



Information for Abbotsford St residents affected by the Public Housing Renewal Program

Do I have to move?

Unfortunately you (as a tenant) do not have right to permanently stay in the home you are currently living in. This is despite your community connections there. However, the Director of Housing (“**Housing**”) must consider the effect of forcing you to move. This includes access to necessary community services like schools and medical treatment. You do not have to move out immediately, however Housing can take steps to force you to move out by evicting you.

Can I be evicted immediately?

No. Housing must get an order from the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT). To do this, Housing must:

1. First send you a “Notice to Vacate” by hand or registered post. A notice to vacate gives you at least 60 days’ notice.
2. Housing must then also obtain an Order for Possession from VCAT.

If you refuse to vacate, Housing will likely still support you to find alternative accommodation. ***If you do not cooperate with Housing, there is a real risk of you becoming homeless at this stage. If you receive a notice to vacate, it is essential to get legal advice as soon as possible.***

Do I have to sign the relocation paperwork?

No, however there are risks if you do not. ***You should get individual legal advice if you do not want to sign the paperwork*** and also let

Housing know. There is a risk that by not signing, Housing will decide that you do not want alternative housing. If you feel bullied or pressured by Housing, you can ask for contact to be in writing, or let Housing know that you will record your conversations with them. These recordings could be used if there is a disagreement with Housing in the future (but it is very important to let the officer know you are recording the conversations).

Do I have to meet with Housing?

No, and Housing cannot enter your premises without your consent unless they have given at least 24 hours written notice setting out why they want to enter.

However, you should talk to Housing about:

- your alternative housing needs and concerns
- and the potential to return to the redeveloped property.

Do I have to take the alternative accommodation offered?

No, but there risks if you do not accept. This includes Housing not making any further offers. ***See a lawyer if you are unsure about whether to accept an offer.*** If there is a reason you think the alternative accommodation is not suitable, it is important to communicate this to Housing and explain the reasons why.

Will I be able to move back after the redevelopment is finished?

2/508 Queensberry St, North Melbourne
03 9328 1885

www.imcl.org.au



No, you are not guaranteed the right of returning once the redevelopment is complete. Housing will decide this based on whether the property is big enough or suitable for your individual needs (for example, it has disability access). You must discuss this with Housing.

There are, however, not clear laws on how this decision is made.

If you want to return, discuss this with Housing and then make sure it is put in writing in an agreement before you move out.

Where can I go for help?

For residents in North Melbourne, Carlton, Parkville, CBD and Docklands.

Explain to the intake worker you are a resident of Abbotsford St Estate and need advice about relocation:

Inner Melbourne Community Legal (IMCL) – 9328 1885

For residents from other areas:

Darebin Community Legal Centre – 9484 7753 Darebin Local Government Area

Fitzroy Legal Service - 9419 3744 City of Yarra

Flemington Kensington Community Legal Service – 9376 4355 Flemington Kensington Area

Moonee Valley Legal Service – 9376 7929 City of Moonee Valley

Northern Community Legal Centre – 9310 4376 Moreland Local Government Area

Tenants Victoria – 9416 2577 - All areas

St Kilda Legal Service - 9534 0777 City of Port Phillip, Stonnington & Bayside

West Heidelberg Community Legal Service 9450 2002: City of Banyule

Justice Connect – 1800606313 - All areas

