

## 2.1.1 Eligibility Criteria & Program Types



### Preamble

Women's Housing Company (WHC) is a community housing association as part of the social and affordable housing system in NSW. WHC provides long term housing for single women who wish to live independently without children, partners and others. Therefore women who are offered housing with WHC will be given a continuous lease with no fixed expiry date, unless in a supported transitional accommodation program.

The largest proportion of housing (general housing) is provided to women on low incomes, these tend to be recipients of income support payments from Centrelink.

A proportion of housing is available to working women who are in receipt of wages too high to make them eligible for housing with the Housing NSW (public housing) but too low for Sydney Metro rental affordability or to allow them home ownership. These programs are the SHSP – Social Housing Subsidy Program and the BlueCHP Affordable Housing Program.

Women's Housing Company is committed to supporting women who are experiencing a combination of disadvantages in addition to housing need.

In order to provide access to housing for women requiring access to additional support, WHC enters into partnership agreements with support providing agencies. Most of these are for transitional accommodation allowing the tenant to develop independent living skills and move on to long term, independent housing either through the social housing system or the private rental market.

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### POLICY

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The following **eligibility criteria** are applicable for all WHC properties;

- The applicant is a single woman who wishes to live alone without children, partners or others, family or friends.
- The applicant must be approved for and active on the Housing Pathways Housing Register (unless applying for SHSP or BlueCHP Affordable Housing)
- The applicant must be in receipt of an income
- Applicants with identified health or disability issues must provide evidence to verify their ability to live independently
- The applicant must not have previous arrears with WHC (or must have a suitable arrangement of repayment for these)

Exceptions to the above will only be made within funding guidelines and with written Operations Manager approval.

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**Date developed: 1985**

**Date/s policy was ratified and/or changed by Board: 31/1/05; 28/8/07; 27/08/10**

**Note:** Procedures are designed to guide the implementation of a policy and will be updated on a regular basis as part of ongoing best practice service improvement.

## **Additional Program Criteria**

### Social Housing

- As per Housing Pathways Policy and Procedure (<http://www.housingpathways.nsw.gov.au/>)

### Social Housing Subsidy Program and BlueCHP Affordable Housing

- The applicant receives a regular income within the Affordable Housing Income Limits (set annually) and appropriate to the program (i.e., for BlueCHP Affordable within the Very Low, Low or Moderate bands as per property; for SHSP within the Low or Moderate income bands)
- The applicant does not own or part-own property as part of investments.
- The applicant does not have savings / investments/assets which could reasonably be expected to solve their housing need
- The applicant has a good rental history
- The applicant is an Australian Resident

### Supported Transitional Housing

- The applicant is linked with, and actively working with, the nominating Support Agency

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