



Organisational Backgrounder

Women's Property Initiatives (WPI) formerly Victorian Women's Housing Association, was established in 1996 to develop a range of housing options for disadvantaged women and their children.

WPI is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee, managed by a voluntary board of women from the private and community sectors.

Guided by the requirements and requests of women in need, WPI develops and builds appropriate housing for female-headed families on low to moderate incomes.

WPI properties are tenanted to low income single women and low income single mothers including:

- Women with physical and mental health issues
- Women exiting correctional facilities
- Women escaping domestic violence
- Indigenous women
- Refugee and migrant women
- Young working women
- Older single women

It is an operating principle of WPI that resources are sourced from the private, public and community sectors in order to leverage contributions and to maximise the best use of limited resources.

Housing stock has been established through a variety of innovative projects, including cooperative partnerships with private housing developers and builders, Melbourne City Mission, the Matrix Guild and Berry Street; and purchase of housing from private developers.

Capital funding has been sourced from the Office of Housing, Victorian Property Fund, the Nation Building initiative, philanthropic grants, community organisations and borrowings from Bank Australia and NAB.

All houses are owned and managed by WPI; they are leased long-term to women in receipt of Centrelink and low incomes with rents set at no more than 30 per cent of their income.

WPI works with local support agencies to ensure that women and children have connections, supports and links to their communities. This facilitates the security and stability of housing for the women as they experience new challenges in their life which in the past may have resulted in them becoming homeless. The housing is of good quality and this in itself contributes to the self-esteem of the women and children.

www.wpi.org.au