



The Hon. Pru Goward MP

Minister for Family and Community Services

Minister for Women

MEDIA RELEASE

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COMMUNITY TO HAVE A SAY ON NATIONAL COMMUNITY HOUSING RULES

Minister for Family and Community Services Pru Goward today launched the national public consultation phase on the National Regulatory System (NRS) for community housing in Sydney.

Ms Goward said the new system aims to improve social housing by strengthening the industry, creating a level playing field for housing providers Australia-wide, and better protecting tenants through consistent national standards for providers and their services.

“The NRS for community housing providers is a key reform under the National Affordable Housing Agreement,” Ms Goward said.

“A series of consultation forums will be held with key stakeholders around the country over the coming month and other interested parties can make written submissions online until early next year.

“The feedback will help to inform the final design of the system.”

The proposed system seeks to introduce nationally consistent regulatory arrangements to promote the growth of the not-for-profit housing sector across Australia. It will aim to:

- Improve tenant outcomes and protect vulnerable tenants
- Protect government funding and equity in the sector
- Enhance investor and partner confidence

Ms Goward said the proposed National Regulatory System seeks to overcome the barriers, gaps and inconsistencies that have arisen through each State and Territory regulating community housing providers in a different way.

“It will replace existing State and Territory systems where they exist,” Ms Goward said.

“Following the signing of an intergovernmental agreement in early 2012, New South Wales will host and be the first jurisdiction to enact legislation to give effect to the system.

“After this other States and Territories will enact legislation to commence the NRS nationally by 2013,” said Ms Goward.

The final proposal for a national regulatory system will be put to Housing Ministers for agreement in 2012.

Submissions close at 5pm AEST on 20 January 2012.

More Information is available at www.nrsch.gov.au