

# Tasmanian Homelessness Charter

## A Statement of Rights

People can become homeless for many reasons including financial hardship, inappropriate or unaffordable housing, escaping domestic and family violence, abuse or neglect, illness or a breakdown in relationships.

People who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness, still retain the basic human rights afforded to the broader community. However, on becoming homeless, or being at risk of homelessness, particular rights come into sharp focus.

People who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness have the right to **dignity and respect**, rights to ensure **health and safety**, rights to **privacy and confidentiality**, rights to **equity and fairness**, rights to **non-discriminatory service**, rights to **choice and self determination** and a right to **social inclusion**.

### Rights:

#### Dignity and Respect

- The right to access facilities and services that meet basic human needs.

#### Health and Safety

- The right to live free from, exploitation, violence, threats and abuse.
- The right to have access to accommodation, which is safe.

#### Privacy and Confidentiality

- The right to have one's privacy respected.

#### Equity and Fairness

- The right to services that will provide secure, stable, crisis, transitional and long term accommodation based on fair policies.
- The right to transparent and fair decision making by services and access to advocacy services.
- The right to be treated fairly and without prejudice by community support systems.
- The right to make a complaint or appeal a decision together with getting a meaningful response, without fear of reprisal.

#### Non Discrimination

- The right to have ones cultural background and religious preference respected.
- The right to have ones sexual orientation/preference respected.
- The right to access services regardless of legal status.

#### Choice and Self Determination

- The right to information and advice about available options.
- The right to make informed decisions about one's own situation.
- The right to enter into agreements/contracts free from any coercion or pressure.

#### Social Inclusion

- The right to receive clear and accurate information about services as well as help in accessing other services.
- The right to health services, income support, education, training and employment opportunities.
- The right to be consulted in the planning, evaluation and development of those services that affect homeless people.

#### Responsibilities

In addition to these rights, homeless people and those at risk of homelessness have the responsibility to:

- Provide the correct and necessary information about themselves and their situation to organisations providing support services.
- Respect the rights of other service users to feel safe and free from threats or intimidation.
- Respect the cultural backgrounds and religious preferences of others.
- Respect the sexual orientation/preference and privacy of others.
- Treat others with respect and dignity.
- Meet any responsibilities as a tenant, including paying rent and keeping property in fair condition.

