

WISHIN'S PRIVATE RENTAL BROKERAGE FUND

BACKGROUND

WISHIN has been supporting homeless women and children in the inner northern suburbs of Melbourne for over 15 years. Our vision is that all women with or without children will have access to safe, secure and affordable housing.

We have identified that it has become increasingly difficult for single women, some with accompanying children, to access private rental housing and/or to sustain their current housing. To address these needs WISHIN has initiated a private rental brokerage fund to be launched at the Inaugural Women's Car-sleepout event.

PRIVATE RENTAL BROKERAGE FUND

WISHIN's Private Rental Brokerage Fund will enable us to assist women with or without children to:

- Prevent women and children's homelessness by supporting them to sustain their housing provided it is safe for them. Financial hardship can place women's housing at risk, for example, unexpected bills such as medical, health or children's school related expenses.
- Re-establish women and children in safe affordable housing. This can often require relocating for safety reasons with the initial costs being expensive.

CAUSES AND IMPACT OF WOMEN'S HOMELESSNESS

WISHIN acknowledges that the main cause of homelessness for women and children is domestic and family violence. Women who are on their own or with children are vulnerable and usually experience hardship and various forms of abuse during their homelessness experience/s. They often have to resort to sleeping in their cars, sleeping rough, couch surfing or sleeping in overcrowded situations. These experiences impact on women and children's overall health and well-being, including their mental health.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Real Estate Agents and Private Landlords - WISHIN is seeking to partner with real estate agents and private landlords to provide safe and affordable accommodation in the Northern suburbs. We are proposing that WISHIN would, with agreement from all parties:

- initially lease the property for 6 or 12 months
- sublet the property to a woman we are supporting
- transfer the lease to the woman's name after an agreed period of time.

Donations - WISHIN is requesting donations to support homeless women and children. WISHIN is a registered deductible gift recipient for all donations.

Please contact WISHIN on 9381 1333 if you are interested in finding out more about the fund, partnering with WISHIN or making a donation.