

Yarra Climate Safe Rooms

Is your home too hot in summer or too cold in winter?

If you are receiving support services for a health condition that puts you at risk from extreme heat or cold, you may be eligible to receive free energy upgrades worth up to \$10,000 to upgrade a room in your home so it stays a comfortable temperature on hot and cold days.

Depending on your home, upgrades may include insulation, draughtproofing to seal gaps and cracks, energy efficient reverse cycle heating and cooling, and more.

This program is designed to help you:

- Improve your comfort and health
- Bring down your energy bills
- Make your home more resilient to extreme temperatures

There is no cost for you to participate in the program.



Eligibility

To be eligible for a Climate Safe Room, you must meet all of the following criteria:

- Live in the City of Yarra and be aged 18 years or older
- Own your home, rent your home or live in community housing (State Government-owned public housing is not eligible)
- Hold one of the Commonwealth concession cards listed below.



- You or someone in your home currently receives support services for a chronic health condition that puts them at risk during heatwaves and/or extreme cold.*
- Live in a home that does not currently have at least one room that can be effectively and affordably heated and cooled, and where the program's energy upgrades can be installed safely. Through the program you will receive a home energy assessment which will determine this.

If you live in a rental property or apartment, you must also meet the following criteria:

- If you live in an apartment or unit with an owners' corporation, only upgrades that do not require owners' corporation approval can be installed.
- If you rent your home or live in community housing, your landlord will need to give permission for the upgrades to be installed.



Program Timelines

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| December 2024 - January 2025 | Register your interest now for upgrades beginning in January 2025 In January our project partner will call to check your initial eligibility |
| February - March 2025 | You complete participation forms and survey. A Home Energy Assessor visits your home to confirm that your home can safely be upgraded, and determine the best upgrades for your Climate Safe Room. You will receive a copy of the assessment. |
| March - June 2025 | With your agreement, we will arrange safe installation of energy upgrades by licensed tradespeople. We will aim to coordinate multiple upgrades on the same day to minimise disruption to you. The installers show you how to use your new energy upgrades. Our project partner will call you to answer any questions. After you've had some time to use your Climate Safe Room, we'll ask you to complete a follow-up survey. |

Yarra Home Energy Upgrades Program

If you're not eligible for the Yarra Climate Safe Rooms program, you may be still eligible for a subsidy of up to \$3000 to make your home more comfortable in hot and cold weather, improve energy efficiency, or install solar.

The Yarra Home Energy Upgrades program provides a limited number of subsidies to eligible concession card and health care card holders, for home improvements that can bring down your energy bills, improve your comfort and health, and reduce your emissions, including insulation, draught proofing, solar, reverse cycle heating and cooling, efficient electric heat pump hot water systems and more.

How to apply

Visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/climate-safe-rooms or call **03 9205 5555**.

For interpreter services, call 03 9280 1940.

Your home care worker can also help you apply.

***Examples of eligible health conditions include:** severe persistent asthma, cardiovascular disease, cerebral palsy, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), diabetes, fibromyalgia, motor neuron disease (MND), kidney disease, lupus, lymphedema, multiple sclerosis (MS), Parkinson's disease, polio / post-polio syndrome, quadriplegia / paraplegia, severe respiratory disease, rheumatoid arthritis or other severe musculoskeletal condition, scleroderma, or other medical or mental health condition that puts you at risk from extreme heat or cold, as confirmed a medical professional or community health professional.