

## HOME SHARE MELBOURNE'S DISABILITY HOMESHARE PROGRAM

Are you living with a disability and looking for an opportunity to live independently?

Maybe you're looking for a housemate, but worried about finding the right person?

We're here to help...

Home Share Melbourne provides a range of services that make it easier for you to make a great choice about where you live, how you live and who you live with.

## WHO ARE WE?

Home Share Melbourne exists to provide people with a choice about where, how and with whom they live. We focus on the idea of a 'home' rather than a house: a home is not just a bed and roof over your head, it's somewhere that is safe, comfortable, welcoming, and full of people (and pets!) with whom you have chosen to live. How your home feels can impact the rest of your life.

HSM makes thoughtful matches between people living with a disability who have a spare bedroom and people looking for affordable housing. We also provide the vital service of

assisting people to find housing if their existing housing isn't suitable for homeshare. The program has a number of benefits, including providing support for people with disabilities to stay living independently. From a wider society perspective, it increases the availability of housing in our community.

Homesharing has been a successful way of building connection and community for over 40 years. It differs from a typical roommate situation because, at its core, it is about reciprocity.

Homesharing involves a person offering a private bedroom and shared common area in exchange for help around the house and companionship from a live-in flatmate. Every homesharing arrangement is unique as it depends on the needs, time, interests and abilities of the people involved. The concept originated in America in the early 1970s and now operates in 17 countries.

## WHAT WE DO

We have four key support services that we currently provide for those living with disability.

### 1. SUPPORT FINDING FUNDING

If you don't have the funds in your plan to be supported by HSM, we will support you in applying and advocating for Individual Living Options (ILO) funding from NDIS. One of our Homeshare Coordinators will conduct an initial housing vision assessment to get a full understanding of your aspirations and will then write you a detailed quote to request Individual Living Options (ILO) funding for your NDIS plan.

### 2. SUPPORT FINDING A HOUSE

We will work with you to understand your vision for independent living and help turn it into a reality. One of our Homeshare Coordinators will consult with you to understand your needs and why it's important to you to live independently. They will continue to work with you to find you a home that meets your requirements.

### 3. SUPPORT FINDING A HOUSEMATE

One of our Homeshare Coordinators will work with you weekly to find and introduce you to potential housemates who are compatible. The

Coordinator will support both you and your new housemate transition into your new living arrangement.

### 4. ONGOING SUPPORT

We continue to support you and the flatmate arrangement for a minimum of 12 months.

## HOW WE DO IT



### 1. APPLICATION & INTERVIEW

Once you've submitted an inquiry to HSM, we'll send out application form for you to complete. If you qualify for the service, we'll then arrange a face-to-face interview with one of our coordinators.



### 2. SAFEGUARDING

Ensuring a safe and suitable arrangement for both the householder and the homesharer is important. We'll inspect the home prior to finding a suitable match and will manage introductions with potential matches.



### 3. MATCHING

All matches must undergo two reference checks and a police check prior to entering into an agreement. The Home Share Agreement outlines the expectations of both parties and are signed prior to moving into the home.



### 4. MONITORING & REVIEW

Regular contact is made with both the Householder and Homesharer for a minimum of 6 months of the match to ensure things are going well. A review of the match is completed at the six month mark including a review of ongoing support.



**1)** Meet with one of the Coordinators for a free 30-minute consultation. We assist in designing your housing vision, and we make a plan to make it a reality. If you don't have adequate funds in your NDIS plan, we can assist in securing these funds.

**2)** We can assist you to find a home if you don't already have one. Once you're settled, we set out to find the perfect flatmate. We do interviews, police checks, reference checks and managed introductions.

**3)** When everyone is happy and comfortable, we sign an HSM Occupancy Agreement, which outlines the arrangement, and we start a one-month trial. At the end of this trial period, we catch up to see how it's all going. If everyone is keen to continue, the arrangements carries on.

**4)** We stay involved for a minimum of 12 months. During this time, we will pop out and meet with everyone, be available on the phone, and generally be there to help make sure the arrangement is beneficial for all involved.

### DID YOU KNOW WE'RE COVERED BY NDIS?

The NDIS now has a new quotable line item -- Individual Living Options (ILO) -- which covers creative living options that differ from traditional residential models. One of these options is Homeshare provided by HSM.

The Individual Living Option is a package of supports that enables participants to achieve their home and living goals. It is made up of a personalised and detailed package of home and living supports. This might mean some assistance from carers, mentors and a flatmate.

## GET IN TOUCH!

If you think we can help you, or someone you know, please get in touch. Book your free 30-minute consultation on our website [homesharemelbourne.org](http://homesharemelbourne.org)

Or give us a call on **0468 940 088**

**T** 0468 940 088  
**@** [homeshare.melbourne@homeshare.org.au](mailto:homeshare.melbourne@homeshare.org.au)  
**w** [www.homesharemelbourne.org](http://www.homesharemelbourne.org)

A program of



A member of...

