

A Bill for an Act relating to Mandatory Air-Conditioning in Public Housing Bill 2020.

To be enacted by YMCA Victoria Youth Parliament;

Mandatory Air-Conditioning in Public Housing Bill 2020

A Bill for an Act to establish an Air-Conditioning in Public Housing Task Force to sit within Housing Victoria. This Task Force will ensure that air-conditioning is supplied to all Victorians tenants of public housing developments. In addition, the Bill will be used to ensure that the cost of installation and repair is covered by the Task Force, subsidies are provided to tenants, and priority is given to those with special requirements.

This Bill was developed to address the hardship experienced by public housing residents due to extreme heat and heatwaves in Victoria. Prolonged heat exposure poses significant risk to the physical, social and mental health of public housing residents. Thus, it is the aim of this Bill to ensure that adequate cooling solutions are implemented to prevent further harm to public housing residents in the state of Victoria.

PART I—Preliminary

Clause 1 Purpose

The main purposes of this Act are to—

- (a) Introduce the Air-Conditioning in Public Housing (ACPH) Task Force;
- (b) Make air-conditioning mandatory in Victorian public housing.

Clause 2 Commencement

This Bill shall commence upon receiving assent from the Youth Governor of Victoria.

Clause 3 Definitions

In this Bill, we define the following to mean—

- (a) **air-conditioning** means a system for controlling the humidity, ventilation, and temperature in a building or vehicle, typically to maintain a cool atmosphere in warm conditions;
- (b) **split system** means an air-conditioner that splits its components into two parts - including an evaporator unit and an outdoor unit that houses the condenser and compressor components;
- (c) **evaporative cooling** means a form of air-conditioning, where the device cools air through the evaporation of water.

Part II—Establishment

Clause 4 Establishment of the Task Force

- 4.1 The Air-Conditioning in Public Housing (ACPH) Task Force shall be established to oversee the implementation of this Bill.
- 4.2 The ACPH Task Force shall sit under Housing Victoria.
- 4.3 The ACPH Task Force shall ensure—
 - (a) air-conditioning is supplied to Victorians in all public housing developments;
 - (b) the oversight of installation, maintenance, and repairs of all air-conditioners.

Clause 5 System of air-conditioning used

- 5.1 Evaporative cooling shall be used as the main type of air-conditioning in all public housing developments where possible.
- 5.2 Should evaporative cooling not be available, the following shall be used instead—
 - (a) central air-conditioning with a split system;
 - (b) ductless air-conditioning.

Clause 6 Installation and repair costs

- 6.1 The cost of installation shall be paid for by the ACPH Task Force.

- 6.2 The ACPH Task Force is obliged to pay for all system repairs if it is as a result of the following—
- (a) faulty model;
 - (b) incorrect installation;
 - (c) poor maintenance;
 - (d) system wiring;
 - (e) or if the system becomes a danger to tenants.
- 6.3 Should residents be deemed at fault for the need of a system repair, the resident is liable for the cost of repair.

Clause 7 Timeframe of installation of air-conditioners

- 7.1 Priority shall be given to those residing in the following Local Government Areas (LGA's) —
- (a) Mildura Rural City;
 - (b) Hindmarsh Shire;
 - (c) Yarriambiack Shire;
 - (d) Swan Hill Rural City;
 - (e) Buloke Shire;
 - (f) Gannawarra Shire;
 - (g) Campaspe Shire;
 - (h) Greater Shepparton City;
 - (i) Moira Shire.
- 7.2 Priority will also be given to those who fall under the following conditions—
- (a) Public housing with residents under 12 years of age or over 65 years of age;
 - (b) Pregnant women;
 - (c) Those with heart disease, high blood pressure or diabetes;
 - (d) Those on a prescription for—
 - (i) Tricyclic Antidepressants;
 - (ii) Antipsychotics;
 - (iii) Thiazide Diuretics;
 - (iv) Anticholinergics.

Clause 8 Subsidies

- 8.1 A 50% subsidy shall be applied for the first 3 months of electricity usage for each household upon installation of an air-conditioner.
- 8.2 A 25% subsidy shall be applied in the subsequent 3 months.