

# The Sanctuary Response



## What is Sanctuary?

Sanctuary is an innovative response to the housing needs of people seeking asylum in our community.

It offers safe, affordable, transitional housing to those people seeking asylum most in need while they wait for the outcomes of their visa applications.

In addition to housing, residents access services including case work support, food bank and material support, emotional and spiritual support, and education and employment services.

Sanctuary is one of the few housing services in Victoria available to people seeking asylum.

## Sanctuary's primary aim

Safety, opportunity and a fair go for people seeking asylum.

## Sanctuary's principles

### Empowerment.

Through education and employment.

### Independence.

By sharing skills and knowledge, and building confidence.

### Belonging.

To a caring, respectful community that values each person and their contribution.



“I am grateful to Sanctuary for the support. They are a ‘house of saviour’ providing a better environment to live and fantastic casework support.”

- Seiji, Sanctuary resident

## Why Sanctuary?

Many of the more than 10,000 people seeking asylum living in Victoria are not legally able to work, or access Medicare or government financial support such as Centrelink payments. Those who are able to access Centrelink support are on very low incomes that place them in financial hardship.

People on lower incomes right across our community are facing a growing shortage of affordable housing.

People seeking asylum who have suffered trauma, or with very limited resources face additional challenges. Barriers such as lack of rental history, language differences and racism mean that they are extremely vulnerable to homelessness.

Baptcare has provided transitional supported housing since 2008 to hundreds of people seeking asylum who have few other forms of support.

Baptcare works for safety, opportunity and a fair go for people seeking asylum. Our commitment is to see all people experiencing fullness of life, regardless of culture, belief, and circumstance. Our vision for communities where every person is cherished sees us working to uphold the dignity and rights of people seeking asylum, and the creation of environments where all people can thrive.

## How does Sanctuary work?

People seeking asylum living in the community and at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness can be referred to Sanctuary by our referral partners.

If accepted they are able to stay until a determination on their application is finalised or until they overcome challenges to become independent. During this time they pay affordable rent if they have income.

## Support Sanctuary

### • **Donate.**

Money, household items, food vouchers.

### • **Employ.**

Sanctuary residents who are allowed to work are keen to find opportunities.

### • **Educate.**

Invite us to speak to your community group, show a film, talk to friends.

### • **Volunteer.**

Your time, skills and energy can make a difference.

To get involved contact us:

[sanctuary@baptcare.org.au](mailto:sanctuary@baptcare.org.au)