



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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SOCIAL HOUSING WRECKERS TO COUGH UP BOND

Tenants who deliberately damage their social housing properties will be required to pay a rental bond under tough new rules designed to stamp out bad behaviour in public housing.

Minister for Social Housing Pru Goward said the bond requirement, which comes into effect today, would lead to a fairer social housing system.

“The majority of public housing tenants do the right thing and have the right to a fairer system - free from wreckers giving good tenants a bad name and those who expect the taxpayer to cough up the bill,” Ms Goward said.

“This bond will stop intentional damage and create an incentive for behavioural change by making those who wreck their homes pay a bond which can be drawn on if they carry out further damage, just as would happen in the private market.”

The bond payment will only apply to tenants who have caused deliberate and significant damage to their public housing property.

Ms Goward said repairing properties that had been intentionally damaged diverted much-needed funds from essential maintenance work.

“It can cost tens of thousands of dollars to fix a house after it has been damaged and deserted by a tenant,” Ms Goward said.

“This is money that would otherwise be spent on routine social housing maintenance.”

Bonds can be paid in instalments over 24 to 36 months.

Tenancy bonds form part of the NSW Government’s commitment to combat bad behaviour in public housing, which includes recent changes to the Antisocial Behaviour Management Policy.

MEDIA: Benjamin Flores 0428 577 285