

Supporting Vulnerable Tenancies Program

The Supporting Vulnerable Tenancies (SVT) programme has been established to support people who are having difficulty sustaining their housing. This includes tenants who are at risk of losing their housing, and people who are unsuitably housed who are having difficulty finding appropriate and affordable housing.

There are a myriad of reasons why a person or family's housing may be in jeopardy. It could be domestic violence issues, families facing child protection issues, housekeeping or section maintenance issues, household budgeting issues, neighbour complaints, overcrowding, or other health issues etc.

The realities of the post- earthquake housing environment make the issue of sustainable housing particularly relevant for the people of Christchurch. For that reason the aim of the SVT program is to increase people's capacity to maintain their housing, as well as enhancing their level of community engagement.

For some people, direct advocacy and negotiation may be sufficient to prevent them losing their housing. In other cases, it may be more appropriate to focus on finding alternative housing. An action plan, specific to individual need, will be developed in collaboration with all tenants who sign up to the SVT program. The ultimate goal will be for tenants to develop their skills and capacity to sustain their housing long term.

Key to the program is the concept of tenant participation. Tenants Protection Association (TPA) believes that all people, including those struggling to sustain their housing, have strengths and knowledge to bring to the table. So that we may work effectively with people, we require a willingness to participate, as well as honesty about the issues that led to their housing difficulty.

We also recognise that the community can act as an excellent resource for tenants, particularly in terms of reducing social isolation and creating opportunities for growth. This broader context will be explored with individuals as part of the program.

In essence, the SVT is aimed at supporting people for the medium to long term, to sustain their housing. As such it is not an emergency housing project. People in urgent housing need should consult the Christchurch City Council's "No Fixed Abode" resource booklet, contact the Ministry of Development to discuss access to social housing, or alternatively they can contact TPA for advice.

For further information regarding our SVT programme please contact TPA on 379 2297 and speak with Niki or Di. Alternatively you can contact Niki on 021 0871 7762 or Di on 0204 068 1995.