

DECEMBER 2018 ISSUE 85

Sowing the seeds of community

Mollie's garden is her pride and joy. Age hasn't stopped the 93-year-old Marayong tenant from doing what she loves. Every day Mollie looks after the building's gardens. She is proud of where she lives and has made others feel the same.



Welcome to the last edition of Your Home for 2018.

This year, I have had the pleasure of meeting many of you on my visits to different communities across NSW.

It is good to hear that tenants like Mollie, a 93-year-old gardening lover (front cover) are caring for their home and community.

Mollie wrote to me about how proud she is of sharing her gardening skills with other tenants and creating a safe place where they can socialise.

We achieved a lot this year. We awarded 400 scholarships to support committed young people through their studies. Find out about the 2019 round in this edition.

We also introduced tenant bonds for some people, and strengthened our antisocial behaviour policy to make social housing communities safer. Read more on page 3.

I wish you a happy holiday period.

Pru Goward MP

Minister for Family and Community Services
Minister for Social Housing
Minister for the Prevention of
Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault



Apply for a FACS scholarship to help with studies

FACS helps young people study by providing \$1,000 scholarships.

Jack from Wollongong received a FACS scholarship in 2017. He used it to buy a laptop so he could study at home while finishing Year 12.

It meant Jack didn't need to stay back after class and do all his homework at school.

The scholarship has given Jack a kick-start to achieve what he wants in future studies like learning video game programming.

Jack's thankful for the support and wants to see others apply.

You can apply for a scholarship if you are:

- a social housing tenant
- in Year 10, 11 or 12 at a NSW high school or TAFE college
- an Australian citizen or permanent resident
- a previous FACS scholarship recipient.

Applications open soon. There are 600 scholarships available for 2019.

Details: facs.nsw.gov.au/facs-scholarships



Rental bonds encourage property care

On 1 November 2018, the NSW Government introduced FACS Housing rental bonds to encourage tenants to care for their property.

The vast majority of tenants look after their homes and will not have to pay a bond. You will only have to pay a bond if you cause damage of \$500 or more that is discovered and charged at a single point in time after 1 November 2018.

If the cost is less than \$500, you won't have to pay a bond. Damage that was previously reported will not count towards the \$500.

The bond will be four weeks' market rent or \$1,400, whichever is lower.

Former tenants who caused damage of \$500 or more that was discovered and charged at a single point in time in the six years before their new tenancy will also have to pay a bond.

Some vulnerable tenants are exempt from paying a bond, such as tenants who are over 80 years old.

To learn more, visit **facs.nsw.gov.au** and search 'Rental Bonds'.



Update: Antisocial behaviour policy

On 30 November 2018, our antisocial behaviour policy changed to encourage tenants to get support to sustain their tenancies.

When we receive a complaint

We investigate complaints to let each person tell their side of the story. If we confirm a tenant's first instance of minor and moderate antisocial behaviour, we help them find a support service.

We give the tenant a form to complete with the support service's help. If they return the form within 14 calendar days, they get a warning. If it's not returned or it's after 14 days, they get a first strike.

If the tenant already has a support service, they may ask for more help or focus on the antisocial behaviour.

If a service is full or not available in the area, the tenant will receive a warning and not a strike.

Three strikes policy

We introduced this policy to make social housing communities safer. If tenants receive three strikes within 12 months they may face eviction.

Read more at: **facs.nsw.gov.au/asb**

Support services



Community Justice Centres, for help with neighbour disputes – **1800 990 777**

LawAccess NSW – **lawaccess.nsw.gov.au** or **1300 888 529**

Tenants Advice and Advocacy Services – **tenants.org.au/all/taas**

The Aboriginal Tenants Advice and Advocacy Services – **tenants.org.au/aboriginal-tenants**

Games

Fun caption contest



How to enter

Tell us what the koalas are saying. Best caption wins a \$25 voucher. Send entries to Your Home, Locked Bag 4001, Ashfield BC 1800.

Congratulations to Gary (Lake Haven), who was last issue's winner.

Summer find-a-word

P	B	A	R	K	K	A	V	N	B
I	F	E	R	R	Y	I	E	N	E
C	F	U	N	C	W	E	X	G	A
N	I	C	E	C	R	E	A	M	C
I	C	R	I	C	K	E	T	D	H
C	G	Q	S	V	P	I	F	V	R
L	L	N	U	F	E	V	B	T	P
V	U	S	W	I	M	M	I	N	G
S	X	S	H	A	D	E	W	D	B
F	H	O	L	I	D	A	Y	F	H

Word bank

Find these summer related words

BEACH FERRY ICECREAM
CRICKET FUN PICNIC
SHADE SUNSCREEN HOLIDAY
SWIMMING

Contact us



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



MyHousing Online Services
facs.nsw.gov.au/myhousing

Interpreting



If you need help with interpreting, phone All Graduates on **1300 652 488**.

Arabic

إذا كنت بحاجة للمساعدة في الترجمة الشفهية،

اتصل بشركة All Graduates على الرقم 1300 652 488

Chinese (Simplified)

如果您需要口译服务，请拨打

1300 652 488 致电 All Graduates

Dari

اگر به کمک ترجمان ضرورت دارید،

به آل گریجویٹس (All Graduates) به شماره 1300 652 488 زنگ بزنید.

Persian

اگر در مورد ترجمه شفاهی به کمک نیاز دارید،

به اولگرجویٹ به شماره 1300 652 488 زنگ بزنید.

Russian

Если вам необходима помощь с устным переводом, позвоните в компанию All Graduates по номеру телефона 1300 652 488

Vietnamese

Nếu quý vị cần giúp đỡ về thông dịch, xin gọi All Graduates qua số 1300 652 488