

# Nightingale Village

## An inclusive community designed by an award-winning architect using social, environmental and financial sustainability principles

Women's Property Initiatives (WPI) was thrilled to offer nine homes in Nightingale Village for women and their children in 2022.

Located on Wurundjeri Country, Nightingale Village is a collection of six neighbouring buildings with a mix of social housing and affordable housing alongside privately owned properties. Each building in the village is designed by an award-winning architect, using the social, environmental and financial sustainability principles of the Nightingale model and with community in mind.

The buildings have a minimum 7-star energy rating and are Australia's first carbon neutral residential project. Recycled timbers and sustainable finishes feature throughout, as well as hydronic heating and solar power. Each apartment has a large balcony, offering ample private outdoor space.

Nightingale Village also features a variety of shared and communal facilities including car share, bike storage, rooftop gardens with expansive views, BBQs, laundry and drying spaces, and meeting/gathering spaces.

The vibrant village with strong community engagement is located in Brunswick between the Upfield train line and Sydney Road, offering renters close proximity to public transport, Bulleke Bek Park, shops and other amenities.

WPI works with a range of specialised support services to meet the individual needs of the women and children living in their homes.



*Nightingale Village – apartment exterior and nearby park.*

***I'm just so blessed, I feel like I've been given a second chance in life. I consider myself one of the lucky ones. It's really hard out there if things go wrong. And if you're aged, I think it's even harder. – Val, WPI renter, Nightingale Village***

Val, one of WPI's residents, says that before living in Nightingale she was financially strapped and became very depressed.

In July 2022 Val moved into her new home in Nightingale Village and shares what the experience has been like:

***"It's given me another lease on life. The residents here really took us WPI tenants into their fold. They invited us to join the building WhatsApp chat, and really made us feel welcome."***

***"Living here I don't need a car. I have access to car share and the train is right here. I love it."***

***"With affordable rent it is so good not to worry constantly about money and to know that you've got a roof over your head for as long as you need it, and you're not going to go hungry. I look forward to having a long, happy life."***



*Nightingale Village – apartment kitchen*

*Image credits: Kate Longley and Nightingale Housing*

The homes were funded through Homes Victoria's Social Housing Growth Fund and a generous contribution from charitable organisation Matrix Guild, who also have nomination rights for four of the homes.

These homes provide WPI's renters with an opportunity to be part of an eclectic, inclusive and vibrant community and are beautiful spaces to live in. Nightingale Village also includes privately owned properties and homes owned by community housing organisation Housing Choices Australia.

WPI's renters have been warmly welcomed into this diverse and inclusive community. Many have participated in community events and initiatives and really feel like they are part of something special.

## About WPI

Women's Property Initiatives (WPI) is a registered housing provider that provides long-term secure and affordable homes across metropolitan Melbourne for low-income women and women led families, as well as access to support networks and ongoing advocacy. WPI also operates a social enterprise real estate agency, Property Initiatives Real Estate, with 100% of the profits going towards providing safe, permanent housing for women and children facing homelessness.

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Women's Property Initiatives (WPI) 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.