

# How to apply for Ōtautahi Community Housing Trust housing?

## **Q: How do I apply for OCHT Housing?**

A: OCHT takes applications from the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) Social Housing Register when we have vacancies. This allows us to allocate our small number of vacancies to those most in need.

## **Q: Who is eligible to rent OCHT housing?**

A: People who are eligible to be on the MSD Social Housing Register. In some cases people who MSD deem ineligible may meet the eligibility criteria of OCHT (assets, income and residency). If an applicant is not eligible with MSD they can still be able to apply with OCHT.

## **Q: What if I am not eligible to be on the MSD social housing register ?**

A: If you have phoned MSD and been told you are not eligible for social housing, please let us know so we can provide you with housing options and advice. In some cases, we may be able to offer you social housing. We will ask you for your consent to talk with MSD to confirm your ineligibility with them.

## **Q: How do I get on the MSD social housing register?**

A: If you have a need for social housing, you should apply to be on the MSD social housing register by phoning 0800 559 009. [You can find out more information on the MSD website. www.housing.msd.govt.nz](http://www.housing.msd.govt.nz)

## **Q: I am on the MSD social housing register, what do I do now?**

A: Once you have completed your application with MSD and had your needs assessment, let us know. We will ask you to complete a [Registration of Housing Need](#) form with OCHT. We will also ask you to give us consent to access your social housing application from MSD to ensure we have enough information to assist you.

## **Q: Where are OCHT homes located?**

A: OCHT has units across most areas of Christchurch, as far north as Belfast and as far South as Templeton. We also have a small number of units in Lyttelton and Akaroa.

## **Q: What type of housing does OCHT provide ?**

A: Most of our housing is 1 bedroom units, with single people or couples being our most common household type. We have a limited number of units bigger than 1 bedroom. Most of our housing is located as part of housing complexes rather than standalone houses.

## **Q: How long does it take to get a OCHT home?**

A: We house people with the highest need, rather than on wait-time basis. We cannot tell you if or when you may get a home with us. We have a limited number of homes, a low turnover of tenants and there is a lot of need for our homes. When a home becomes available we seek applicants from the MSD from the Social Housing Register who would be most suited to the available unit.

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**Q: I need accommodation in a hurry - can you help?**

A: We don't provide emergency accommodation. If you require immediate assistance, please contact Work and Income on 0800 559 009. You may wish to refer to the [no fixed abode](#) book that has information about accommodation and support services for homeless.

**Q: Can I keep a pet ?**

A: OCHT properties are not suitable for dogs. In some cases, we can accommodate registered disability assist dogs. We may allow one cat per household.

**Q: What assistance can I get during the application process?**

A: OCHT can arrange interpreting services where necessary. Please contact a Placements Advisor on 0800 624 456 or at [admin@ocht.org.nz](mailto:admin@ocht.org.nz) and we can support you through the process.

## Checklist for accessing OCHT housing

To access our housing, you will need to interact with Otautahi Community Housing Trust (OCHT) and the Ministry of Social Development (MSD)

**MSD**



### Call MSD on 0800 559 009 for a social housing phone screen

- This will check your eligibility to be placed on the MSD social housing register
- Call OCHT if you are told you are not eligible, we can discuss any options you may have.

### Have a needs assessment for social housing with MSD and get onto Social Housing Register

- If the phone assessment determined you are eligible, this assessment will be either completed at MSD or over the phone. This assessment will determine how serious your need for a home is and what type of home may best suit your needs.

**OCHT**



### Register your housing need with OCHT by completing a Registration of Housing Need form

- Forms are available online at [ocht.org.nz](http://ocht.org.nz) or from any Christchurch Library or our office at 61 Kilmore Street

### Short Assessment with OCHT

- A Placements Advisor will talk with you to confirm your housing needs. In some cases we may ask for tenancy references from your previous landlords and/or confirm with any support workers that our homes are suitable for your needs.