



## Categorisation of Need Policy

### Policy Intent

The terms of the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement (CSHA) require public rental accommodation to be allocated on the basis of housing need with those in most need assisted first.

### Categories

Once an applicant's housing need has been assessed and a points total confirmed, the applicant's relative need against all other current applicants can be determined. This is achieved by placing an application in the appropriate 'category' given their total points score.

Category thresholds are as follows:

<b>Category 1</b>	<b>Points score of greater than or equal to 35</b>
<b>Category 2</b>	<b>Points score of 25 to 34</b>
<b>Category 3</b>	<b>Points score of 15 to 24</b>
<b>Category 4</b>	<b>Points score of 10 to 14</b>

### Application

All applicants falling within the same category are considered to have the same degree of housing need. Category 1 applicants are those with the highest housing need, followed by applicants in Category 2 and so on to Category 4. The allocation of housing is decided on the basis of category membership and **not** each applicant's point score. That is, allocations are first made to applicants in Category 1, then to those in Category 2 and so on down the categories.

Orderly allocation within categories is established by measuring the length of time the applicant's housing need has existed and allocating housing to applicants who have spent the most time in a particular category. That length of time is equivalent to the interval beginning with the applicant's *date of entry* into that category and ending at the date the prospective allocation is to be made. In other words, a "ready to offer" property, providing it meets the applicant's housing entitlements, should be allocated to the applicant who has spent the most time in Category 1.

It is Housing Tasmania's **aim** to house Category 1 applicants within an eight (8) week period. However, availability of stock in areas with a low turnover may result in Housing Tasmania being unable to meet this time frame. Applicants should be made aware that their suburb preferences will impact on the period of time they have to wait to be housed.

Applicants need to inform Housing Tasmania when their circumstances change. In the majority of cases, applicants will be re-assessed.



As an applicant's circumstances change they will move up and down categories depending on whether their housing situation has improved or worsened. Every time an applicant moves into a new category their date of entry should be reset to reflect the date they were confirmed at that category.

## **Establishing a Minimum Level of Housing Need**

Where an applicant's housing need has been assessed at less than 10 points their application is cancelled. This is based on the premise that a minimum level of housing need has not been established and, given this, there is no reasonable expectation that the applicant will be offered housing.

For further information relating to this policy please email the helpdesk [housing.policyhelpdesk@dhhs.tas.gov.au](mailto:housing.policyhelpdesk@dhhs.tas.gov.au)