



VACSAL PROGRAMS

The Victorian Aboriginal Community Services Association Ltd (VACSAL) is a community based organisation established in 1984 that supports a range of services and provides advice to Government on a range of policy issues impacting on Aboriginal People.

VACSAL works from the following philosophical base in all of its advocacy work and service provision:

**Community and individual choice —
Self-Determination and managing
change — Strengthening Identity —
Strengthening Culture —
Strengthening families**



Homeless Outreach Program:

- Advocating and assist with filling out housing application forms.
- Support Clients through transitional housing.
- Assist with referrals to mainstream and other Aboriginal organisations.
- Links with open door services.
- Case Management is not limed to a specific time period.
- Referrals to Drug and Alcohol Programs.

Email: homelessoutreach@vacsal.org.au
Phone: 9416 4266

Bert Williams Centre Program Support:

- Aboriginal Youth Hostel Crisis/ Homelessness Short Term Accommodation
- Koorie Youth Justice Program (KYJP)
- Early School Leavers Program (ESLP)

21 Normanby Avenue, Thornbury, Vic 3071
Phone: 9484 5310

Aboriginal Centre for Males Program Support:

- Family Violence Drug & Alcohol
- Mental Health Health
- Financial Crisis Accommodation
- Counselling

201 Bell Street, Preston, Vic 3072
Phone: 9487 3000

Aboriginal Private Rental Assistance Program

Address: 496 High Street, Northcote 3070
Phone: 9461 4266
Email: aprap@vacsal.org.au

Operation hours:
Monday to Thursday 9:00am—5:00pm
Friday 9:00am—4:00pm

ABORIGINAL PRIVATE RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (APRAP)

The Aboriginal Private Rental Assistance Program provides holistic support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

The Victorian Aboriginal Housing and Homelessness Framework; Mana-ana worn-tyeen maar-takoort was officially launched on 26 February 2020 at Parliament House.

Some of the issues highlighted in the framework include:

- Limited access to affordable or appropriate private rental
- Lack of access is compounded by experiences of racism and discrimination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, locking many out of the private rental market.
- A significant proportion of Aboriginal Victorians seeking homelessness and housing services have experienced trauma and may require more support to secure or maintain tenancies.

AIMS

To establish and sustain successful tenancies

- Educate and assist with private rental applications.

- Attend inspections.
- Assist to connect to utilities and services.
- Assist to become acquainted with the local area, and associated services and community.

Support and advocate when tenancies are at risk

- Develop a support plans to address issues that are causing or have the potential to cause tenancy breakdown.
- Oversight, coordination and implementation of the plan.
- Assist to liaise and negotiate with real estate agents, including understanding rental ledgers and reporting maintenance.
- Actively engage with appropriate organisations to address the underlying issues that are causing the tenancy to be at risk.
- Advocacy including providing support at VCAT, negotiating agreements with real estate agents and supporting tenants whose tenancies are at risk.

Capacity building

- Understanding how to manage household bills and budgeting.
- Referral to services if required.
- Attend pre-vacating inspections.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the Aboriginal Private Rental Assistance Program, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households must be either financially disadvantaged or victims of family violence.

In determining eligibility for assistance, service providers are required to ensure that the rent paid

by the household is affordable, based on an assessment of the household's ongoing capacity to sustain housing.

Private rental assistance should help people who are at risk of homelessness to either maintain their existing tenancy or to secure a new private rental tenancy. People receiving private rental assistance should expect outcomes such as:

- Improved access to affordable and appropriate private rental housing
- Support to sustain tenancies, repair their rental history and transition between tenancies
- Assistance tailored to their needs, based on evidence of what works
- Diversion of at-risk households from homelessness crisis and transitional services
- Rapid re-entry to the private rental market for households experiencing homelessness
- Improved capacity to maintain a stable housing career.

Eligible Brokerage

- Private rental subsidies
- Costs associated with accessing private rental such as storage costs, transport rental inspections.
- Costs associated with establishing a new tenancy such as furniture, appliances, removalist costs or utility connection.

This program is for people currently residing in the following North East Metropolitan area

- City of Yarra
- City of Darebin
- Banyule City Council
- Shire of Nillumbik
- Whittlesea Council