

HOUSING APPLICATION CHECKLIST

A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE LEAVING CARE

Applying for housing can feel overwhelming, but starting early and having the right information can make a big difference. Use this checklist to help you prepare your application and keep track of what you need.

BEFORE YOU APPLY

- I have spoken to my caseworker, aftercare service or support worker about housing options
- I understand the different housing options available to me
- I know what Housing Pathways is
- I have asked whether I should apply for Priority Housing
- I have started my application early (before leaving care if possible)

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

- Birth Certificate
- Medicare Card
- Photo ID (License of proof of age card)
- Centrelink details
- Bank account details
- Tax File Number (TFN)
- Confirmation of Aboriginality documents
- Any medical or supporting documents
- Copies of previous housing records or support letters

MAKING A STRONG APPLICATION

Your application should clearly explain:

- That you are leaving OOHC (Out of home care)
- Why you are at risk of homelessness
- Why you need safe and stable housing
- Any health, disability, trauma or safety concerns
- Why culturally safe housing is important to you
- My application clearly states I am leaving care
- I have included supporting letters from workers or services
- I have explained if I have nowhere safe to stay
- I have included any medical or mental health information that supports my application
- I have explained my support needs and cultural connections

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PRIORITY HOUSING

Priority Housing is for people with urgent housing needs. In NSW, young people leaving care are not automatically approved for priority housing, so it is important to provide strong evidence and support.

- I have asked if I qualify for Priority Housing
- I have evidence showing I am at risk of becoming homeless
- My support worker has helped strengthen my application with clear evidence and support provided
- I understand I may need to follow up regularly

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Housing Pathways: <https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/housing/help/applying-assistance>

Aboriginal Housing Office: <https://www.aho.nsw.gov.au>

Housing Contact Centre: 1800 422 322

Link2Home (24/7): 1800 152 152

Care Leavers Line: 1800 994 686

FINAL REMINDER

You deserve safe and stable housing. Ask for help early, keep copies of your paperwork, and don't be afraid to follow up or ask questions. There are people and services who want to support you.