

Support for young people leaving care to obtain private rental accommodation

Caseworkers have an important role to play in assisting young people to explore accommodation options as part of the leaving care planning process. This fact sheet has been developed as quick reference resource for caseworkers in non-government organisations to assist young people to begin to explore the option of private rental accommodation.

Young people can access advice and support at any stage of the leaving and aftercare process from the FACS Careleaver's Line on 1800 994 686 or email CareleaversLine@facs.nsw.gov.au.

Planning Support

The following resources and assistance are currently available to young people making decisions about entering the rental market:

- [Tenancy Facilitation Service](#) (Rentstart, Housing Pathways program) provides assistance to help people understand renting in the private market (searching for properties, making an application, paying bond, and tenancy agreements etc).
- [Rent It Keep It](#) is a training package offered by Housing Pathways. This aims to equip participants who have had little experience in the private rental market to obtain and sustain a private rental property. It can be used for large groups or as a resource for "one on one" training.
- Information about what to consider when looking at entering the private rental market is available on a number of websites including the [Create](#), [MoneySmart](#), [TenantHelp](#), [Office of Fair Trading](#), [Realestate.com.au](#), [FACS website](#) and within [Your next step: information for young people leaving care](#).

Support to find and obtain a suitable property

The following practical and financial support is available to young people to find and obtain a rental property:

- The leaving care plan should identify who will be providing what supports to the young person to achieve their accommodation goals. This may identify a role for a [specialist aftercare service](#).
- The [Transition to Independent Living Allowance \(TILA\)](#) is a one-off payment of up to \$1,500 towards the costs involved in moving to independent living from the Australian Government (Department of Social Services) [Factsheet – TILA information for caseworkers](#).
- [Rentstart Bond Loan](#) (Housing Pathways) is an interest free loan to help clients start a private rental tenancy.

- [Advance Rent](#) (Housing Pathways) provides extra financial support for clients in crisis to establish a private rental tenancy.
- [Tenancy Guarantee](#) (Housing Pathways) is intended to encourage private landlords and real estate agents to rent properties to people who are having difficulties entering the private rental market. A tenancy guarantee of up to \$1500 is available to landlords and real estate agents to cover possible rental arrears and/or property damage over and above the rental bond. This can create a positive tenancy history that the young person can use to obtain future accommodation.
- [Private Rental Brokerage Service](#) (Housing Pathways) to assist people who have support arrangements in place and have the capacity to rent in the private market (only available in selected areas).

Financial and other support to maintain rental accommodation

The following assistance is available to young people to help them maintain their rental accommodation. Some of these payments are not directly linked to maintaining rental accommodation but have an impact on the affordability and long term viability of private rental accommodation.

- [Aftercare payments](#) (FACS) are individually assessed and reviewed every three months until they are no longer required or the young person reaches 25 years old.
- [Contingency payments](#) (FACS) are one off payments available to eligible care leavers before or after care to help with a number of things including establishment costs for accommodation.
- [Tenancy Assistance](#) (Housing Pathways) provides short term financial support for clients in rental arrears facing eviction.
- [Temporary accommodation](#) (Housing Pathways) provides short term support for clients facing homelessness.
- [Rent Assistance](#) payments (Centrelink) provide assistance with the costs of rent to young people who receive Centrelink payments.
- [Community Engagement Officers](#) (Centrelink) help people access information, payments and services.
- [Social Workers](#) (Centrelink) provide counselling, support and information.
- [Crisis one-off payments](#) (Centrelink) assist people who are experiencing difficult or extreme circumstances.
- [Centrepay](#) (Centrelink) is a free and voluntary service to pay bills and expenses as regular deductions from Centrelink payments.