

Need Urgent Assistance? Please Call
1800 825 955



Saving George from eviction

May 2018

Not knowing if you can stay in your accommodation for any length of time can be detrimental to your health.

Just ask George, who owns his own cabin and rents a site at a local caravan park, managed by the local council.

“I had lived there since 1993 but owed a lot of rent. I was depressed and annoyed when I went to BeyondHousing because if the caravan park had evicted me, I saw I had no options,” George said.

“Asking for help was the hardest thing.

“I didn’t know where to start in sorting the mess out, so I was basically waiting for the time that they were nearly going to evict me before I could ask for help.”

BeyondHousing assisted George initially through our Sustaining Tenancies At Risk or STAR program. At that time George owed more than \$3,000 in rent.

We worked to ensure George had a budget that allowed him to manage a payment plan, helped him set up the Centrepay rental payment system and to negotiate the payment plan with the Council.

Our Tenancy Assistance and Advocacy Program (TAAP) then supported George in his dealings with VCAT; these were to finalise a compliance agreement which George would have found nearly impossible to navigate on his own.

“As soon as this was sorted the depression went. There’s real power in knowing your housing is secure.”

George

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The compliance order meant George had to pay \$313 per fortnight: rent of \$175 per fortnight plus \$88 arrears together with \$38 per fortnight electricity usage plus \$12 repayment of debt.

Setting in place the compliance agreement meant that we could also assist George with \$700 in rent payments through the STAR program and we continued to support him over six months to help with other barriers that might have an impact on him having a successful tenancy.

George will not fully repay his debt until July 2018.

Agreeing on the amount George actually owed was difficult as proper records had not been kept by the caravan park. Working together with STAR and TAAP was an essential component of obtaining a successful outcome that enabled George to remain in his property and have a payment plan that he could afford.

“BeyondHousing definitely helped calm the waters – they sorted out the mess and set up a system that made everyone happy. It definitely made me happy. I can take life a bit slower now and I am no longer depressed. As soon as this was sorted, the depression went. There’s real power in knowing your housing is secure.

“I’d suggest that anyone in a similar situation shouldn’t wait as long as I did; your pride does get in the way. We are conditioned not to ask for help.”