

DEPENDENT PERSON'S UNIT

What is a Dependent Person's Unit?

A Dependent Person's Unit is a movable building used to provide accommodation for a person who is dependent on the care of a resident of the existing dwelling on the property.

Facilities that would normally be expected to be found in a Dependent Person's Unit include:

- One or two bedrooms;
- A kitchen;
- Lounge or living room; and
- A bathroom

The accommodation is for a temporary time period. The Dependent Person would be reliant on the daily care provided by a resident of the existing dwelling.

The temporary nature of the building means that it will be removed from the property when circumstances change and the building is no longer required by the person dependent on a resident of the dwelling.

Generally, a Dependent Person's Unit would:

- Be specifically designed to be easily moved or dismantled for relocation elsewhere;
- Be located close to the main dwelling on the property (generally less than 20 metres away);
- Not be clad with materials such as bricks or stone that have to be removed before the structure can be transported;
- Not require the installation of permanent footings such as continuous poured concrete footings or concrete slabs;
- Not contain multiple bedrooms, entertaining areas or the like (unless justification is provided to explain why a larger building is needed for the Dependent person).

If the proposed building does not have these components it is not considered to be a Dependent Person's Unit, and is a second dwelling and will be to comply with the relevant Planning Scheme requirements. In some cases, the zone provisions for rural areas will prohibit a second dwelling on the land.

A Dependent Person's Unit generally doesn't need a planning permit in the urban parts of the municipality. A Planning permit may be required for a Dependent Persons' Unit, or associated building, earthworks, or vegetation removal in a Low Density Residential Zone or Rural conservation Zone or if it is covered by an overlay.

Statutory Planning Information Sheet

What information do I need to provide when making an application to construct or erect a Dependent Person's Unit?

Any application for a Dependent Person's must include a covering letter and other information such as plans, which explain:

- How the unit is able to be easily moved; and
- Who the dependent person(s) is, and how the occupant of the proposed unit is dependent on the care of the resident of the dwelling of the property.

All other information which needs to be provided is similar to that required for the construction or extension of a dwelling and includes:

- A completed Application for a Planning Permit form (available from Council, or online at www.manningham.vic.gov.au)
- Payment of the applicable Planning application fee;
- A copy of the Certificate of Title for the site including transcript of all restrictions (available from Council for a fee, or online at www.landata.vic.gov.au)
- Three copies of scaled and fully dimensioned plans
- Whether or not any trees will be removed to accommodate the unit
- Details of any proposed earthworks