



14 November 2019

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Homeless People in Public Places**

Is the *Protocol for Homeless People in Public Places* currently working and could it be improved? These questions are the focus of a new inquiry announced today.

The Protocol, introduced by the NSW Government, is a framework for ensuring homeless people are treated and supported in an appropriate, respectful and non-discriminatory manner.

The Committee on Community Services will explore how effective and appropriate the Protocol is in protecting and responding to the needs of the homeless in our community.

“While one of the Premier’s Priorities is to halve the number of street sleepers by 2025, we need to make sure that our most vulnerable are being treated and served in the most appropriate and respectful way” announced Wendy Lindsay, Member for East Hills and Chair of the Committee on Community Services.

“We recognise there are different groups within the homeless community and we want to make sure their diverse needs have been considered and included in the guidelines. Maintaining dignity for all homeless people is just as important as their safety.”

The Protocol has been endorsed by a number of NSW Government organisations supporting homeless people and is used as a reference guide by local councils and the non-government sector.

“We invite all agencies and organisations who work with and support the homeless community, homeless people, particularly indigenous and minority groups, as well as members of the public to share their views on how the Protocol is working in practice. This will assist in identifying opportunities to strengthen the current approach.”

More information, including the inquiry’s terms of reference and how to make a submission, is available on the Committee’s [webpage](#).

The closing date for submissions is Friday 28 February 2020.

For enquiries please contact Ms Wendy Lindsay MP, Committee Chair on 9772 2774