

## **12 Reasons to support Airbnb and the home sharing economy:**

Please note: these are simple bullet points that have facts and case studies to back them up. Arguments against these points are welcome and encouraged.

1. Allows young people to enter the buyer's market and therefore open up rental stock that they had been occupying
2. Enables single people affected by death or divorce to hold on to their homes and maintain independence and self-sufficiency
3. Creates new service jobs such as housekeeping, renovations, landscaping etc
4. Keeps the middle class in the city rather than pushing them out to suburbs
5. Helps to keep local people in the city rather than having only people who earn their income elsewhere and live mostly elsewhere
6. Gives travellers the options to stay with families and have a true local experience; This is an overall global theme in travel and tourism and is bringing people to our cities
7. Encourages community and connection and offers locals and visitors opportunities to learn about other countries and cultures
8. When correctly operated, offers a safe, low risk effective way to add an income stream to those who need to earn extra money to make life more affordable
9. Offsets the shortage of hotel space we currently face
10. Offers people the opportunity to stay in large family homes that might otherwise be sold or bulldozed and replaced (often by foreign owners)
11. Actually allows the unaffordable to become more affordable to an entirely new sector of citizens
12. Offers temporary housing to people moving to Victoria who need a place to stay while settling in to a new area

## **Solutions to the apparent causes of Airbnb creating a rental crisis**

- Create a peer / neighbourhood approval process that ensures properties meet minimum standards of compliance, and care
- Tax Airbnb owners at a fair rate
- Impose a maximum number of properties owned and operated
- Offer free courses on how to set up Airbnb in the city and surrounding areas within the guidelines set by government
- Build more rental units
- Set up an Airbnb hotline for complaints and compliments
- Ensure understanding of the entire picture which includes the pros and cons

Liza Rogers

