

The Residents of DHS supported accommodation group homes in Victoria are to be slugged an outrageous 50% increase in their board and lodging

In accordance with Section 66 of the Disability Act 2006, you are advised of a change in how the fees for disability residential services will be structured and of an indexation increase.

Following consideration of the fee structures for accommodation in disability residential services, a standardised board and lodging fees model will be introduced in Department of Human Services (the department) managed disability residential services on December 1, this year.

The board and lodging fees model will not change the support and accommodation provided to residents.

The board and lodging fee brings the amount residents pay for accommodation and lodging in Victoria into line with other states as well as other types of supported residential accommodation.

The board and lodging fee will take 75% of the full Disability Support Pension rate and the full CRA. A person who receives a lower pension amount as a result of age eligibility will be charged a proportionately lower fee.

The Board and Lodging Fee covers the cost of:

- rent
- utilities, including communications and telephone
- communal furniture and whitegoods
- food
- general household consumable supplies, such as cleaning products and light globes
- household equipment and utensils
- laundry and household cleaning
- lawn-mowing.

Residents will also be provided with:

- repairs and maintenance to the property, fittings and fixtures, communal furniture and whitegoods.
- transport, to the extent provided by the facility (and detailed in the individual's residential statement).

Residents, their families and carers have the right under the Act to apply to VCAT for a review of the decision to issue this notice. An application must be made within 28 days of the issue of the notice.

DHS Board & Lodging Fee information sheet – [LINK](#)

LISA Comment: This state government department shows no justification in economic terms for this huge increase. The department has never stated it has a deficit under the current charges, just that it is making the gross increase to come in-line with other states. Therefore, the department is set to reap a good Christmas windfall from its residents across the state.

It is estimated each resident will pay around an extra \$360 per month. From 1000 residents, the department would collect an extra \$4M per year.

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**NOTE: We are always interested in feedback and information; general, specific, good or bad.
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