

ABBNEYFIELD HOUSING

Abbeyfield Houses provide an affordable, secure housing option for older people who wish to maintain their independence. They offer non-institutional family-style housing close to amenities in the local community. While the Australian Abbeyfield began in Victoria, there are now houses in most other states and the ACT. Some provide housing specifically for people with disabilities.

An Abbeyfield House offers accommodation for up to 10 people, each having a bed-sitting room and en-suite. Other areas of the house and garden are shared. A live-in housekeeper provides the two main meals daily. Residents prepare their own breakfast and maintain their own rooms. No formal health or nursing support is available, but if a resident requires some personal care, this may be arranged through Home and Community Care, other government or private services, at the resident's own expense.

HOUSE MANAGEMENT

Abbeyfield Housing relies on the involvement of a committee of volunteers, usually who live in the local community. They are responsible for the day to day management of the house, including employment of the housekeeper, and assessment of prospective residents. All residents are eligible to participate in the House Committee, which decides how the house will be run – menus, meal times, smoking rules, pets etc.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Any person 55 and over, who is eligible for public housing. However, the model suits best those who wish to maintain their independence, but need a little support to do so. A medical assessment will be asked for, and suitability will be assessed by the local committee. People with strong connections to the neighbourhood of the house will be considered first. An ability to live with others is an important consideration. Two houses have specific ethnic or church affiliation eligibility criteria.

COST

Abbeyfield residents are eligible for full rent assistance. They pay this, plus 70% of the full age pension, for full board and lodging.

WHO CAN REFER?

Prospective residents themselves, their families, friends, care agencies or doctor.

LOCATIONS

Houses are located in various parts of Melbourne and outer suburbs. See below regarding other states.

ABOUT ABBEYFIELD

The Abbeyfield Society began in London in 1956. It is an independent charitable organization, which was established in Australia in 1981. Capital funding has been received from federal, state and local governments and service clubs. There are now Abbeyfield houses throughout the world.

CONTACTS

Abbeyfield Housing will provide more information about Abbeyfield and places in Victoria and in other states: www.abbeyfield.org.au or phone 9419 8222

Seniors Information Victoria: www.cotavvic.org.au, phone 1300 135 090 or visit Level 4, Block Arcade, 98 Elizabeth St, Melbourne