



## **Pru Goward**

Minister for Family and Community Services

Minister for Social Housing

Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **NEW RENT PROGRAM ASSISTS THOSE IN NEED AVOID HOMELESSNESS**

Tenants in the private rental market struggling to pay their rent due to financial shock will be offered relief under a new rental subsidy to be rolled out by the NSW Government.

Rent Choice Assist provides rental assistance for up to three years while tenants are supported to find job and study opportunities to help restore their financial independence.

Minister for Social Housing Pru Goward said Rent Choice Assist was the latest private rental assistance support to help people keep a roof over their heads.

“Unforeseen events such as illness or retrenchment can put people at risk of homelessness but Rent Choice Assist can support them while they get back on their feet,” Ms Goward said.

“This Government is committed to preventing homelessness, which is why we are investing in initiatives like this to help vulnerable people at risk of homelessness maintain their leases in the private rental market,” Ms Goward said.

Rent Choice Assist will be trialled in four locations: Blacktown, Campbelltown, Hurstville and Newcastle/Lake Macquarie.

Up to 200 participants are expected to take part in the pilot, to begin next month.

Rent Choice Assist complements existing programs such as Rent Choice Youth, Rent Choice Veterans, and Rent Choice Start Safely for victims of domestic violence.

The NSW Government has committed \$1 billion for homelessness services over the next four years.

For more information on Rent Choice, visit:

<https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/housing/policies/rent-choice-policy>

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