

# You Matter

Creating Havens for a brighter future

## Information and Process for Referring Agencies

### What does You Matter do?

You Matter works directly with family violence case workers who are supporting women or those who identify as a woman, who have left their home due to family violence.

Once the case worker or clients have secured long term accommodation, You Matter can assist by providing the contents for a fully-equipped, functional and comfortable home to re-establish stability, independence and connection to their community.

We call these homes “Havens” as they mark a fresh start towards a brighter future.

### Referral criteria

**Region focus:** Metropolitan Melbourne

1. Targeted specifically for women and their children, You Matter is an inclusive organisation, and provides support to any individual who identifies as a woman.
2. Our service can only be accessed via a referral from a family violence support agency.
3. The woman’s need for the service stems from currently experiencing family violence.
4. The woman has secured and is moving into long term accommodation.
5. Service area: the client’s long-term accommodation is situated within a 45-minutes radius of the You Matter warehouse (Abbotsford, 3067)
6. The woman requires a full house set-up – You Matter provides all furniture and goods required for a fully-functioning Haven, including kitchen/pantry, bathroom, laundry and décor items and sets them up in the Haven.

### What items does You Matter supply?

You Matter supply either new or good quality second-hand items at no cost such as: beds and mattresses, bedding and towels, bedside tables, chest of drawers, sofas, arm chairs, coffee tables, side tables, bookshelves, TV unit, TV, dining tables, chairs, décor items, kitchen and pantry items (cutlery, cooking utensils, pots/pans, small electric items, storage containers, pantry staples, fresh and frozen meals), toiletries, laundry and cleaning products. Whitegoods (fridge, washing machine, dryer) are provided at cost as these items are provided new (please see ‘Cost’ below).

We endeavour to accommodate all requests; however, some items may not be available. Case workers will be notified of any significant items that cannot be supplied.

## Cost

You Matter provides the entire Haven set-up at no cost except for:

- white goods (fridge, washing machine, dryer) - You Matter provides new white goods as second-hand goods have proven unreliable in the past. You Matter invoices the referring agency for the cost of these items - fridge \$735; washing machine \$630; dryer \$420.
- removalists: the removalist invoices the referring agency directly. You Matter arranges with the removalist to transport furniture items from our warehouse to the client's new home.

Referring agencies usually apply for an utilise family violence funding or other types of funding to support their client to cover the direct costs.

## How do I make a referral to You Matter?

### Step 1 - Initial Inquiry

If you have spoken to your client and they require our assistance, and meet our referral criteria, email [agencysupport@youmatter.org.au](mailto:agencysupport@youmatter.org.au) with information to respond to the following points:

- Does your client have any dependents? If yes, number of dependents
- What suburb are they moving to?
- Is the reason your client requires support due to family violence?
- What date is your client collecting the keys to their new long-term property?
- Are there issues that may delay the move date (eg: bond, upfront rental payments, signing of rental contracts, etc)?
- Does your client have any belongings already? if yes, please list all items they wish to bring to their new home
- If your client has their own belongings, when do they expect these items to be delivered to the property?
- You Matter has a preferred removalist that understand the nature of our work and our processes. Do you agree to use this company (Encore)? If not, please provide details of the removalist your agency would like to use.
- Has your agency confirmed funding for the payment of removalists?
- If your client requires whitegoods (fridge \$735; washing machine \$630; dryer \$420), has your agency confirmed funding for payment of the required whitegoods?

### Step 2 - Completing a referral

We will email you and ask you to:

- Provide our **Client Information Brochure** to the woman and ensure they understand and agree to the process of the Haven set-up. Aside from the key handover and key return, it is important for your client to understand that they cannot be present at the property when we are setting up their Haven (*please refer to Step 4 - The day of set-up*)
- Complete the **Referral and Item Request Form** and return to as soon as possible. The Referral Form needs to include specific attention to the floor plan of the accommodation (photos if possible) including room sizes, size and space for whitegoods, access to the

building. This will enable You Matter to source appropriately sized furniture. Encourage your client to provide information about their (and their children's) interests, hobbies, favourite colours, and décor preferences. When we select items, we endeavour to include these preferences as that they Haven reflects the person and their ideal home.

- Once the **Referral and Item Request Form** is returned, You Matter will contact the case worker to arrange a mutually agreed date for the set-up taking into consideration the removalist's availability, the client's availability and dates of the lease.

### Step 3 - Responsibilities

The **case worker** needs to:

1. Explain to your client that whilst You Matter endeavour to source all items on the request list, sometimes that is not possible. You matter will discuss any significant items that cannot be sources with the case worker.
2. Ensure that the leasing process has been secured, signed and paid for before agreeing to a set-up date.
3. Ensure that the utilities have been connected to the property and are ready to use prior to the set-up.
4. Ensure that the property is clean and personal belongings are tidied away so that volunteers and the removalist can safely complete the set-up. If this is not possible, please contact You Matter.
5. Finalise payment of the removalists. whilst You Matter book the removalist, it is the responsibility of the referring agency to pay the cost of the removalist. An invoice will be sent directly from the removalist to the referring agency.
6. Discuss the arrangements for the key handover and key return with your client.
7. Book the lift if required (this is essential for moving in to some apartment complexes).
8. Ensure that you are available by phone in the event we need to contact you on the day of set-up.
9. Notify You Matter if any safety concerns arise at any time throughout the process. This includes discussing with You Matter if any other person, other than the client or case worker is expected to arrive at the property at any time throughout the Haven set-up.

**You Matter will:**

1. Book the removalist and provide the case worker's details to send the invoice.
2. Organise the volunteers who will complete the Haven set-up.
3. Select the furniture and items as outlined on the completed **Referral and Item Request Form**.
4. Confirm the date and meeting time for the client to hand over the key at the property.
5. Send the invoice for any whitegoods requested to the referring agency.

### Step 4 - Day of set-up

- We encourage the case worker to attend the beginning and the end of the Haven set-up with their client particularly when the client requires additional support.
- The case worker must to be available by phone on the set-up day in case there are any issues relating to the client or the property.

- For safety reasons, You Matter ask that any person, other than people previously agreed to by You Matter (client and case worker) do not arrive at the property unexpectedly at any time throughout the Haven set-up.
- The woman meets the Haven Coordinator (volunteer) at the property to provide the key and show through the property.
- The client leaves - they will be notified approximately 30 minutes prior to the completion of the set-up to return to collect the key. The set-up process usually takes between 3 to 5 hours depending on the size of the property.
- The removalist arrives and unpacks the items and leaves the property.
- The volunteer Haven Assistants arrive and set-up the Haven.
- At the completion of the set-up, the Haven Assistants leave the property.
- The Haven Coordinator phones the woman to return to the property. The Haven Coordinator meets the woman, returns the key and shows her through the completed Haven set-up.

### Step 5 - After the set-up

You Matter sends two **Feedback Forms** to the case worker - one for the case worker and one for the woman to complete and return. We need this feedback for our continued service improvement, to assist with applications for ongoing funding and support, and to provide feedback to our volunteers involved in the Haven set-up.

## Privacy

You Matter considers the safety and privacy of women of utmost importance. We do this by:

- Only requesting the first name of the woman on any documentation. No names are required for children or dependents.
- All hard copies of documentation are safely destroyed after use, and computer files are stored securely with tight access protocols.
- The woman only meets the Haven Coordinator on the day of set-up. The removalist and all other volunteers are not present at the property when the woman is present.
- All staff and volunteers receive training about the importance of the woman's safety and privacy, and they are required on the day of set-up to dispose of any information (eg: address) prior to completing the set-up.

## CONTACT US

[agencysupport@youmatter.org.au](mailto:agencysupport@youmatter.org.au)

[www.youmatter.org.au](http://www.youmatter.org.au)

