



Family and Domestic Violence Policy

Purpose

To outline how we (The Department of Communities) will assist public rental housing applicants and tenants who are experiencing or are at risk of experiencing family and domestic violence.

Scope

This policy applies to you if you are living in public housing or looking to access public housing assistance and you have experienced, are experiencing or are at risk of experiencing family and domestic violence.

Definitions

Co-tenants	Two or more people who have signed a tenancy agreement to rent a property together.
Family (in a family violence setting)	Relatives and family members, connected by marriage or defacto relationships, including past partner relationships Relatives through kinship, cultural or religious grounds Relationships based on dependency, such as in informal care arrangements between people with disabilities or older adults and their caregivers Relationships involving personal or financial commitment such as where two or more people live together. They may be living as friends, housemates, or other cohabitants.
Family and Domestic Violence	An ongoing pattern of behaviours intended to coerce, control or create fear within a family or intimate relationship. This includes physical, financial, emotional, or psychological abuse, sexual violence, neglect, intimidation or any other behaviour which causes the victim to live in fear.

Prescribed Security Upgrades	Locks and security screens to windows Security screens to doors Exterior security lighting Locks on gates.
Third Party	Family member or friend Support worker/agency Medical professional person Court officer or

We may need to ask for additional information, such as a brief report of the damage and written confirmation from a supporting agency. This may be supplied by a third party, on your behalf.

Where possible, we will attribute debt to the perpetrator of family and domestic violence.

7. Tenants unable to reside in their rental premises

If you or a co-tenant cannot stay at your public housing property because of family and domestic violence, we will re-calculate the rent based only on the income of the remaining co-tenant and householders.

If you can demonstrate that your public housing property is empty because of family and domestic violence, we may waive rent charges for the period the property is empty, up to three months. An additional maximum of three months may be approved with further supporting evidence (six months in total).

We will discuss the options for the future of your tenancy with you.

8. Applications for priority transfer

If you have been approved for a priority transfer and need to terminate your tenancy, or your interest in the tenancy, to maintain the safety of your household, while you wait for a transfer, you will retain your priority transfer listing date.

9. Joint tenancies where family and domestic violence is present

Co-tenants have equal rights and responsibilities, under their tenancy agreement, including the right to

