

SALE OF MUSGRAVE PARK FACILITY INFORMATION FOR STAKEHOLDERS

Updated 15 July 2020

The information in this leaflet is designed for stakeholders and service providers regarding the vacant Aboriginal Hostels Limited (AHL) property located in West End, Brisbane. This facility was previously the Musgrave Park Hostel, a 13-bed tertiary education hostel, until its closure in December 2017.

Why did AHL close this hostel?

AHL took the necessary decision to close Musgrave Park Hostel in 2017 as a result of building safety issues and low patronage at this site.

AHL regularly assesses the company's portfolio of properties to make sure that:

- Our properties are continuing to provide accommodation in areas of greatest need
- Our hostels are contributing to the ongoing viability of the company
- Our accommodation is safe and comfortable for residents.

Are any residents or staff impacted by this decision?

At the time of its closure, a small number of students were supported to secure suitable, affordable accommodation elsewhere in Brisbane.

Alternative arrangements were also made for a small number of staff working at this site.

Will the hostel re-open?

AHL's Board regularly assesses the company's portfolio of properties to make sure that:

- The company is continuing to provide safe, affordable accommodation in areas of greatest need; and
- Hostels are contributing to the ongoing viability of the company.

In the case of Musgrave Park a decision was taken to divest the property, given building deterioration and related safety concerns, the prohibitive ongoing cost of repairs to maintain the facility, and the availability of additional AHL hostels nearby the Musgrave Park site.

What other accommodation options are available for Indigenous people in Brisbane?

AHL is committed to continuing to provide accommodation services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Brisbane.

Capacity is available in AHL's Elley Bennett Hostel for tertiary students in New Farm, and at Yumba Hostel in West End which provides general accommodation.

Are these other options affected by COVID-19 restrictions?

On 18 March 2020 AHL introduced restrictions across its hostel network to minimise the risk of COVID-19 infection among our vulnerable resident population.

Under those restrictions new resident bookings were not accepted in hostels, with the exception of medical resident referrals.

On 1 May 2020 AHL commenced a progressive reopening of hostels to new residents, including in Brisbane, where it was considered safe to do so and following restrictions being lifted by respective state and territory governments.

While a small number of beds (less than 10) remain offline to ensure adequate social distancing at AHL's Elley Bennett and Yumba Hostels there are no restrictions on accepting new residents.

Further information

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