

SpeakUp

HOMELESSNESS

Everyone deserves access to safe and secure housing, sadly this is not the case for everyone. If you, or someone you know is experiencing homelessness there are services available to support you.

What is homelessness?

Homelessness is when a person/people do not have access to suitable and secure accommodation. Some examples of this are:

- Couchsurfing
- Insecure Housing
- Sleeping rough
- Emergency Housing
- Temporary/makeshift dwelling
- Squatting
- Refuge
- Boarding or rooming house
- Crisis accommodation

Impacts of homelessness

Experiencing homelessness can have serious impacts on all areas of life, such as:

- Increased risk of experiencing harm.
- Difficulty in accessing employment and/or studies.
- Exacerbation of existing mental health concerns.
- Social isolation.

Types of housing available

- Private Rental – Through a Real Estate Agent, there will be a lease in place, and you will have to pay a bond and rent in advance (often 4 weeks rent for both). You could lease only a room or an entire property.
- Sub-letting – You can arrange to rent off another person who has a lease in place, you should have a written agreement in place with them. You could lease only a room or an entire property.
- Community Housing – You will be leasing off a Community Housing provider, there will be tenancy agreement in place and rent is a maximum of 30% of your income. You could lease only a room or an entire property.

SPEAK UP

Speak Up provides advice, support and referrals if you witness or experience unacceptable or concerning behaviour

P: 03 9479 8988

E: speakup@latrobe.edu.au

W: latrobe.edu.au/speakup

KEY FACTS

- There are 116,427 people homeless in Australia on any given night
- Only 7% of people who are homeless are sleeping on the streets.
- Of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experiencing homelessness, 70% live in severely overcrowded dwellings
- Domestic and family violence is one of the top reasons people seek support from homelessness services

- Public Housing – You will be leasing off the government, there will be a tenancy agreement in place and rent is a maximum of 25% of your income. You will lease an entire property.
- University Accommodation – You will be leasing off the University, there will be a tenancy agreement in place, and you will have to pay an upfront fee. The rent varies between properties, some are inclusive of meals. You will have access to 24/7 support and security. You will lease only your room.

Where to access support and advice?

- If you need assistance with your bond, you can apply for a Bond Loan through the Government. If you need assistance with rent in advance you can contact your local housing service. If you meet certain criteria, they will pay your bond directly to the Real Estate Agency/Landlord.
- If you are experiencing homelessness you can contact your local housing service and meet with an Initial Assessment & Planning worker who will assess your situation, make appropriate referrals and possibly provide you with Emergency Accommodation.
- If you are in a crisis and need somewhere to stay, you can contact the Crisis Contact Centre and request that they provide you with short-term emergency accommodation.
- If you need to leave your home due to family violence (women and children) you can contact Safe Steps who will assess your situation and can provide you (and your pets, if necessary) with short-term emergency accommodation.

IMPORTANT: SUPPORT AND REFERRALS

On campus

Speak Up: advice, support and referral if you or someone you know is experiencing homelessness
P: 9479 8988 E: speakup@latrobe.edu.au W: latrobe.edu.au/speakup

La Trobe Out of Hours Crisis Line: mental health and wellbeing support outside of business hours
P: 1300 146 307 Text: 0488 884 100

Accommodation Services: Multiple housing options available for students and their families
P: 9479 1071 E: living@latrobe.edu.au W: latrobe.edu.au/accommodation

Off campus

Victorian Homelessness Crisis Line: 24-hour phone support and information for people experiencing homeless
P: 1800 825 955

Safe Steps: 24-hour support and information for women and children experiencing family violence
P: 1800 015 188 E: safesteps@safesteps.org.au W: www.safesteps.org.au

The Tenants Union: Free support, advice and information for people with issues around their tenancy.
P: 9416 2577 W: www.tenantsvic.org.au

Housing – DHHS: Advice and information about government and community housing applications & bond loans.
P: 1300 650 172 W: www.housing.vic.gov.au