



Housing for the Aged Action Group

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MEDIA RELEASE

Eight older homeless people find a 'Home at Last'

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Eight older people are enjoying the benefits of a secure, affordable home, thanks to the support of the Home at Last service. They were recently found places in a property located in Altona provided by Yarra Community Housing.

One woman reported living in 22 different places in seven years, staying mainly with friends and relatives but never having her own place. She has been very happy in recent weeks particularly as she finally has her own space, including her own table at which she enjoys sharing meals with her family and many friends, both old and new. She has made great friends in the other tenants and they are planning a Christmas celebration in their new homes.

Charlie was paying over \$900 rent a month, and felt he faced the impossible choice between paying his rent and paying small charge for wound management from nurses. His life has been turned around as now he has the security from which to live the rest of his days. "I am very happy here, especially when I go the bed and lie down and see the gum tree. It's beautiful. I used to drive buses around here for 7 years, I know this place well", said Charlie.

Home at last is a free support and advice service for older people, over 55 usually, who need help finding a lasting housing solution. The service works with many older people in private rented housing wanting to make sure they have a secure, affordable home as they get older. Home at Last also works with other people who may be living in rooming or boarding houses, in caravan parks or may have been evicted and are living with friends or family. Call them on 1300 765 178 to talk about your housing needs or go in and speak to them at Ross House, 247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne. Interpreter service available.

"Their health status improves both physically and psychologically living in safe secure accommodation. I get so overwhelmed to see how when such basic needs are met, it makes such a huge difference in someone's lives. Many of us take for granted the safe affordable housing we have and I see how this absolutely changes people's lives." said Melis Cevik a worker from Home at Last.

