

# Rentstart Move (Bond assistance)

July 2008



## Fact Sheet



It is illegal for an officer of Housing NSW to ask for money or favours or other benefits of any kind in exchange for helping you with your housing needs.

It is also illegal for you or anyone else to offer money or favours or other benefits of any kind to an officer of Housing NSW in exchange for helping you. If you have any information regarding this, please contact Housing NSW's Business Assurance Unit on 1800 806 206. Housing NSW may refuse the provision of further housing services to anyone who has engaged or sought to engage in corrupt or illegal conduct.

### What is Rentstart Move?

Housing NSW can provide assistance with bond payments through Rentstart Move which is part of the Rentstart scheme. Public housing tenants who are assessed by Housing NSW as ineligible for a further public housing lease due to their income and asset levels, can apply for this financial help through Rentstart Move.

### What assistance is available under Rentstart Move?

Under Rentstart Move Housing NSW may contribute up to 75% of your private rental bond. The bond is lodged by Housing NSW with the Rental Bond Board. This bond is refunded back to Housing NSW at the end of the tenancy.

### What are the criteria for applying for Rentstart Move?

- You must be leaving public housing because you are ineligible for a further lease due to your income and asset levels.
- Rent and all other Housing NSW accounts must be nil balance or in credit.
- You must not own or part-own a property.
- You must have limited cash assets, less than \$5000.

Your household income must not exceed the Rentstart Move **income limits**, **these limits are outlined in the *Income Eligibility Limits* fact sheet. This can be provided by a Housing NSW Client Service Officer at your local office or on the Housing NSW website.**

### How much rent should I pay for my new private rental property?

You should look for rental property that you can afford. Housing NSW will only help with the bond if the rent is affordable. This means the rent can be no more than 50% of your household's total gross weekly income. For more information on where you can get help to develop a household budget see the fact sheet *Moving from public to private accommodation* or download it from the Housing NSW website.

### When should I apply for Rentstart Move?

You can apply for Rentstart Move as soon as you have found private accommodation to rent even while you are still living in public housing as long as you meet all the criteria.

If you have already left your public housing tenancy, you can also apply for Rentstart Move as long as you meet all the criteria up to four weeks after you have moved out of public housing.

### More information

For more information you can:

- visit your local office, Monday to Friday, 8.30am - 4.30pm (closed public holidays and 8.30am - 1pm on Wednesdays) Office hours may vary in some locations
- phone Housing NSW on **Freecall 1800 629 212**, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- phone the Aboriginal Enquiry Line on Freecall 1800 355 740, Monday to Friday, 8.30am - 4.30pm (excluding public holidays)
- go to the Housing NSW website **[www.housing.nsw.gov.au](http://www.housing.nsw.gov.au)**

