



Housing for the Aged Action Group

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PRESS RELEASE

Housing for the Aged Action Group takes action on the Mornington Peninsula to help older people at risk of homelessness

Housing for the Aged Action Group (HAAG), in partnership with the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council, has launched a project called ***Ageing at Home - the Older Persons Housing Information Strategy***.

Older people have a right to a decent home in their retirement years but increasing numbers of older people are struggling to survive. The facts are that it is becoming increasingly difficult for many older people to find a home that will enable them to retire with security, affordability and that is adaptable as they age. Rates of home ownership amongst older people are dropping and more older people are renting into older age. However a lack of investment in public housing by successive governments over decades has meant that many are forced to rent in the unregulated private market. This means insecurity, rents that take up to 70% of a person's income and housing without basics like heating and insulation.

Jeff Fiedler, Manager of Education & Housing Advice at HAAG said today "The changes to housing that is occurring on the Mornington Peninsula are alarming. The latest information from the Australian Bureau of Statistics shows that over the past 5 years alone there has been a 40% increase in the numbers of older people aged over 55 renting in the private market on the Mornington Peninsula, from 1028 up to 1413 tenants. The average rent for a two bedroom flat on the Mornington Peninsula is \$290 a week. That requires more than 60% of a person's age pension to be able to afford to pay the rent. This means we have increasing numbers of older people living in poverty and in fear of eviction."

HAAG's **Ageing at Home Strategy** aims to ensure that older people in housing difficulty can get the help that they need by having access to services that can help. HAAG's Home at Last service is available on 1300 765 178 to talk to any older people needing assistance to find long term affordable housing that is adaptable as they age. They can connect older people with local services on the Mornington Peninsula and ensure they get on a pathway to a happy housing future.

The Ageing at Home Strategy also aims to help older people with more general advice and assistance on topics like downsizing and information on the range of housing options available on the Mornington Peninsula.

Residents are encouraged to come along to one of the upcoming morning tea information sessions. See the attached program for more details. For more information on this issue please contact Gemma White or Fionnuala Spillane on 03 9654 7389.



HOME at last



OLDER PERSONS' HOUSING INFORMATION
AND SUPPORT SERVICE



Join us for a free discussion on affordable HOUSING OPTIONS for seniors

**Plus your rights and responsibilities in retirement housing and private rental,
as well as how to avoid scams- presented by Consumer Affairs Victoria**

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| August 7th 10am-12pm | Mornington Peninsula Shire, Hastings Office, Reception Meeting Room 3, 21 Marine Pde, Hastings |
| August 21st 10am-12pm | Mornington Peninsula Shire, Mornington Office, Library Meeting Room, Queen Street, Mornington |
| August 28th 10am-12pm | Mornington Peninsula Shire, Rosebud Office, Meeting Room 3, Besgrove Street, Rosebud |

Light Lunch Provided. Bookings Phone 9654 7389