

# Connect Community Housing



Connect Victoria Park Inc has been providing **Community Housing** for older people for more than five decades in the Victoria Park area.

Established as The Senior Citizens' Welfare Association of WA Inc in 1957, Connect is a not-for-profit organisation that currently owns and manages 70 studio and one-bedroom units and four retirement villas. We also operate the Village Hub, a membership-based community that supports older local people to connect with each other and age well in the community they love.

Our smaller units are rented out **exclusively for people over 60 on low incomes**. We currently have 76 tenants living on Mackie and Cargill streets, a block away from public transport, services and the vibrant Vic Park café strip.

As a Community Housing provider, we charge rent at **25% or 30% of tenants' income** plus the Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA). We never charge more than 75% of what the market rate would be for a similar unit in the same area.



We are **supportive landlords** and we strive to provide “forever homes” where our tenants feel safe, connected and able to pursue a good quality of life.

Our units offer independent living, which means tenants

are responsible for daily tasks at home. We can help with **referrals to appropriate services** in case tenants need support.

Connect's Housing is independent of ongoing government funding and operates from the rental income it generates.

We employ a Housing Officer, Maria Hawkins, who works 3 days a week and is dedicated to helping our tenants maintain successful tenancies. Maria selects suitable new tenants, performs property inspections, and refers tenants to support services if required.

Maria is supported in her role by our CEO, Luke Garswood, and Project Officer, Flavia Pardini, who have extensive experience in community services delivery and working with older people living independently in community housing. 🏠

## *Our values*

We **respect** the leadership, lived experience and wisdom of older people.

We focus on **inclusivity** so older people of all backgrounds and abilities feel they belong.

We offer opportunities for older people to develop physical, mental, emotional **resilience**.

We exercise **compassion**, offer support in times of need and care for each other regardless of age or background.

We are guided by **integrity**, take full responsibility for our actions and are honest in all our interactions.

