

PURPOSE

This policy explains how Evolve Housing Vic Limited (EHVL) will provide crisis and transitional housing to those people in greatest need who, without the services of a Support Partner, may otherwise not be able to independently sustain a tenancy.

POLICY REFERENCE	VHS200.1
POLICY OWNER	General Manager, Resident Services
APPROVED BY	Evolve Housing Ltd CEO
APPROVAL DATE	1 Mar 2022
REVIEW DATE	1 Mar 2025

SUPPORTED HOUSING POLICY

1. SCOPE

This policy relates to crisis and transitional housing for clients of Support Partners, which is provided on short to medium, fixed-term tenancies.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

Supported Housing is a three way partnership between EHVL, Support Partners and clients of the Support Partners. EHVL is committed to participating effectively in the early intervention and prevention of homelessness, and recognises that the provision of housing alone is not enough to solve homelessness or achieve a successful tenancy. Housing which is affordable for people in need must be matched with appropriate client-focused support.

2.1 Target Groups

The primary focus of Supported Housing is for certain vulnerable groups who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, including:

- Young people;
- Aboriginal people;
- Elderly people who require support to live independently;
- People with mental illness issues;
- Women with Children;
- Victims of Domestic or Family Violence
- Single homeless men.

In addition EHVL's Supported Housing Program will also focus on the provision of Supported Housing for:

- People leaving correctional facilities;
- Refugees and migrants; and
- People with physical or intellectual disabilities.

2.2 Housing Need:

Applicants for Supported Housing must be in need of housing and unable to resolve this need in the short to medium term, without assistance from an EHVL Support Partner.

A need for housing can be demonstrated in various ways. People who are in need of housing may:

- Suffer from chronic homelessness (being homeless for longer than six months or experiencing

- repeated episodes of homelessness in a 2 year period)
- Be in urgent need of housing and have barriers in accessing or maintaining private rental options.
- Not have an urgent need, but other housing options are not suitable or accessible as a short term option.

2.3 General Criteria

Applicants for Supported Housing must:

- Establish their identity;
- Be a citizen of, or have permanent residency in Australia;
- Be a resident of Victoria;
- Be able to sustain a successful tenancy with support;
- Generally be 18 years of age or older; and
- Have an active application on the Victorian Housing Register.

2.4 Income and Asset Eligibility

Applicants must meet the Victorian Housing Register income eligibility limits. In addition, applicants should not have property or assets which could reasonably be expected to solve the applicant's housing need.

2.5 Selecting eligible households for Supported Housing

An applicant for Supported Housing must be nominated by a Support Partner and must complete a disclosure consent form so that EHVL and the Support Partner can exchange information relating to the nomination for housing.

The Support Partner must:

- Complete a Nomination Form;
- Provide proof of identity of the applicant;
- Provide proof of income for the proposed tenant;
- Provide supporting documentation.

2.6 Tenure

A Support Partner which has a supported housing Service Level Agreement with EVHL, has the right to nominate applicants for properties covered under that Agreement when a vacancy occurs.

If the applicant meets the eligibility requirements, Supported Housing will be provided to the applicant for a fixed term period of not less than 3 months and not greater than 18 months.

2.7 Rent and Bond

Where relevant, EHVL sets rent, bond and other related charges (as applicable), in line with the Rent Setting and Rebate Operational Guidelines.

2.7.1 Rent Amount

Rent will be charged at the rate of 25% of the gross assessable household income, plus 100% of the household's entitlement to Commonwealth Rent Assistance.

2.7.2 Bond Amount

An amount equal to two weeks' rent will be collected from the Tenant as the rental bond.

2.8 Review of Applicants

EHVL will contact the Support Partner to find out if the Tenant is still engaged with the support service. A Tenant who is no longer supported by the Support Partner will no longer be eligible for the Supported Housing Program.

A review of eligibility will be conducted in line with fixed term tenure.

3. DEFINITIONS

- Commonwealth Rent Assistance - a non-taxable income supplement payable to eligible people who rent in the private rental market or community housing.
- Rent Setting and Rebate Operational Guidelines - Department of Families, Fairness and Housing Rent Setting and Rebate Operations Guidelines
- Supported Housing – housing which is provided to the client of a Support Partner, who is receiving support provided by that Support Partner.
- Support Partner - an organisation which has a Service Level Agreement with EHVL to assist clients in need, where support services provided by the organisation are matched with housing provided by EHVL.
- Tenant – a person who signs the Residential Tenancy Agreement with EHVL and who has certain rights and obligations under that Agreement.
- Victorian Housing Register – the way applications for housing assistance are managed in Victoria. The Victorian Housing Register provides a single application process, common eligibility criteria for housing assistance, a standard assessment process and a single waiting list for use by Department of Families, Fairness and Housing and community housing organisations.

4. RELATED RESOURCES

- EHVL Appeals Policy
- [Housing.vic.gov.au/social-housing](https://housing.vic.gov.au/social-housing)

This policy is subject to change from time to time at the discretion of EHVL. If you have any specific questions regarding this policy, please contact EHVL on 1800 693 865 or email your enquiry to myevolve@evolvehousing.com.au.

5. VERSION CONTROL

VERSION	Date Approved	Author	Key Changes
1.0	1/03/2022	GAL	Policy adopted