



# Merrylands Independent Living

Merrylands Independent Living is a residential training skills program for adults with a physical disability who want to achieve their goals for independent living. The service is open to applicants throughout NSW and offers accessible self-contained accommodation, structured learning program and back-up support.

## Accommodation

Residents live in five modern purpose-built villas. Technology and design have been used to create living areas suitable for people who use wheelchairs, including those with high physical support needs. The villas are fully-furnished and have one bedroom, a kitchen, dining area, living area, bathroom, laundry, carport and small courtyard.

## Program

Plans are developed with each resident and used as a basis for an individual program. There are opportunities for residents to:

- Gain experience of living independently
- Identify their safety and support needs
- Participate in a living skills course
- Develop skills and self-confidence
- Achieve personal goals
- Organise long-term accommodation

The program may take from six to 24 months, depending on individual needs and circumstances. Follow-up support is available when people move to their own homes.

## Staffing

The Coordinator and Living Skills Educator support residents to plan for the future and work towards their goals. They are available on weekdays and provide a limited on-call service after hours. Northcott Disability Services does not provide direct care staff and residents are required to arrange assistance through community agencies as necessary.

## Eligibility

Adults who have a physical disability and:

- Live in NSW/ACT.
- Want to learn to live more independently.
- Can live safely in the Merrylands units with available support.
- Are able to learn new skills.
- Are independent in self-care or can arrange assistance through community services, such as Home Care or Attendant Care programs.
- Have identified plans for their long-term accommodation.

- Have an ongoing commitment to the structured learning program.

## Cost

Rent is a fixed percentage of individual income and is similar to rents charged by the NSW Department of Housing. Residents pay their own electricity and telephone bills, as well as other daily living expenses.

## Funding

The service is funded by Ageing, Disability and Home Care, Department of Human Services NSW and Northcott Disability Services.



**Human Services**  
Ageing, Disability & Home Care

## Contact

**Coordinator, Merrylands Independent Living and Northcott Housing Links:**

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