

Environmental Awareness

The AAC Public Tenant Group encourages the community to actively save energy and make environmentally friendly choices. Further activities based on environmental sustainability is something we are keen to work on.

HANDY NUMBERS

Housing Contact List



Local Housing Office - Box Hill
883 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill 3128
Telephone 9843 -6000 or 9843-6577

Uniting
321 Ferntree Gully Rd
Mount Waverley
General enquiries 1300 277 478
Direct No. 9051 3199

Dept. Of Human Services Feedback and
Complaints Line

If you have a particular issue that your housing officer has not been able to resolve, you can ring the complaints line. They will tell you what you need to do, how your complaint will be managed and you will receive a response within 14 days. You can contact this service on 9843 6789

Maintenance Call Centre
If something is damaged or broken in your home, you can call Maintenance for repairs on 13 11 72

Public Tenant Employment Program
Looking for employment? Need help with your resume? Wanting to do a course?
Phone: 1800 451 553
Email: ptep@dhs.vic.gov.au

AAC Public Tenants Group NEWSLETTER

August 2019



The Ashburton, Ashwood & Chadstone (AAC) Public Tenants Group is run by tenants that, as a collective voice, advocates and lobbies for improved living standards for Public Tenants residing in Ashburton, Ashwood & Chadstone

MEETINGS:

We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 1pm to discuss Public Tenant issues. The Office of Housing, Local MP's and Community Agencies are invited to our meetings to hear our views and address our concerns

EVENTS:

We host a number of social events where delicious food and great entertainment are supplied free of charge to our local tenants

AGM—the 3rd Tuesday in October 2018

**Public and Proud Event on
25th October 2019**

Dear Tenants,

Welcome to the first edition of AAC Public Tenants Group Newsletter for 2019 Our resolution for this year is to help you even more in resolving and clarifying your important housing matters. We can achieve this through constant communication, by sharing information and by helping you liaise with all relevant agencies. We hope to see you participating in our regular monthly meetings where we can discuss, improve and resolve our issues and celebrate our achievements.

NEWSLETTER:

We create a small newsletter twice a year with lots of relevant information about what is happening and we also highlight some of our local tenants stories

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

If you are interested in being part of a vibrant group, call in for a cuppa and chat and pick up a membership form or join us at our next general meeting. Membership is free and is open to all residents living in Ashburton, Ashwood and Chadstone area

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94 BATESFORD ROAD, CHADSTONE
PH. 9832 5805 / 9832 5806
EMAIL: AACPUBLICTENANTS@BIGPOND.COM

THE PUBLIC VOICE

We are now 6 months into the year and have made some great headway with pressing issues concerning the lack of Public Housing and effective ways to address this issue. Will Fowles, MP for Burwood, was invited to our July meeting and reported that Markham Estate would comprise of at least 60% Public Housing, and have no higher than 4 storeys with 5 buildings.

This is good news as we do need more Public housing and have been lobbying for this for quite some time. Will also said old houses would be pulled down and rebuilt and, if the land is large enough, particularly in Ashburton Ashwood and Chadstone, they will build 3-4 units.

This is a positive outcome to address the lack of housing in our community and the rest of Victoria. I have been invited to the Markham Estate Workshop again and will be discussing the proposed latest development. Hopefully there will be a good outcome for the Public Tenants.

That being said, we are not out of the woods just yet. The process which determines who and how people and families are placed in housing is far from perfect.

Each Housing Officer is accountable for up to 300 Public Tenants – this is a ratio of 1:300, which places much strain on Housing Officers, leaving them with very limited time and resources to effectively assist people. The knock-on effect of this creates further issues we see such as:

- Family Violence
- Mental Health
- Domestic Violence
- Drug & Alcohol Issues
- Youth at-Risk

The Australian Government needs to stop cutting funds for building Public Housing and have an effective plan, therefore keeping the already available land for development to house those on the waiting list. Demolition and redevelopment is necessary yet not happening – does our current system need an overhaul?

Natalie
Chairperson

Post Script – Things are changing for those who are Homeless – check out these websites
[Australia's Largest Homeless Centre Reopens In Victoria](#)
June 28, 2019

A ground-breaking new centre for Melbourne's rough sleepers will provide apartment accommodation and a full range of wrap around support services with the opening of the redeveloped Ozanam House. Minister for Housing Richard Wynne today opened the revamped North Melbourne facility, which will focus on engagement, reconnection and recovery.

[\[https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/tag/housing-and-communities/\]](https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/tag/housing-and-communities/)

Make your neighbourhood even better Link Health and Access HC for Ashburton

Since April, the local community health services have been speaking to people in Ashburton, Ashwood and Chadstone to learn about how 'liveable' their neighbourhoods are. Surveys, conversations with community members and interviews with local organizations identified neighbourhood characteristics and generated ideas for improvement.

In Ashwood and Chadstone, people identified a strong sense of community connection, appreciation for the many parks and open green spaces, and acknowledgement of the variety of local services available. Ideas for the neighbourhood included an outdoor cinema at the Batesford Hub, strategies to manage graffiti, employment programs, increased street lighting, a skate park, and more.

In Ashburton, the train station, community vibe, shops and parks are appreciated while housing quality, community facilities and traffic were areas that could be improved.

Next, Link Health and Community and Access Health and Community are coming back to you to create action. They are looking for people from the community to contribute ideas and help drive change in their neighbourhoods. If this is you, please get in touch!

To find out more or to get involved, contact:

Louisa from Link HC for Ashwood & Chadstone: lmitchell@linkhc.org.au | 9564 6128

Owen from Access HC for Ashburton: owen.pietsch@accesshc.org.au | 9810 3038

The Clothesline Project at Family Fun Day

The Public Tenant group will join Monash Council, LINK Health and Power Neighbourhood House as a part of the Ashwood Chadstone Family Violence working group and will be coordinating a Clothes Line initiative at this year's Family Fun Day on Sunday 17th November. We will be asking community members to paint messages on T-shirts to encourage people to take action on gender equality and respectful relationships. Please come and join us and put your own message on a t-shirt at our tent. The T-Shirts will be displayed at multiple sites during the 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence (25 November – 10 December) such as Batesford Hub and Power Neighbourhood to raise awareness.



Public and Proud

AAC PTG Annual Public and Proud Dinner 2018



The above photos are some of the Highlights from our PUBLIC and PROUD Free Community Dinner held in October 2018.

We are preparing this year's Public and Proud Community Dinner and so far planning is progressing well, and looking to be a great fun night for the families of our community. We are having a local band as our entertainers playing music to enjoy, sing and dance to. There is going to be a Magician for the children as well as face painting. For 2019 the date of event is Friday 25th of October start 5:30pm -9pm

THRIVE CHADSTONE

Thrive Chadstone is a bridging program designed to support Grade 6 girls as they transition into high school. We start in Term 4 of Grade 6, and provide ongoing support through Term 1 of Grade 7. This way, when the big changes hit in high school, a safe support network for listening, encouraging, and mentoring is already in place.

Our program covers topics such as self-esteem, friendships, social media, bullying and anxiety, as well as study skills and time management. We want to give girls the tools they need to thrive, and build the resilience to ensure they do.

The material is presented through videos, creative projects, games, team building activities and small group discussions.

When?

Friday nights from 7:00-9:15pm
Each fortnight during school terms
Begins 18th October

Where?

17 Margot St Chadstone
Encounter Baptist Church Hall

How Much?

\$50 Full Program
Covers materials and supper.

For Details, Contact and Registration visit: www.thrivechadstone.org

Program starts
18th October



THRIVE CHADSTONE

High School Bridging Program for Girls