

Fact Sheet

## Fact sheet: Development Assessment – Community Residences

An overview for proponents about what constitutes  
a support worker

December 2020

Department of State Development, Infrastructure,  
Local Government and Planning

INVESTED IN PLANNING FOR YOUR FUTURE



## Overview

This fact sheet is about community residences in the planning framework.

A community residence is defined under the Planning Regulation 2017. Community residences are residential accommodation for up to six persons who require assistance with daily living needs, or children under a government program or service.

They are small scale care facilities located in existing communities and can be a house, a townhouse or an apartment.

## Does a community residence require town planning approval from the Council?

A community residence does not require planning approval from the local council if:

- it is located in a prescribed zone, including residential zones
- no more than seven support workers attend the residence in a 24-hour period
- there is sufficient on-site carparking for residents, visitors and support workers.

Otherwise, a community residence is assessed by a local government against the local government's planning scheme.

## What is a 'support worker'?

A support worker is a person who provides day to day care and support for the residents in the community residence. This may include a person who:

- helps with personal care
- helps with household chores (such as cooking and cleaning)
- organises transport and recreation
- teaches new skills
- provides general care and companionship.

A support worker does not include a person who performs other intermittent specialist or professional services, for example:

- provides specialist care (such as a doctor or allied health professional) on an intermittent basis, even if the care is provided at the community residence
- performs professional work (such as managing staff rostering, compliance management or staff supervision) with little or no direct support provided to the residents themselves
- performs case planning, transition planning, or intervention planning; or a person providing occasional direct support to someone in relation to specialist interventions
- performs statutory or court-ordered functions such as a person carrying out court-ordered supervision of a resident.

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