



Department of Human Services

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Secretary

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Dr Kathy Alexander
Chief Executive Officer
City of Melbourne
PO Box 1603
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Dear Dr Alexander

Thank you for your letter of 26 May 2008 regarding a draft of the *Future Melbourne Plan*. The plan is an ambitious and progressive vision for the City of Melbourne, and includes a number of strategic aims that are closely aligned with those of the Department of Human Services. We welcome the opportunity to offer feedback on the proposal as part of community consultations.

As you are aware, the Victorian Government has taken an active role in improving the liveability of the Inner Melbourne Region. In particular, the Inner Melbourne Action Plan (IMAP), which is partly funded by the State Government's *Melbourne 2030* Local Government Assistance Fund via the Targeted Grants Program, aims to strengthen the liveability, attractiveness and prosperity of the inner city and respond to the demands of *Melbourne 2030*.

In terms of broad social policy directions, it is important to recognise and reinforce the connections between key State policy statements – such as *A Fairer Victoria*, *Valuing Cultural Diversity* - and the *Future Melbourne Plan*. We support a focus on inclusion to specify who might be excluded, such those identifying as gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, transsexual or inter-gender, and people experiencing homelessness.

We recognise and affirm the City of Melbourne's ongoing commitment to affordable housing, and encourage the plan to consider strategies to achieve the provision of affordable housing options for residents choosing to live in the inner city. We also note the reference to major redevelopments (such as Docklands, E-Gate and Parkville) and support the inclusion of affordable housing targets as part of the planning process for these strategic growth areas.

Efforts to expand responses to people who are homeless through improved pathways out of homelessness, as noted in the Plan, are strongly supported. Initiatives such as the Elizabeth Street Supported Housing Project will provide a foundation for improved partnerships across Governments, the community sector and business in responding to homelessness.

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