



Housing services and information

Here are some useful housing services and information assist you in understanding housing options for older Victorians.

CEHL (Common Equity Housing Limited)

CEHL provides access to co-operative housing in Victoria. A co-operative is an independent organisation. It is managed and run by its members, for the benefit of its members. Co-op housing is a long-term housing option and requires an ongoing commitment to being an active member of the community. Rent is designed to be affordable for low-income earners. CEHL's housing program charges no bond.

Ph: 1800 353 669

Homeshare Australia and New Zealand Alliance (HANZA)

Homeshare is for older people who live in their own home and who could benefit from having help around the house and companionship. The *Householder* provides a bedroom and shared facilities. In exchange, the *Homesharer* offers approximately 10 hours of practical help such as housework, gardening, transportation. This practical help excludes personal care. Further information can be found on the website [HANZA](#)

Ph: 0449 744 203

Retirement Villages

Retirement villages are housing developments for people who:

- are over 55 years of age
- are retired from full-time work
- want independent accommodation.

Some also include lifestyle services, social activities or shared facilities too. They can include [independent living units](#) and [rental units](#).

Consumer Affairs Victoria has information on choosing, living and leaving retirement villages. They have details about fees that may apply, as well as a public register of retirement villages. [Read more here](#).

Independent Living Units (ILUs or Villas)

Independent Living Units are typically self-contained bedsits, one- or two-bedroom units for older people who can live independently. Most are run by not-for-profit organisations and have varying criteria for eligibility. [Read more about ILUs](#).

Rental Units

Rental Units are available in some retirement villages. People with limited financial resources are usually given priority. Rental units usually require an income assessment. Find out more about rental units at [Aged Care Guide](#).

Social Housing

Social housing is short and long-term rental housing that is owned and run by the government or not-for-profit agencies. It includes both [public housing](#) and [community housing](#). You can apply online through the [Victorian Housing Register](#), with a paper application or through a support agency. You may apply as a single person, couple or family. For more information about social housing, visit [HousingVic's website](#).

Ph: 1300 650 172

Public Housing

[Public Housing](#) is a form of long-term rental social housing, run by the State Government. It is for Victorian residents on low incomes. People who have recently experienced homelessness, family violence or have other special needs are given priority.

Community Housing

[Community housing](#) is secure, affordable, long-term rental housing. It is for people on low incomes or with special needs. Not-for-profit organisations usually manage community housing. These organisations are known as *community housing providers*. Community housing providers are regulated by the government. They provide different types of housing depending on your needs.

Victorian Housing Register

You can register online for both public and community housing with the [Victorian Housing Register](#). There are two categories to register under.

Priority Access is for people:

- who are homeless and receiving support
- are escaping or have escaped family violence
- with a disability or significant support needs
- with special housing needs.

The Register of Interest is for all eligible applicants.

Community Housing Industry Association Victoria

CHIA Victoria works to support the growth of community housing. They provide resources and can also help you find community housing organisations in your area. Visit their [website](#)

Ph: (03) 9654 6077

Abbeyfield Australia

Abbeyfield Australia is a national not-for-profit community housing provider. They offer hostel aged care accommodation and assisted independent living. They are suitable for people who:

- are over 55 years of age
- wish to keep their independence but need some support to do so
- would like to live with others in family-style housing.

Find current vacancies and more information at [Abbeyfield Australia](#)

Ph: (03) 9419 8222

Women's Property Initiative (WPI)

Women's Property Initiative provides social and affordable housing to women in Victoria. Social housing eligibility and applications are through the [Victorian Housing Register](#). To be eligible for WPI's affordable housing, you need to be a single woman, or a woman headed household and:

- an Australian citizen or permanent resident
- have a stable history of employment and tenancy
- be a low-income earner.

For exact income limits, available properties and application forms, please [visit WPI](#)

Ph: (03) 9664 7800

Supported Residential Services (SRS)

Supported Residential Services (SRS) are privately operated businesses. They offer accommodation to people who need some extra help with everyday activities. This could include help with things such as personal care, preparing meals or managing medication.

Each SRS has its own eligibility, intake and referral processes, and sets its own fees. For more information, as well as a listing of currently registered services, visit health.vic.gov.au.

Consumer Affairs Victoria

Consumer Affairs Victoria provides information on choosing, living and leaving retirement villages and residential parks. Their website also offers guides for renting, buying and selling property. Visit [Consumer Affairs Victoria](#).

Ph: 1300 55 81 81

Housing for the Aged Action Group (HAAG)

Housing for the Aged Action Group specializes in the housing needs of people over 55. Their website includes resources on different housing options available to Victorians. These include social housing, movable units, retirement villages and independent living units and public housing. You can find these [resources online](#).

Ph: 1300 765 178

Tenants Union Victoria

Tenants Union Victoria promotes and protects the rights of tenants and residents in most types of rented homes across Victoria. They provide advice on how to get repairs done, starting a tenancy, resolving disputes and ending a tenancy.

[Tenant's Union Victoria's website.](#)

Ph: 03 9416 2577