

Ashwood Chadstone Gateway

A community of social and private housing that has thrived for more than a decade

HousingFirst has provided social housing to hundreds of people for more than a decade at Ashwood Chadstone Gateway on Wurundjeri Country.

Completed in 2013, the project was the first large-scale public housing renewal project in Victoria. Six sites of vacant land and public housing in poor condition were redeveloped, resulting in a sixfold increase in the number of social housing homes on the site.

The project was led by HousingFirst with support from the Victorian State Government and the Federal Government for land and capital grant funding.

The site includes 210 social housing homes for people on the Victorian Housing Register (the waitlist for social housing in Victoria), and 72 privately owned homes. The sale of private homes supported project financing, with a requirement that HousingFirst build additional social housing in Essendon and Parkville, which it has successfully delivered.

Spread across four buildings, the homes range from one to four bedroom apartments and townhouses. One building houses people aged 55 and over, and 75 apartments are disability modified, or adaptable in the future.



Ashwood Chadstone Gateway exterior

At Ashwood Chadstone the social enterprise cafe has been a very rewarding and hugely successful program for both the tenants and the students – Clive Bowden, Chief Commercial Officer, HousingFirst

The Ashwood Chadstone Gateway community is a thriving and engaged community. Key to the community's success is HousingFirst's commitment to enhancing resident personal well-being through community programs.

The community programs empower residents to build and enhance connection with their neighbours, and improve their knowledge, skills and employment prospects. Programs include Pocket Market, CafEducation, The People's Shed and CommunityFirst meetings.



Pocket Market – a monthly low-cost fruit and vegetable market operated by HousingFirst and Berengarra, with produce delivered fresh from Yarra Valley farms.



CafEducation – an on-site social enterprise café run in partnership with Berengarra School as a training opportunity for the students. The café also provides the resident community with low-cost food and meeting spaces.

The **People's Shed** – a weekly event that gives residents a space to come together to work on DIY projects, share tools and talk.

CommunityFirst meetings – these well attended meetings provide an opportunity for residents to hear updates from HousingFirst staff, and provide feedback and have questions answered.

About HousingFirst

HousingFirst was born from a community campaign in the 1980s to stem the loss of affordable housing within the City of Port Phillip. Since then, the organisation has expanded to provide affordable long-term housing for low income households in 15 additional local government areas across metropolitan Melbourne. HousingFirst's mixed-tenure approach means many of its developments are home to a range of low to medium income residents, owner occupiers, market renters and commercial tenants. HousingFirst also provides more targeted accommodation specifically for singles, couples, families, the young, employed, unemployed, women, men, mothers with babies and over 55s across a range of houses, apartments, townhouses, self-contained studios and rooming houses. HousingFirst has secured funding through the Big Housing Build, including for a 152-home development in Brighton East.

HousingFirst is a member of the Community Housing Industry Association of Victoria (CHIA Vic), the peak body for the community housing sector in Victoria. CHIA Vic works to support the growth of community housing as the most effective and efficient means of ensuring more disadvantaged Victorians can enjoy the dignity of safe, secure and appropriate housing.