



Your Home  
translations

## Cultivating community

*Pictured: Tenant Geoffrey planting some seedlings.*

After experiencing hardship, Geoffrey turned to gardening.

Seeing the good that gardening could do for his community, Geoffrey gathered the Penrith residents then worked directly with Community Greening to reactivate their communal garden.

“To work in the garden is amazing for our mental health and physical abilities,” says Geoffrey.

The garden has since become a great source of pride for everyone involved.

“When you go out and do something in the garden, there’s a visible result and then there’s excitement when other people congratulate you,” he said.

Community Greening is a 23-year partnership between DCJ and the Botanic Gardens of Sydney.

**Join the Facebook group ‘Community Greening NSW’ and get gardening today.**

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## Minister's message

Hi there,

It's been a busy first year as the NSW Minister for Housing and Homelessness.

Together, we have been able to achieve some big milestones and I look forward to what is to come.

One important piece of work we have been focusing on is the launch of Homes NSW, which aims to put people at the heart of our housing system.

We know that people with lived experiences are crucial to driving better outcomes and it has been insightful to hear the feedback from the Homes NSW consultation sessions.

As of 1 February, the housing and homelessness functions of Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ), Land and Housing Corporation (LAHC) and the Aboriginal Housing Office (AHO) will be coming together to bring support for residents under one roof.

This doesn't impact your current living circumstances and there is nothing for you to do – I just wanted to share the good news. The whole purpose of this change is to make your interactions with the NSW Government easier and better.

As the year draws to an end, I hope you have the opportunity to rest and connect with loved ones. In 2024 we will be focussing on launching Homes NSW and building more and better social housing.

If you see me around please do say hi, I'd love to have a chat.

**Rose Jackson**

**Minister for Housing and Homelessness**

## Unlocking Opportunities: \$1000 Youth Development Scholarships

If you know a bright, ambitious student completing year 10, 11 or 12 or HSC equivalent in 2024, help them to apply for a \$1000 Youth Development Scholarship.

Cheyenne (pictured) currently receives the scholarship and encourages other students to apply.

*'It's \$1000 a year I would not be able to find anywhere else, so it helps upgrading equipment and setting yourself up'.*



The Youth Development Scholarships program supports students living in social housing and out-of-home care to put towards school expenses that will help them reach their study goals. Students can use the funds to put towards things like:

- A laptop
- Textbook
- Stationery
- Sporting equipment
- Uniforms, or other costs related to education.

### Have you received a scholarship in the past?

If you've previously received a Youth Development Scholarship, you can reapply to help with the ongoing costs of education, including tertiary education. This includes university, TAFE, apprenticeships and traineeships.

### How to apply

The date that applications close depends on your study level and study status.

**Friday 16 February 2024** is the closing date for new applicants or returning students studying at high school (or equivalent).

**Friday 8 March 2024** is the closing date for returning students studying tertiary education.

You can apply by visiting [www.dcjnsw.info/scholarships](http://www.dcjnsw.info/scholarships)

# Save time with MyHousing Online Services

We're making it easier for you to complete DCJ housing forms by switching to online. You don't need to visit a DCJ housing office. You can customise, complete and submit many of our housing forms using MyHousing Online Services.

We've made it simpler for both you and your healthcare professional to complete forms such as the Medical Assessment or the Independent Living Skills Assessment.

You can now send the forms electronically to your chosen healthcare professional to fill out.

Once they've updated the medical section, you'll be able to review the responses securely via SMS before submitting the form directly to us. You can do this all from the comfort of your own home.

Other forms currently available to submit via Tenancy online are:

- Rental Subsidy Application Form
- Application for Additional Occupants Form



- Authority for Rental Deduction Form
- Income Confirmation Scheme Form
- Details of Property and Land Ownership

We also have additional online forms for people seeking housing assistance like Application for Housing and Rentstart.

**MyHousing Online Services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Switch to using online services today, by visiting: [www.facs.nsw.gov.au/myhousing](http://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/myhousing)**



## MARK YOUR DIARIES!

# The NSW Seniors Festival is back!

**The festival will run from 11–24 March 2024.**

It's shaping up to be the best yet, with the theme *Reach beyond*.

The NSW Seniors Festival Expo and Premier's Gala Concerts will take place on Wednesday 13 and Thursday 14 March 2024 at the International Convention Centre, Sydney (ICC Sydney). The NSW Seniors Festival Comedy Show will also be back with two shows. Stay tuned for more info on dates and locations.

Whether you're joining us online or in person, there are hundreds of free and discounted events happening state-wide for seniors to enjoy.

**To learn more, follow 'NSW Seniors Festival' on Facebook or visit [www.seniorsfestival.info/2024](http://www.seniorsfestival.info/2024)**



# Tenancy tips for the holiday season



## Five things you can do to stay on top of your tenancy this summer

- 1. Make note of any Public Holidays.** Public holidays may affect some services like banks. Check your upcoming payments won't be affected by any delays to stay on track during the holiday period.
- 2. Going on holidays?** Let DCJ know by completing an Authority to Act on my behalf form. This allows us to assist in case of an emergency, like a gas or water leak, so we can enter your property to fix the issue.
- 3. Celebrating with family or friends?** Help create a peaceful festive season for everyone in your community by respecting your neighbours' peace and privacy.
- 4. Remember, your pets are family too.** If you're going away this holiday season, make sure they're with you or with someone you trust.
- 5. Don't forget we're here to help.** To make things easier, you can download the MyHousing App from the App Store or the Google Play Store for any assistance during the holiday period. Alternatively, you can contact us by calling the Housing Contact Centre on **1800 422 322** or by visiting [www.facs.nsw.gov.au/myhousing](http://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/myhousing)

## Contact us

If you need to visit a DCJ office in person, please call ahead and make an appointment.

You can also contact us by downloading the **MyHousing App**, online or over the phone.



Download the **MyHousing App** from the App Store or the Google Play Store.



**MyHousing** Online Services  
[www.facs.nsw.gov.au/myhousing](http://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/myhousing)



Housing Contact Centre 1800 422 322  
24/7 for general enquiries.

## Interpreting

If you would like someone who speaks your language to help you over the phone, call All Graduates on **1300 652 488** before calling the Housing Contact Centre.

### Arabic

إذا كنت ترغب في أن يساعدك شخص يتحدث لغتك عبر الهاتف، اتصل بـ All Graduates على الرقم **1300 652 488** قبل الاتصال بمركز اتصال الإسكان.

### Persian

اگر دوست دارید شخصی که به زبان شما صحبت می کند از طریق تلفن به شما کمک کند، قبل از تلفن به مرکز تماس مسکن با All Graduates از طریق شماره **1300 652 488** تماس بگیرید.

### Simplified Chinese

如果您需要能说您的语言的人在电话中为您提供帮助，请在打电话给住房联络中心之前先拨打 **1300 652 488** 联系 All Graduates。

### Spanish

Si desea que alguien que hable su idioma le ayude por teléfono, llame a All Graduates al 1300 652 488 antes de llamar al centro de contacto para asuntos de vivienda.

### Traditional Chinese

如果你需要講你語言的人通過電話幫助你，請先撥打 **1300652488** 致電 All Graduates 翻譯公司，然後再致電房屋署聯絡中心。

### Vietnamese

Nếu quý vị cần người nói cùng ngôn ngữ với quý vị giúp đỡ qua điện thoại, hãy gọi cho All Graduates qua số **1300 652 488** trước khi gọi cho Trung tâm Liên lạc Gia cư.