

YWCA RAPID HOUSING Q&A SHEET

What is the Rapid Housing program?

In partnership with DHHS, YWCA Housing will lease a number of private rental properties through Real Estate Agencies and private landlords. These properties will provide housing for women who meet the following criteria;

- Women headed household
- Currently sleeping rough, have a history of chronic or episodic rough sleeping, or;
- Are exiting or have recently left institutional care, or
- Are a single female living in temporary or unsuitable accommodation, including unregistered rooming houses, crisis accommodation or transitional accommodation

Who is eligible?

Women who are currently priority listed on the Victorian Housing Register (VHR) and actively involved with, and supported by, homelessness services. The eligibility criteria to be on the VHR include;

- Identity – Proof of Identity is required for all householders over 15 years.
- Australian Citizenship or Permanent Resident
- Victorian Residency
- Income eligibility
- Asset eligibility

YWCA Housing and cohealth

YWCA Housing and cohealth are working in partnership on the Rapid Housing program. Cohealth will provide you with support/referrals/information throughout your tenancy in this program. YWCA Housing and cohealth will meet regularly and with your written consent, will exchange information relating to your tenancy, circumstances and future housing.

How much will my rent be?

During the lease with YWCA Housing, your rent will be rebated based on your gross household income, similar to Office of Housing and other Community Housing Organisations. Rent is calculated at 25% of gross assessable income plus 100% of Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA).

Can I continue living at the property after the lease has finished?

You are able stay longer at the property where;

- The property owner/real estate agent offers a lease to you
- You are able to pay the full rental (rent is not subsidised in a further lease term)

What if I need whitegoods or furniture?

YWCA Housing and your support services will work with you to supply you with what you require. YWCA Housing can also assist with a NILs (No Interest Loans) if required.

Will this affect my place on the Victorian Housing Register?

Yes, if you participate in this program, DHHS will consider you housed, and you will be removed from the wait list.

Once the lease expires, and in the event that you do not take over the existing lease, YWCA Housing and your support agency will work with you to seek alternate housing solutions such as:

- Housing with YWCA Housing in one of our owned, or managed properties
- Housing with another registered community housing provider/association
- Assistance to complete an application for housing and reassessment for the Victoria Housing Register
- Secure private rental accommodation, in a different property

What are the benefits:

- Your good tenancy with YWCA Housing, will allow us to provide you with an excellent rental reference stating that you paid your rent on time, kept your property in a clean and tidy state and got along well with your neighbours. This rental reference will assist you to secure a private or community housing rental.
- A 12-month lease will provide you with an opportunity for stable housing, whilst connecting you to supports that can assist you with a range of services for women;
 - Mental health services
 - Employment pathways
 - Counselling services
 - Health services
 - Education
- Empowerment! An opportunity to move into the private rental market by taking over the existing lease after the initial 12 months, where possible.

Yes, I would like to participate in this program, what do I do next?

- 1. Contact YWCA Housing**
- 2. Complete an application form**
- 3. Attend a meeting YWCA Housing and support services to determine your housing needs**

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Richard Bailey, Team Leader, YWCA Housing on 8341-8700.