



Hawthorn West Baptist Church

Young Adult Accommodation Information & Application

Our houses are VERY popular so please apply as soon as you can to ensure you are in consideration for spaces as they open up. We select from applicants for the best mix so an early application is NOT a guarantee but it will help ensure you don't miss out.

While we do not have a cut-off date for applications, offers of rooms will usually be made to applicants in late December/early January (for lease starts of 1 February)

All Enquiries To: Mike Cutter (Youth Pastor) 0409 353 664 mtc@hwbc.org.au

What are we aiming to achieve?

The objective is to provide an intentional Christian community of young Christian adults, in particular for those moving out of home for the first time; providing a supportive environment for them to gain experience in living independently and in Christ-like community. Our hope and expectation is that through living in the house communities, the residents will grow in their faith, maturity, use of gifts, and Christ-likeness.

Who runs the houses?

Hawthorn West Baptist Church (HWBC) is the "Landlord", and an employee of HWBC manages repairs, rent collection, and any other landlord-type issues. Pastoral care is the responsibility of our Youth Pastor.

Two houses are provided in partnership with West Hawthorn Uniting Church, however all resident matters are administrated by HWBC.

How many people live in the houses?

There are 6–7 bedrooms in each house, with one resident per bedroom. *Sharing may be considered by application, but will be subject to a 50% increase on the total rent for the shared room.*

Who are you looking for as a resident?

Single Christian young adults (18 to approx 25) — particularly those moving out of home for the first time and seeking to be part of a supportive house and church community. It is suitable for workers or students, full-time or part-time. But the majority of residents are tertiary students.

Behaviour/Lifestyle/Character

Applicants must have an active faith in Jesus and live a life reflecting that faith, in terms of focus & purpose, ethical/moral behaviour and character. A code of expectations has been developed as an (incomplete) guide for you, which is provided on our website and which you must agree to prior to moving in.

If you have any concerns about these expectations please contact the Youth Pastor *before* applying.

Church Involvement

By applying you are committing to being involved in a local church community on a regular basis.

We STRONGLY encourage you to make HWBC your home church. This results in the strongest sense of being part of the community and the best experience for residents. However joining HWBC is not required for living in the share house, so if you find yourself more at home with another church, we request that you provide the contact details of a suitable pastoral contact from that church to us as soon as possible.

You are also welcome and encouraged to join a HWBC Connect group (even if you join a different church).

Please do not apply if you have no intention of joining a church and are not committed to following Jesus!

What is the Application Process?

First, you must submit an application form, which is at the end of this document. Please answer it as best you can. You can post it, or email your answers. A photo is not required but is welcome.

You will receive an email confirmation from us within a few days. If you do not get this please contact Mike directly to confirm receipt of your application.

Applications are held and then a process of prayer and discussion by the house committee will be used to choose the right candidates. Rooms will usually be offered in early-mid December or early January.

If we are unable to offer you a room we will inform you as soon as possible.

If you decide to withdraw or postpone your application please contact us ASAP!

We reserve the right to make the final decision for who moves into a house. We have limited rooms and must prioritise the overall balance of the houses, rather than the needs of individuals for accommodation.

While an interview is not compulsory, if you can be available for one that will certainly help us.

You are welcome to arrange a time to inspect the houses, although this is not guaranteed.

It's a legal requirement that you meet other residents of your household before final confirmation of your place so please make yourself available to do that.

Who keeps the houses running smoothly?

A resident in each house takes on a voluntary role of 'Caretaker of Relationships' (COR) (this role is sometimes shared).

The COR works with all residents to support each other and ensure functional relationships, as well as oversee practical issues such as bills and household management. It is vital that all residents commit to support and respect the COR.

The COR is NOT responsible for covering rent/bill short-falls, doing cleaning & maintenance, shopping, gardening or other household tasks; instead these tasks are shared by **all** members under the guidance of the COR — and house members are expected to show mature responsibility and participation in this.

Pastoral care for residents is provided by a small team of HWBC members including our Youth Pastor for personal concerns, spiritual guidance or serious relationship issues.

How does living in a house work?

Our expectation is that residents find the experience of living in our houses a wonderful opportunity to grow in faith, make new friends, learn living skills, and learn to work together with 6 other people under one roof!

Residents share the responsibility for quality of life in the house, under the oversight of the COR.

This includes:

- sharing cleaning, gardening and other household duties on a rostered basis
- taking responsibility for paying your share of utilities costs such as internet, phone, electricity, gas and water as agreed with the COR; and
- respecting the rights and needs of the other house members, and the community of the household. This extends to your own behaviour within the house, including abiding by house rules. More on this below.
- ensuring you are **regularly** involved in a church community (ideally HWBC) and ideally join a Connect group outside the household.

The residents together are required to choose one night a week/fortnight for a shared meal (known as “house tea”) and commit to attending it, but otherwise members take responsibility for purchasing their own food and preparing their own meals. Storage for food is provided.

More on behaviour, “the rules”, life together...

The house is intended to be a happy, relaxed and flexible place to live where Christ-centred community is encouraged while privacy is respected. Behaviour that negatively impacts this aim will be acted upon.

House rules and expectations are reviewed at the start of each year, covering areas such as character and behaviour, guests, rosters etc and may only be changed by full agreement of the household.

Failure to abide by house rules and expectations **MAY RESULT IN YOU BEING MOVED OUT.**

We encourage residents to plan to stay no longer than 3 years in our houses, for your own growth and maturity. Longer stays may be negotiated in time.

Where are the Houses located?

Both houses are located in the western part of Hawthorn, a pleasant, leafy inner-eastern suburb with many parks and amenities, approximately 7km from the CBD. It provides easy access by bicycle, car/motorbike or public transport to most major tertiary institutions in Melbourne.

The houses are located within short walking distance of Hawthorn West Baptist Church's building and several other local churches, as well as the Glenferrie, Bridge Road/Richmond and Burwood shopping strips, and Victoria Garden's Shopping Centre (which includes an Ikea!).

What are the Houses like? What services do they have?

The Barton St house has 2 floors, with carpet and polished floorboards. It has 7 bedrooms in different sizes and includes one bedroom with a private en-suite. It has 2 shared bathrooms (one on each floor), a large kitchen/open plan living area, a laundry, and a shed for bicycles.

The Grove Rd houses are single storey houses, also recently renovated, one with 6 and one with 7 bedrooms. Both have a large living area and separate kitchen, laundry & some bicycle storage. There are two toilets and two bathrooms in each house.

All houses are on quiet side streets. Street parking is limited. There is some off-street parking (1-2 cars), which is not allocated to any particular room. The house is walking distance to trams and a train station.

No furniture is provided in bedrooms apart from some wardrobe space in *some* rooms. Shared furniture is used in the living areas. The kitchens are well equipped with fridge(s), freezers, pantries, cooking equipment and dishwasher, with plenty of room to prepare meals and store food.

Online Internet Access: There is broadband Internet access provided to each house. The monthly cost of this is shared between the household members, working out to approximately \$15 a month each and a healthy data allowance. Wireless networking is included, but no physical networking is provided to rooms. Residents are responsible for their own computer security and maintenance. Please note that your internet usage may be monitored for appropriate use (traffic usage and content) and should not be assumed to be private.

What is Hawthorn West Baptist Church like?

Hawthorn West Baptist Church is a friendly and active Christian community with a Sunday morning turn-up of around 80, made up mostly of young adults and families with children. We are committed to growth and discipleship of believers and outreach to those who don't yet know Jesus, and service to others in our community in the name of Jesus.

We believe that all Christians have a role and responsibility in the life of God's Church 7 days a week, and share equal responsibility (according to their gifting) for community and care, work, teaching, discipleship, evangelism and leadership and use of whatever other gifts God has given you!

Church gatherings (services) vary from week to week and frequently include a shared meal. You might choose to get involved with Uncouth Group (youth), Connect (small) groups, Servants Community Housing (subsidised accommodation), Careforce Lifekeys (recovery) Courses, Alpha, SUB All Ages/U18 Shows, Playgroups, Christian Religious Education and more.