

# Homes Victoria

Tarakan Street, Heidelberg West

## Social housing and Community housing FAQs



### What is social housing?

Social housing is an umbrella term that includes community housing and public housing.

### What is community housing?

Community housing is affordable, long-term housing that is managed and supported by a community housing provider. Community housing providers are experienced, not-for-profit organisations that provide tenancy management and maintenance services, as well as community building and social support services. The Tarakan Street housing site is being managed by community housing provider, Uniting.

Uniting is part of [Uniting Vic.Tas](https://www.unitingvic.tas.gov.au/) and provides inclusive housing services to address a diverse range of housing needs.

### Who is eligible to live in community housing?

Community housing is allocated to people through the [Victorian Housing Register](https://www.victorianhousingregister.gov.au/) including people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, older women, Aboriginal Victorians, and people with a disability.

### What is public housing?

Public housing is long-term housing that is managed and supported by the Victorian Government. The Office of Housing provides tenancy management and maintenance services as well as community support services.

### Why is the Tarakan Street housing site being managed by a community housing provider, and not the Office of Housing?

Partnering with community housing agencies enables us to make the redevelopment of social housing financially possible so that we can provide more and better homes for people who need them.

The community housing agencies we partner with are highly regulated, experienced, not-for-profit organisations. They provide tailored, and purpose-driven services to tenants. As not-for-profits, they invest any rent back into housing and services for renters.

## How do I apply for social housing and community housing?

Go to [Apply for social housing](#) for instructions on how to apply online, with the paper application and for more information.

You will need to:

- Complete the online application or fill in the paper application form
- Provide proof of identity, residency status and income. To find out more, see [proof of identity](#)
- Include any other documents needed for each person applying.

## How long will I have to wait?

Your wait time will depend on your circumstances.

Things that affect the length of time you may wait include:

- The preferred location that you have chosen
- The number of applications already on the Victorian Housing Register
- People who have demonstrated a housing need under one of the Priority Access categories
- The number of homes in demand in a given area and how often properties become vacant
- If you have special location requirements or need a particular type of property (for example, one with modifications), it may take longer.

## How much rent will I pay?

Your rent will be about 25 to 30 per cent of your combined gross income.

If you receive a Centrelink payment, you may be eligible for [Commonwealth Rent Assistance](#).

## How long can I stay?

Tenancies in community housing generally continue until the renter decides to leave or the tenancy becomes unsustainable.

Community housing renters sign a residential rental agreement. The agreement outlines the rights and responsibilities of the community housing organisation (as residential rental provider) and renter.

Renters have the same rights under the Victorian Residential Tenancies Act 1997 as public housing renters and private renters.

You can find more information about the Residential Tenancies Act 1997 on the [renting section of the Consumer Affairs Victoria website](#).