

Disability Housing and Support Initiative (DHASI)

What is DHASI?

DHASI is a state wide partnership between Housing NSW and Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC) to deliver 125 priority housing and support packages to people with disability by 2015/16. Recurrent funding for support packages is provided under *Stronger Together 2* (ST2), which is the second phase of ADHC's ten year strategic plan. DHASI aims to assist people to sustain their tenancies and participate to their fullest potential in the community.

A partnership between Housing NSW and ADHC

Housing NSW and ADHC are working together to provide more responsive, innovative and flexible approaches to meeting the support needs of people with a disability and their families across NSW.

Cross agency partnering to plan, co-ordinate and implement housing and support partnerships is an effective way to build and strengthen service responses for people with complex needs.

Who is eligible?

Participation in the DHASI program is voluntary. To be eligible for DHASI, a person must:

- be between 18 and 64 years of age;
- have a disability, as defined by the NSW Disability Services Act (1993);
- have been assessed as eligible for priority social housing assistance;
- be eligible for or is receiving a non 24/7 support package under ST2; and
- have the capacity to sustain a tenancy with an appropriate support package.

What ADHC will provide

ADHC will:

- identify people receiving a support package under ST2, who have a housing need;
- determine the level of support a person requires to live independently, including meeting the obligations of their tenancy agreement;

- refer eligible people to Housing NSW or a relevant Housing Pathways provider, for a priority housing assessment (if not already assessed as eligible) and nominate for a place within the DHASI program;
- ensure eligible people receive the necessary supports once they are provided with housing assistance and provide a contact/liaison point for the client and housing provider regarding the person's support needs;
- take primary responsibility for developing a Service Level Agreement and support plan which specifies the intensity, type and duration of support that will be provided by the contracted NGO service provider or financial intermediary; and
- work with the housing provider to modify the property according to the client's access requirements, where possible and as required.

Existing social housing tenants who are at-risk of homelessness may also be eligible for support from ADHC. In these circumstances, contact should be made with the relevant local ADHC Information, Referral and Intake Team.

What the housing provider will provide

The Housing Pathways provider will:

- receive client referrals from ADHC and/or identify potential clients for a place within the DHASI program;
- ensure that potential DHASI clients have been assessed as eligible for priority housing assistance;
- assess the client's housing need and determine the most appropriate housing assistance option;
- identify an appropriate property. This may be either a public or community housing property, or it may be in the private rental market;
- work with ADHC to modify the property according to the client's access requirements, where possible and as required; and
- provide ongoing tenancy management services and assistance, as required.

Where is DHASI available?

DHASI places are available in all FACS districts within NSW, except the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) launch sites (Lake Macquarie, Newcastle and Maitland local government areas).

Contacts

For more information about DHASI please contact Gawaine Newton, A/Senior Policy Officer ADHC on 9377 6531 or on email at gawaine.newton@facs.nsw.gov.au.

www.facs.nsw.gov.au