

Humanitarian Settlement Program

This fact sheet explains the support that is available to migrants arriving in Tasmania under the Humanitarian Settlement Program.

Overview

The Humanitarian Settlement Program (HSP) in Tasmania is delivered by the Migrant Resource Centre Tasmania (MRC) under subcontract to AMES Australia. HSP provides individualised needs-based settlement support to humanitarian entrants with up to 28 days of rent-free accommodation.

MRC works with humanitarian entrants through the HSP, providing settlement support for up to 18 months. HSP is designed to work in combination with other settlement and mainstream services. Read more about the Humanitarian Settlement Program: immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/settling-in-australia/humanitarian-settlement-program

People from a refugee background enter Australia on a range of offshore humanitarian visa classes. Read more about the refugee and humanitarian program: immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/what-we-do/refugee-and-humanitarian-program/refugee-visas

HSP clients are permanent residents and they are eligible for all government services. This includes permanent residents on refugee visa subclass 200, 201, 203, or 204: immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/what-we-do/refugee-and-humanitarian-program/refugee-visas

Housing services

MRC provides on-arrival accommodation for up to 28 days when required. MRC leases two properties from Homes Tasmania in Launceston for this purpose and was provided with funding from the Tasmanian Government to assist with the purchase of a Hobart caravan park as a community service and accommodation hub.

MRC will also source private properties and hotels for the 28-day period if the number of newly arrived entrants exceeds their accommodation capacity.

After this initial rent-free period, clients sign an accommodation lease and become rent-paying tenants. This housing is temporary and provides people with time to find and establish alternative housing. MRC provides support for clients to find longer-term accommodation. Under the HSP contract, MRC may withdraw the provision of housing services if clients reject suitable property offers.

HSP clients are responsible for their own removal costs, rent, utilities expenses and costs associated with breaking a lease agreement (after 28 days) as well as costs of repairs due to damage and neglect by the tenant.

MRC will support clients to contact Housing Connect if they need a housing assessment to source appropriate long-term housing after their initial 28 days. Housing Connect can also assist HSP clients experiencing family violence or a crisis situation to find alternative accommodation.

Housing Connect

Housing Connect is where Tasmanians go for housing assistance and support. Housing Connect services can help eligible low-income Tasmanians find or keep safe, appropriate and affordable housing.

Housing Connect can help with:

- paying rent, bond or moving costs in the private rental market
- applying for social housing
- information and applications for supported accommodation programs and facilities
- information and referral to a range of community services
- connecting you with a housing support worker.

Find out more about Housing Connect: www.homestasmania.com.au/housingconnect

Phone: **1800 800 588**

Email: housingconnect@anglicare-tas.org.au

If you are d/Deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech/communication difficulty please contact us through the National Relay Service (NRS).

The appropriate contact method for your needs can be found on the NRS website: www.accesshub.gov.au/about-the-nrs/nrs-call-numbers-and-links.

When you know which call channel best suits your needs, provide the NRS with the phone number you wish to call.

Interpreter services

Providing services that meet the needs of all Tasmanians is the responsibility of all service providers. Humanitarian entrants seeking assistance may need interpreting services. Interpreters can be sourced through the Translating and Interpreting Service: www.tisnational.gov.au

More support and services

People from a refugee and humanitarian background, who are not HSP clients, can access support for up to five years through Settlement Engagement Transition Support (SETS) providers.

SETS providers are:

- MRC and CatholicCare in southern Tasmania
- MRC North in northern Tasmania.

All organisations provide drop-in services. See their website for more details.

Clients with complex needs can be referred into the Specialised and Intensive Services program. This program offers clients short-term, needs-based support to help them access appropriate mainstream services and develop the necessary skills to manage their needs independently.

Find more information here: immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/settling-in-australia/humanitarian-settlement-program/specialised-and-intensive-services