

Disability Resource Hub Disclaimer

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My Place...My Space...My Home



Things to think about when choosing a place to live

- What sort of home do I want to live in?
- What would it look and feel like?
- Where is it located?
- What support will I need to live in that place?
- Does the home meet my needs?
- Will I feel safe?
- Who will share my home with me?
- Will I have choice and control over how I live and who can come into my home?
- What are the rules and what are my rights?
- Will people who own the home respect and support me, my cultural background and interests?

Some of the choices include

You can ask a provider to visit the different types of homes available to see if you like them.

Living at home with the family

Many people with disability live with their families and get support from them. You may also receive paid supports like 'drop in' support where a support worker helps you when you need it at home or to go out to do things you enjoy.

Living on your own

You can rent a place to live that is public (like social housing provided by the Government) or private (from a real estate agent) and get support to live on your own from family and friends and/or through paid supports like 'drop in' support.

Sharing with others

You can live with friends or other people with or without similar needs, sharing costs and household tasks. You may get paid supports like 'drop in' support to live independently with others.

Community housing organisations

Community housing provides rental housing that is secure and affordable. They also help with housing and maintenance jobs.

Group homes

This type of home is for people who need 24-hour support, usually with 4 to 5 people living together. Support is given with daily living during the day and at night if you need it.

My Place...My Space...My Home

Look / Feel	Y/N	Comments
Do I have good feelings about this place; is my first impression a good one?		
Is it comfortable, clean and friendly?		
Does it look and feel like a home?		
Will I have my own space to set up how I want?		
Shared Accommodation / Group Homes		
Is the design and colour scheme attractive and homelike?		
Does the manager use resident's names and is he/she friendly with them as you look around?		
Do residents socialise with each other and appear happy and comfortable?		
Location	Y/N	Comments
Is it close to my family and friends?		
Are public transport, shops and local facilities near by?		
Will I be supported to participate in the community / social events?		
Is the accommodation close enough to work/day activities and interests?		
Support	Y/N	Comments
Will my particular needs be met?		
If I require additional support would it be available?		
Shared Accommodation / Group Homes		
Are the staff trained so they can help me with my needs and interests?		
Will the staff help me keep in contact with my family and friends?		
Access / safety	Y/N	Comments
Can I get around the place easily?		
Am I allowed to do things to the house if needed, like asking for hand rails?		
Is information available in a way that I can understand?		
People I share with	Y/N	Comments
Shared Accommodation / Group Homes		
Are there others who live here who are a similar age to me?		
Do the people who live here like some of the same things as I do?		
Do I share the rest of the house except for the other bedrooms and staff room/office?		

My Place...My Space...My Home

Choice and control	Y/N	Comments
Will I be supported to live my life my way and do activities that I enjoy?		
Can I have a pet if I want?		
Can I help plan and prepare my meals and do the shopping?		
Will I be supported to do the household activities that interest me like cooking in the kitchen or doing my own clothes washing?		
Will I be supported to do outdoor activities if I want to like gardening, barbequing, etc.?		
Shared Accommodation / Group Homes		
Do I get a say in what food is provided, including purchased food and cooked food?		
Are three nutritionally balanced meals provided each day, seven days a week?		
May a resident request special foods, and can they accommodate special dietary needs?		
Social / recreation	Y/N	Comments
Am I satisfied with the range of social and recreational activities that interest me?		
Are there areas for family and friends to get together?		
Can I do my hobbies?		
Shared Accommodation / Group Homes		
Is there evidence of organised activities, such as a posted daily list, events in progress etc?		
How often are outings to places that I am interested in organised?		
Is there a quiet space so I don't have to mix with others all the time?		
Is there a choice of leisure spaces for quiet sole or small group activity, and for larger group entertainment both inside and outside?		
Privacy & security	Y/N	Comments
Are my needs for privacy catered for?		
Is there a way to secure special belongings, e.g. lockable safe or cupboard that I can use?		
Can the bedrooms be locked when unoccupied?		

My Place...My Space...My Home

Shared Accommodation / Group Homes		
Are bedrooms exclusive for my use, separated within the house for privacy and quiet, or are they bunched together?		
Can I talk on the phone privately without too much noise when needed?		
Rights and rules	Y/N	Comments
Are there rules about smoking and alcohol? Does this suit me?		
Do I get to have a say in what the rules are?		
If I am not happy and want to make a complaint, is this OK, will I be safe to do this and has this been explained to me?		
Have my rights and what I can and can't do in this place been explained to me?		
My cultural background & beliefs	Y/N	Comments
Is information provided and support offered in a way that reflects my individual and cultural needs?		
Will I be supported to participate in cultural and community activities that are important to me?		
Shared Accommodation / Group Homes		
If there are staff that help out, do they understand and respect my abilities, my cultural background and beliefs?		
Can staff at my place help to organise events and cultural activities that are important to me?		
Emergencies & liability	Y/N	Comments
Does the building have smoke detectors in all bedrooms?		
Shared Accommodation / Group Homes		
Does the organisation have the right licensing, accreditation, registration and liability insurance?		
Does the building have clearly marked exits and evacuation plans that are practiced?		
Can the organisation be contacted at all times and how can I contact the out-of-hours emergency worker?		
Other things to consider	Y/N	Comments
Do I want to live in this place?		
Can I afford to live here?		
Have all the costs been explained to me?		
Can I talk to someone who has lived in this place to hear what it's like?		
What furniture and household items will I need to bring with me?		

Contact for questions
