



Housing Matters

ACTION GROUP INC

Bellingen Shire Community Hosting Program

Locals sharing with locals – a community response to the housing crisis

What is Community Hosting?

Community hosting is when homeowners with spare rooms decide to share their space and open their homes to a lodger. Taking in a lodger isn't going to work for everyone - but it's one way our community can provide some local solutions to the housing crisis right now.

Why are we doing it?

There is a regional housing crisis and it's getting worse. Rents have skyrocketed and there are very few houses available for rent. The cost of real estate has also increased significantly. People have been leaving the Bellingen Shire because they can't find anywhere to live locally and others who want to return home just can't. At the same time, there are many people across the Shire who live alone or as a couple in large houses who cannot downsize because there are so few smaller dwellings available. Some people living alone have said that they would appreciate company and others have said they would be happy to have a lodger if they could help with chores.

Who is Community Hosting for?

- people with a spare room(s) who would like some company, some extra income and/or help with chores and want to help ease the housing crisis
- people in precarious housing who are responsible and independent with ties to the Bellingen Shire who are happy to live in a share situation as a lodger

Hosts

Homeowners can be community hosts.

Lodgers

Lodgers must:

- live in the Bellingen Shire or be able to demonstrate strong ties to the Shire
- be responsible and willing to meet commitments made related to rent, helping with chores and following house rules

What Next?

The Housing Matters Action Group is looking for five homeowners interested in opening their homes lodgers to help them pilot the Community Hosting. Housing Matters will provide lots of support and help find a great match between the host and the lodger.

If you are a homeowner with space and want to find out more, come to the information session for potential hosts on Saturday 3 July at 10am at St Margaret's Church Hall, 100 Hyde Street Bellingen. Register events.humanitix.com/chp

If you are interested in finding out more about being a lodger, email us at info@housingmattes.org.au and we'll be in touch when there is more information.

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