic news to see the government finally beginning to fund initiatives to fix the housing crisis in regional Victoria. Many of these areas have been struggling for years to build new housing developments.

“I have been calling for more financial help to these regions for years. The housing crisis isn’t an issue that has popped up due to the COVID-19 pandemic; this issue has been getting worse every year while metropolitan infrastructure has been funded and run over Budget consistently.

“I have regularly met with local councils who have struggled to get job vacancies filled in their LGA because there is nowhere to live. Many of these jobs pay more than \$100,000 a year. It is great that something is finally being developed, however it needs to be completed as a matter of urgency.

“If the government was serious about increasing housing availability in regional Victoria, they would have allocated a Minimum Investment Guarantee to all of the regional councils through the Big Housing Build Program. Instead only a select few have been guaranteed funding, while the councils who struggle the most financially, are left to battle it out between each other.

“We are also missing out on an opportunity to secure important crisis accommodation for people who are victims of family violence or unexpected homelessness. Many of these smaller towns do not have these supports in place and often people have no choice but to move away from their hometown to seek refuge.

“It unfortunately feels sometimes as though the Government forget that regional Victoria adds billions of dollars to our state’s economic output, produces the food on their plates and are facilitating our push to renewable energy. It is about time that our smaller towns and regions are given the same services and funding as their metropolitan counterparts.

Office of Stuart Grimley Media Contact:

Callum Whitehead / 0437 096 982 / callum.whitehead@parliament.vic.gov.au