

What is Independent Living?

Independent Living is a program for youth ages 16-18 who are absent from their family home or at risk of leaving their home. Independent Living Workers assist youth in exploring all their options, (including returning home if possible) or looking at how they will support themselves.



What Does it Look Like to Live on Your Own?

Independent Living means more than paying your own bills. You must meet your basic needs, including cooking, cleaning, health and dental care, managing money, getting to school or work, and shopping for groceries and clothing.

Steps to Independent Living

Referral: Call and ask to speak to an Independent Living Worker. Youth can call themselves, or social workers, parents, or schools can call.

Intake Appointment: Meet with an Independent Living Worker to explore all your options and create a safety plan, if needed.

Exploring Funding Options: Discuss potential financial support with the Independent Living Worker.

Legal Guardian Involvement: The Independent Living Worker will request your permission to speak to your legal guardian to explore all the options for you.

Service Plan: Work with the Independent Living Worker to create a plan for safe, independent living.

The Independent Living Worker Can Help You . . .

- Locate safe, affordable housing. This may be a room and board situation, Barnett House youth housing, or other rental options.
- Explore options for financial support (employment, parental support, Income Assistance, Ministry of Children and Family Development funding, or living with a relative).
- Search for work.
- Get to appointments.
- Meet health needs.
- Find information and get referrals.
- Problem solve in a crisis.
- Connect with resources.
- Develop a school plan.
- Improve relationships.
- Learn life skills.

Program Outcomes

In 2014-2015:

- 30 youth received support and approximately 50 contacted us for information or brief support.
- Of the youth submitting feedback, 80% said their housing and financial situation had improved.
- 100% said they would refer a friend or family member to the Independent Living Program.

Independent Living Program

Comments from I.L. Clients:

"I liked how much support was given to me."

"I got a lot of goals completed with the program - it was very useful."

Are you between the ages of 16-18 and couch surfing? Homeless? At risk of becoming homeless? Explore all your options. We offer free, respectful, non-judgmental, and strength-based services. We are open Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.



Call an Independent Living Worker at The John Howard Society of North Island:

250-286-0611

Our counsellors have a minimum of a Bachelor's degree in social work or a related field, and two years of specialized experience.

The Independent Living Program is funded by the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

Mission Statement

The John Howard Society of North Island is a charitable organization whose mission is to provide programs and support to help children, youth, and families lead safer, healthier lives.



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JohnHoward
The John Howard Society of North Island

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Independent Living Program

Building Safer and Healthier Communities



Campbell River: 250-286-0611

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