

Dependent Person's Unit

What is a Dependent Person's Unit?

A Dependent Person's Unit (DPU) 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. They are also known as "granny flats".



A dependent person usually is a person that is incapacitated by medical, economic or social disadvantage.

Facilities that would normally be expected to be found in a DPU include one or two bedrooms, a kitchen, lounge or living area and bathroom.

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.

Do I need a planning permit for a DPU?

Generally a planning permit is not required.

The criteria to be met includes:

- Is the building capable of being readily movable from one place to another?

- Will the building be occupied by a dependent person?
- There is no more than one DPU on the lot.
- Check your copy of title for relevant covenants or restrictions
- Seek advice from Council regarding the applicable planning controls (zones and overlays) which may impact on the development

If the proposed building does not fit the above criteria, then it may be regarded as a second dwelling on the lot and in those circumstances will need 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.

Although a planning permit may not be required a building permit will be. In order for a building permit to be granted, the relevant Building Surveyor must be satisfied that the proposal complies with the above criteria.

If you have any further questions please contact the Statutory Planning Department on 03 5775 8555.

