Lodging Houses
Health Local Law 1999

Under the Health Act 1911, a ‘lodging house’ is any building or structure or part of the building or structure, permanent or otherwise, in which provision is made for lodging or boarding more than six people, exclusive of the family of the keeper of the lodging house, for hire or reward.

The term does not include:

a) premises licensed under a publican’s general licence, limited hotel licence, or wayside-house licence, granted under the Licensing Act 1911
b) residential accommodation for students in a non-government school within the meaning of the School Education Act 1999;
c) any building comprising residential flats.

To keep a lodging house within the City of Joondalup, you need to seek approval and registration from the City. The application form is available on request and must be signed by the person who is to be the proprietor. The application is to be accompanied by the fee and detailed plans and specifications of the proposed lodging house.

The lodging house is required to be registered annually and the City can revoke the registration at any time if the lodging house has not complied with any aspect of the City’s Health Local Law 1999.

Finally, for those wishing to operate a ‘bed and breakfast’ business, the application process is different. Invariably, because the number of boarders or lodgers will not exceed six, as provided above for a lodging house, the premises cannot therefore be classified as a lodging house. However, the City’s planning provisions are applicable in this instance, which means that the proponent is required to submit a ‘Development Application’.

Do you need further information?

Please contact an Environmental Health Officer on 9400 4933 for information regarding lodging houses, or a Planning Officer on 9400 4961 for information regarding bed and breakfast accommodation.

You may also wish to look at the Health Local Law 1999 by visiting the City’s website at joondalup.wa.gov.au