

Policy

Feedback

Compliments & Complaints

Policy Statement

The right of people accessing our services, including the community and stakeholders of Beyond Housing to provide feedback is a fundamental component of the organisation's overall commitment to promote the rights of all people.

Policy Application

This policy applies to all Beyond Housing employees and includes all permanent and casual staff, volunteers, work experience students, management, and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). For the purposes of this document, all parties will be referred to throughout this policy as workplace participants.

Responsibility & Authority

- The Board of Beyond Housing has responsibility for:
 - Ensuring compliance with legal and regulatory requirements at a Governance level.
 - Compliments or complaints involving the CEO will be managed by the Beyond Housing Board.
- This policy is operational and therefore the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is responsible for ensuring:
 - Appropriate and effective policies and systems are in place to operationalise legal and regulatory requirements and therefore implement this policy in accordance with that responsibility.
 - All managers and workplace participants are aware of this policy.
 - Support for workplace participants to undertake their responsibilities under this policy is provided.
- The CEO may delegate specific responsibility to managers or workplace participants to ensure that the objectives relating to this policy are met.
- Managers and Team Leaders are responsible for informing workplace participants about their responsibilities under this policy.
- All workplace participants are responsible to familiarise themselves with this policy and comply with its requirements.

Policy Detail

Beyond Housing is committed to ensuring all stakeholders have access to information on how to:

- Provide feedback about our people, programs, and service delivery.
- Make a complaint and have it addressed appropriately.
- Access appropriate advocates and external avenues to lodge complaints

Beyond Housing will:

- Ensure all clients and other stakeholders are made aware of our feedback policy via our website, posters, brochures, and information provided by workplace participants.
- Encourage feedback from clients and stakeholders.
- Record positive and negative feedback and respond in a way that enables us to improve our service delivery.
- Ensure all feedback, including complaints, are handled following the Feedback Procedure
- Ensure any client or stakeholder providing feedback will not suffer reprisal because of that feedback.
- Ensure that our feedback options are culturally appropriate and safe.

- Accept feedback verbally, in writing, anonymously via our website or social media and will not treat feedback differently because of how it is received.
- Investigate feedback, including complaints, in a fair and impartial way following the principles of natural justice.
- Handle all feedback confidentially.
- Offer people alternate methods of providing feedback, such as referral to the Homelessness Advocacy Service, Victorian Housing Registrar, or relevant funding bodies if they are dissatisfied with the way their feedback has been handled.
- Triage all complaints to ensure an immediate response for complaints of a serious nature e.g., client privacy breach, a complaint relating to child safety or the reportable conduct scheme.

Timeframes for managing complaints

All complaints will be:

- Acknowledged with the stakeholder, on the same day (maximum of 2 business days).
- Response provided to the stakeholder about the status of the complaint within 10 business days.
- Resolved within 30 business days.

All timeframes are measured from date of receipt of complaint from stakeholder.

Appealing the outcome of a complaint

If the stakeholder is not satisfied with the outcome of the complaint, they have a right to appeal the decision via the following methods:

1. Speak to the relevant Manager.
2. Speak to the Chief Operating Officer (COO) / CEO or the Board if the complaint relates to the CEO.
3. If you are still dissatisfied with the outcome, you can request Beyond Housing to review its decision.

There may be times where you are dissatisfied with the outcome of a complaint, even after the appeal process described above. The following table outlines who can assist

Issue	Organisation	Additional Information
Community Housing Complaint	Victorian Housing Registrar GPO Box Melbourne 4379 Melbourne Vic 3001	Phone 03 7005 8984 or online form: Making a complaint about community housing
Tenancy Dispute	Consumer Affairs Victoria GPO Box 123 Melbourne Vic 3001	Phone 1300 40 43 19 or for information on residential disputes: Consumer Affairs - resolve your problem - residential accommodation complaint or for Specialist Disability Accommodation rental agreements: Specialist Disability Accommodation - complaints
Service Complaint	Department of Families, Fairness & Housing GPO Box Melbourne 4057 Melbourne Vic 3001	DFFH Making a complaint Submit Your Complaint Feedback DFFH
Specialist Disability Accommodation	NDIS Commission	Phone 1800 035 544 NDIS Participants - Make a complaint

Complaints relating to state & local government authorities	Victorian Ombudsman Level 2, 570 Bourke Street Melbourne Vic 3000	Phone 1800 806 314 or online form: Ombudsman Victoria - make a complaint
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There are a range of government funded advice and advocacy services that can also help. A client or renter can discuss their complaint with an advocacy service:

- The Homelessness Advocacy Service – 1800 066 256
- Tenants Victoria – 03 9416 2577
- Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission – 1300 891 848

Reporting requirements

Feedback numbers and comments will be communicated to workplace participants via “The Hub”.

Internal feedback reports are provided to the Board and Management team every 6 months. The findings/recommendations from the report are used to improve and inform future service delivery.

The following complaints must be reported to the relevant external body:

- Privacy Breach – within one business day to the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH)
- Reportable Conduct as defined in the Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005. The CEO is required to notify the Commission for Children and Young People of any allegation deemed as reportable conduct within three business days. Refer to Website: CCYP | Notify and update reportable allegations (prescribed forms) <https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/reportable-conduct-scheme/about-reporting-allegations/>

Other feedback methods

The following methods are used to obtain stakeholder feedback and inform service delivery and future planning:

- Biennial Client Satisfaction Survey
- Biennial Client Focus Groups
- Reviews are completed with clients who have exited from key Housing Homelessness Services. The aim of the reviews is to improve service delivery through:
 - Feedback from clients after exiting our service
 - Data on long term outcomes for clients we assist
 - Information on the effectiveness of our service
 - Ensuring clients know how to reengage with us if required
- Monthly Quality Maintenance Checks for Housing Clients.

Where Beyond Housing seeks feedback clients will be informed of the scope of the feedback including use and if their name will be visible. Consent will be requested where applicable.


Definitions

Complaint	A complaint is defined as an expression of dissatisfaction made to or about an organisation, related to its products, services, staff or the handling of a complaint, where a response or resolution is explicitly or implicitly expected.
Compliment	A compliment is an expression of praise, encouragement or gratitude about a service that is funded, regulated, or provided. It may be about an individual workplace participant, a team, or a service.

Stakeholders	A person who has an interest, concern, or investment in something. Stakeholder includes clients, renters, their family/friends/carer or advocates support agencies and external service providers. This may also include neighbours of surrounding properties. Beyond Housing explicitly accepts the role of a client advocate whether statutory or voluntary, with the consent of the client.
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Related

Document Reference	Document Type
Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic)	Legislation
Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005	Legislation
National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013 (Cth)	Legislation
Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)	Legislation
Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic)	Legislation
Access and Equity	Policy
Child Safety & Wellbeing	Policy
Code of Conduct	Policy
Code of Ethics	Policy
Privacy and Confidentiality	Policy
Rights and Responsibilities	Policy
Specialist Disability Accommodation	Policy
Stakeholder Participation	Policy
Feedback – Compliments and Complaints	Procedure
Beyond Housing Feedback Form and Website information	Other
National Disability Insurance Scheme (Complaints Management and Resolution) Rules 2018 (Cth)	Other
Information Privacy Principles	Other

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