



HOME SHARE MELBOURNE SPONSORSHIP

Home Share Melbourne believes that everyone should have a home, and that those who have a home should be able to stay in it.

WHAT IS HOME SHARE MELBOURNE?

Home Share Melbourne extends the homeshare model, which has been used to great effect in aged care, to address the problem of Melbourne's housing shortage. It works by carefully matching people with spare bedrooms (referred to as "Householders") with people who are in housing stress or at risk of housing crisis and are in need of affordable housing ("Homesharers"). Unlike traditional rental arrangements, the emphasis here is on mutual benefit: the Householder gets support and companionship, and the Homesharer gets a safe place to live.

Ideal Householders are typically people who are residing in under-occupied housing: they may need support or companionship in the home, or they may need someone to share expenses such as rent or mortgage, rates or utilities or they may need a bit of both!

Homesharers are people who are experiencing difficulty finding housing in an expensive and competitive rental market.

These people are often single, and often belong to one or more at-risk groups: for example, women over the age of 55, young people with limited supports, asylum seekers, refugees, and people exiting family violence.

WHY DO PARTICIPANTS NEED SPONSORSHIP?

Homeshare arrangements differ from traditional rental arrangements in a number of ways:

- Depending on the individual case, the Householder may receive less or no rent than they would on the open market;
- The careful matching process requires time and skill on the part of Home Share Melbourne's professional and experienced staff to ensure a good, compatible match and safeguard the arrangement; and
- Homesharers are often those who cannot enter into traditional rental arrangements because of their personal financial constraints.

Sponsorship helps cover these costs and makes the program cost-effective for all of the participants.

WHO CAN I SPONSOR?

If you have an interest in supporting a particular group — such as women exiting violent relationships, asylum seekers or older people on limited incomes — the program will contact you when an individual needing sponsorship applies to the program from the group of your choice. Alternatively, if you are open to supporting someone more generally, the program will contact you to discuss all Homesharers and Householders who are seeking sponsorship.

Sponsoring an individual can have a profound impact on their life.

WHAT DOES SPONSORSHIP PAY FOR?

Home Share Melbourne is a social enterprise that relies on the generosity of donors and small grants and membership fees of participants. Homesharers who require sponsorship are people who have no or very low income and often cannot afford to pay the Home Share Melbourne membership fees. Sponsoring a Homesharer costs \$1750, which covers the costs of assessing, police checking, matching and providing support to the match for a minimum of a six-month period.

WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF SPONSORSHIP?

Your help means that they will be given the opportunity to be in safe and affordable housing. Housing can lead to numerous other positive opportunities, such as work, education and relationships. We will keep you informed as to how things are progressing, and you'll be able to see the impact that your sponsorship has had on the individual.

Home Share Melbourne is a program of HANZA Inc., a registered charity that has supported homeshare programs and their development across Australia and New Zealand since 2006. HANZA's new initiative, Home Share Melbourne, was launched in 2018.

<http://www.homesharemelbourne.org/>

