

JUNE 2020  
ISSUE 90



## Growing her passion

Roni loves to cook for her neighbours and community. She even uses vegetables from her own garden. Her local Community Greening team suggested she grow her passion by enrolling in a Food Lab course. Food Lab trains and supports people who want to make their city a better place to live and eat – and Roni is loving it. **Read her story inside.**

Visit [nsw.gov.au](https://nsw.gov.au) for the latest advice and information on COVID-19.





## Minister's message

Welcome to the June edition of Your Home.

The past few months have been a trying time for our community. As your Minister, my focus has been on supporting you through this very challenging period.

I have decided to pause the normal six monthly rent increases and not include the additional COVID-19 Centrelink payments when calculating rent.

This means those eligible will receive the full amount and rents will not increase. I firmly believe this is the right decision during these difficult and challenging times.

My housing officers have reached out to more than 10,000 older tenants to check on their welfare and we will continue to be offering support via phone, email and through the MyHousing App.

You can help us by taking a moment to check in on your friends, families and neighbours, over the phone or online.

As the cold and flu season arrives, please remember to practice good hygiene. You can find some more tips on staying healthy on page 3.

As a Government we are working hard to keep you safe. To find out more information on the measures we are taking please visit **nsw.gov.au**

Warm regards,

**Gareth Ward MP**  
**Minister for Families and Communities**  
**Minister for Disability Services**

## Success for community gardener

Roni is a long time Community Greening gardener and a local volunteer. She loves to cook and share food from her Fijian heritage.

Last year, Roni attended the Royal Botanic Garden's Sydney Tomato Festival, where she submitted her own recipe. After watching a live workshop on stage, she turned to Phil, from her Community Greening team and said, 'I can do that!'

This year, the team worked together to help make Roni's dreams come true. She presented her chutney recipes at the Tomato Festival in front of a live audience, standing on stage with her hero Costa Georgiadis.

After seeing her on stage, Phil suggested she enroll in a Food Lab course.

Food Lab trains and supports people who want to start careers and businesses in food.

Roni hopes to inspire more people of all ages to start gardening.



**Find support services  
at [nsw.gov.au](https://nsw.gov.au)**

You can now find advice and information on all NSW government support and services on one website.

For resources on transport, health, education, housing, energy and legal services, visit **[nsw.gov.au](https://nsw.gov.au)**

# Staying safe and healthy this winter

## Good hygiene

Good hygiene can protect against infections like colds, flus and other viruses.



Cover your coughs and sneezes.  
Use your elbow or a tissue.



Wash your hands regularly.  
Use soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



Use alcohol-based hand sanitisers when you can't wash your hands.



Clean and disinfect surfaces regularly. As well as mobiles, keys and wallets.



Wear a surgical mask if you are unwell. If you are well, you don't need one.

## Stay at home

One way to slow the spread of viruses is by staying at home.



Stay at home when you are sick or unwell.



Avoid leaving the house other than for groceries, the pharmacy and the doctor.



Keep 1.5 metres between you and other people (as much as possible).



Reduce physical contact, especially with older people and people with existing health conditions.

## Flu vaccines

You should get a flu shot, if you can.

**Speak to your pharmacy or GP for details.**

Getting the flu and COVID-19 at the same time can make you very ill.



## Additional COVID-19 information

DCJ Housing is here to continue to provide you with support and essential public services. However, there are some important changes:

- Additional COVID-19 Centrelink payments will not change your rent.
- If you are experiencing financial stress or hardship call DCJ Housing as soon as you can on 1800 422 322.
- If you are unwell and have an appointment with us, please call to reschedule.
- We are increasing cleaning services in common areas.



## Tips for maintaining your property

Check out the FACS YouTube channel for tips on maintaining your property.

The 'Your House, Your Home' series has advice on keeping your home pest-free, saving water and energy, requesting repairs and more.

Find out more at [www.dcj.nsw.gov.au/links/facs/your-house-your-home](https://www.dcj.nsw.gov.au/links/facs/your-house-your-home)

# Games and tips

## Fun caption contest



### How to enter

Tell us what this puppy is thinking. Best caption wins a \$25 voucher. Send entries to Your Home, Locked Bag 4001, Ashfield BC 1800 or email [Your.Home@facs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Your.Home@facs.nsw.gov.au)

## Tenant tips

### Quick and easy gardening hacks

Here are some cheap and easy gardening tricks to try at home:

- Use lemons to start your seedlings: scoop out the inside of a lemon and add potting mix and seeds. The lemons add just the right amount of acidity to sprout the seeds.
- Use hanging pocket organisers to create a hanging garden: fill each pocket with potting mix and add flowers.
- Make your own weed killer: combine one bottle of vinegar and one cup of dishwashing liquid and spray away.

### Send us your tips

Thanks, Melissa, for your helpful tips. Send your household tip to Your Home, Locked Bag 4001, Ashfield BC 1800 or email us at [Your.Home@facs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Your.Home@facs.nsw.gov.au)

Best entry wins a \$25 voucher!

## Contact us

For the safety of you and our staff, we will be providing most of our services by phone, online or by downloading the MyHousing mobile app. Face-to-face services at Housing offices will be by appointment only.



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



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

## Interpreting



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

### Chinese (Simplified)

如果您需要口译服务，请拨打  
1300 652 488 致电 All Graduates

### 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

### Arabic

إذا كنت بحاجة للمساعدة في الترجمة الشفهية،  
اتصل بشركة All Graduates على الرقم 1300 652 488

### 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.