

ACHA's Role in Public Housing

Within the ACT there is a great demand for affordable housing; with the private rental market making it difficult for many to afford this type of accommodation. There is an increasing population growth of older people who are over 55 years of age and living off a pension. Many of these Canberra residents simply cannot afford to obtain secure housing.

The Assistance with Care and Housing for the Aged (ACHA) Program provides assistance to older people to access ACT Public Housing and give them the best possible chance for success. ACHA services can include negotiation on the client's behalf, assistance in the completion of application forms,



collection of adequate support letters and linking them to additional appropriate support services.



ASSISANCE WITH CARE AND HOUSING FOR THE AGED

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*Dedicated to excellence in
service to the community*

Assistance with Care and Housing for the Aged

ACHA Program and Services

WHAT IS ACHA?

The Assistance with Care and Housing for the Aged Program (ACHA) has been operating within Southside Community Services since 1996. It is funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing.



ACHA aims to assist frail, financially disadvantaged older people who are renting or who are homeless to meet both their accommodation and support needs, enabling them to remain in the community.

The primary function of the ACHA Program is to help older people on low incomes who are experiencing difficulties to access secure and affordable housing.

Difficulties may include insecure accommodation and/or restricted access to appropriate aged care support services.

WHO IS ACHA FOR?

ACHA is for:

- Frail older people, generally 60 years of age or older
- People on a government pension
- People who are homeless, living insecurely in private rental accommodation, boarding houses or public housing

WHO CAN REFER TO ACHA?

Anyone can refer themselves to the ACHA Program Outreach Worker or may be referred by others including:

- Friends
- Relatives
- Doctors
- Hospitals
- Community Service Providers

Confidentiality is assured at all times



ACHA SERVICES

The ACHA Program, through its Outreach Worker, provides a range of services including:

- Assistance and referral for people accessing housing services and related financial and legal services
- Help with removal arrangements, settling in, or negotiating to improve accommodation
- Temporary assistance with daily living and health needs until appropriate services can be arranged
- Linking to relevant local community supports to improve quality of life
- Follow-up and short-term monitoring of the effectiveness of services provided



For more information please contact:

ACHA Outreach Worker
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