

Disability modifications

Churches of Christ Housing Services is committed to ensuring its properties meet the needs of its clients and support tenants to remain in their home wherever possible. If you have a recognised need, you may request to have a disability modification made to your property. Requests for disability modification must be based on specialist medical advice or on recommendation from an occupational therapist (OT)



What is a disability modification?

Modifications are changes to a property required by an applicant or tenant due to an identified need including, but not limited to:

- grab rails
- hand held shower set and/or lever taps
- ramps, chair lifts and handrails
- re-fixing power outlets and switches, flashing lights for hearing impaired
- widening doorways, storage provision for mobility aids (e.g. wheelchairs, walkers)

What is the difference between a modification and a property alteration?

Alterations are works and improvements to a property that are carried out by the tenant at their own expense, including installation of:

- air conditioning
- security screens
- blinds and awnings

Refer to the *Property Alterations and Improvements Information Sheet* for more information.

How do I request a disability modification to be made to my property?

Complete a *Disability Modification Request* and return it to our office along with a copy of the OT assessment, or appropriate modifications report. With your permission, Churches of Christ Housing Services can liaise with your OT or medical specialist to obtain this information.

Our asset management team will assess the request, taking into consideration:

- ensuring the modification meets the current, and likely future, requirements of the tenant and future tenants
- long term use and value of the property
- alternative approaches to better meet your needs
- response from the owner of the property (if not Churches of Christ Housing Services).

An outcome will be provided in writing once all required documents are received and your request has been assessed. Tenants are not permitted to commence any work or install any modifications until written approval is provided.

Where consent for property modifications has been declined by the owner of the property, or a modification is determined to be unfeasible or non-economically viable, alternative housing options will be discussed with the tenant.