

THM Property Allocation Policy

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Policy owner: Director Housing and Homelessness

Purpose

Unison works with the Western Local Area Service Network (LASN) to ensure that there is a collaborative approach to allocation of transitional housing that is transparent, fair, equitable and consistent with prioritisation arrangements.

Scope

This policy applies to the Unison Transitional Housing Management (THM) program.

Principles

The following principles apply when allocating an individual or household to a transitional housing property:

- Only individuals/households who have been assessed by an identified access point and are on the prioritisation list for access to homelessness resources will be allocated and signed up to a transitional housing property.
- Individuals/households apart from Housing Pathway Initiative (HPI) properties, must be referred to the THM program via the Initial Assessment and Planning (IAP)
- The individuals/households assessment is included on the prioritisation list for access to transitional housing in the catchment area in which the individual/household is hoping to be housed.

Opening Doors provides a common referral form for homelessness assistance providers. The referral summary includes:

- identified needs and risks
- housing assistance already provided or planned
- support needed or arranged.

In the North & West Metropolitan Regions, the following sub headings have been added to each of the three areas above:

- housing
- safety & risk assessment
- support
- health
- other

Application

Types of Transitional Housing

The Unison transitional stock is divided into three broad categories; General, Crisis and Specialist (e.g. HPI) in order to meet the objectives of the program.

General Transitional Housing

Transitional housing is for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. It is classified as shorter term housing, usually a maximum stay of 18 months for adults and young people in nominated properties.

Transitional housing provides the tenant the opportunity to stay in a safe and affordable accommodation while future long-term housing is being sought with the assistance of their support agency. Unison Transitional housing is accessed through the Initial Assessment and Planning (IAP) entry point located at Seddon and Werribee

Youth Properties

Vacancies (properties) that are to be allocated to youth are taken to the weekly Supported Allocations for Youth (SAFY) meeting. Clients are allocated to a support agency from the resource register and a property is allocated.

Crisis Transitional Housing

Crisis housing is short-term accommodation for people experiencing interim homelessness who potentially have more exit options, such as reunification with family or into private rental and only need short term accommodation while a permanent housing solution is arranged.

Specialist Transitional Housing

Specialist THM properties are allocated to support agencies with specific target groups:

1. Housing Pathway Initiative (HPI) - HPI properties are filled via direct referral when a relevant agency is notified of a vacancy, rather than through the IAP entry point. The property target groups are:
 - Adult Drug and Alcohol
 - Youth Justice
 - Youth Substance Abuse Services
 - Leaving Care
 - Mental Health

2. Family Violence (FV) - FV properties are for women and their families who have experienced Family violence and are exiting external crisis accommodation. These properties are supported by Women's Health West.

Review of policy

This policy will be reviewed every three years as delegated by the responsible Director.