

Vulnerable forced to move out

Lack of housing puts many at risk

Housing | Lily Partland

VULNERABLE people on the Mornington Peninsula are being forced to move outside the area because of a lack of housing.

Regional convenor of the Community Visitors program Pauline Musgrave said in the past year one of six privately run Peninsula facilities that provided housing and support for people who may have a mental illness or intellectual disability had closed.

Another had changed to an aged-care facility, reducing options for people at risk of homelessness.

"The tragedy is that every bed lost is not replaced," Ms Musgrave said.

Only one pension-level supported residential service (SRS) remained on the Mornington Peninsula, forcing the people most at risk of homelessness to relocate to housing in Dandenong, Noble Park and Clayton.

"But the worst thing is they have no support, they've moved away from their families," she said.

Opposition community service spokeswoman Mary Wooldridge said the government response to this issue had been "exceptional weak".

"It's the absolute failure of the Brumby Government to provide suitable accommodation for people with disabilities and mental illness," she said.

Ms Wooldridge said while she supported the private SRS system, it was unable to provide for those with more serious care needs.

"SRSs are the end of the line for people in many circumstances who don't have anywhere to go," Ms Wooldridge said.

However, a State Government spokesman said the "lazy Liberal Party" had a "dismal track record providing these vital services under the Kennett government.



Is enough being done for the vulnerable on the Mornington Peninsula? Tell us your thoughts at morningtonleader.com.au