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INTRODUCTION
The Housing Authority was established by the *State Housing Act 1946 (WA)* and currently operates under the *Housing Act 1980 (WA)*.

The Housing Authority, through the State Government, is party to the *National Affordable Housing Agreement* (NAHA).

NAHA is an agreement by the Council of Australian Governments that commenced on 1 January 2009, replacing the *Commonwealth State Housing Agreement*.

NAHA aims for all Australians to have access to affordable, safe and sustainable housing that contributes to social and economic participation.

THE HOUSING AUTHORITY’S OBJECTIVES
The Housing Authority provides public rental housing as an affordable option for eligible low income singles and families who are unable to afford private housing.

Under the *Affordable Housing Strategy 2012-2020* the Housing Authority aims to provide 20 000 affordable housing opportunities by 2020. To achieve this, the Housing Authority is working widely with partners and markets to increase the range of housing options and solutions that are:

- Available (as and when needed)
- Affordable (within the means of low-to-moderate income households) and
- Appropriate (meets the needs of individual circumstances).
The Housing Authority provides public, Aboriginal and regional housing, private rental assistance, Keystart home loans, land and property sales in metropolitan and country areas of Western Australia.

One of the Housing Authority’s key functions is providing rental housing for low-income households who are often unable to obtain secure and affordable accommodation in the private rental sector. Some client groups such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, older people, people with disabilities and singles experience difficulties accessing housing in the private market.

POLICY RENTAL MANUAL

This manual contains policies relating to the management of public housing. Policies relating to maintenance are not part of this manual.

The Housing Authority continuously reviews the Rental Policy Manual. The updated version is published internally and on the Housing Authority’s external website, www.housing.wa.gov.au.

LAYOUT OF THE MANUAL

The manual is divided into various policies. Policy statements are set out on the left-hand side of the page with the related guidelines on the right-hand side. Where appropriate, examples are given under “guidelines”.

CONTACTING THE HOUSING AUTHORITY

General Enquiries: 1800 093 325
TTY: 9476 2446
Maintenance: 1300 137 677
Customer feedback: 1800 257 677
PREAMBLE

Eligibility for public housing assistance is governed by a set of principles as follows:

- Access to housing assistance is to be provided to those unable to obtain adequate and appropriate housing through the private sector.
- Help is to be provided regardless of the age, gender, marital status, race, religion, disability or life situation of the applicant.
- Applicants and tenants must remain eligible while seeking and residing in public housing to ensure that housing assistance is provided to those in greatest need.
- Limits on eligibility are to be based primarily on the applicant’s financial circumstances by taking into account:
  - Level of income;
  - Value of relevant assets and income derived from them;
  - Number of dependent children;
  - Costs arising from disability and other special circumstances; and
  - Limits on eligibility are to be reviewed at appropriate intervals of time.

The Housing Authority must also comply with the state *Equal Opportunity Act (1984)* when dealing with customers and the interests of the child will be paramount in all decision making in accordance with the *International Convention on the Rights of the Child*.

Income eligibility limits for assistance are reviewed regularly to reflect changes in gross weekly average earnings.

Applicants, partners and co-applicants must conform to the Housing Authority’s eligibility criteria and all household members must conform to eligibility relating to a debt to the Housing Authority and home finance schemes administered by the Housing Authority.
ELIGIBILITY RELATING TO THE INCOME OF APPLICANTS

1. Applicants for public rental housing must have an income that falls within the Housing Authority’s current income limits, which is assessed on a gross weekly (before tax) basis. Applicants, partners and/or co-applicants must be eligible at the time of application, through the period they are seeking assistance and before an offer of housing is made.

Dual Income - refers to an income earned by partners in the paid workforce and including Centrelink Benefits (i.e. Newstart) but not the Basic Family Tax Benefit A.

Income Eligibility Limits for Public Housing:

To be eligible for Housing Authority assistance the combined weekly gross income of applicant, partner and co-applicant must be below the following limits (Effective from 1 May 2006). Other household members’ incomes are not assessed for eligibility (see s8 Eligibility Policy) however, will be considered when assessing rent.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of people in household</th>
<th>Metro &amp; country</th>
<th>NW &amp; remote areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Single Income</td>
<td>Dual Income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$430</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$580</td>
<td>$670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$695</td>
<td>$790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$815</td>
<td>$930</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For households with more than four people add $115 per additional person.

Do not include the District Allowance in household income (this allowance is to help people with the extra cost of living in remote areas and the North West). This will be included for rent assessment purposes once housed.
ELIGIBILITY RELATING TO THE INCOME OF APPLICANTS

For people with a disability:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of people in Household</th>
<th>Metro and Country</th>
<th>North West/Remote</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Single Income</td>
<td>Dual Income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$540</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$725</td>
<td>$830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$870</td>
<td>$1 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$1 020</td>
<td>$1 160</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For households with more than four people and at least one person with a disability add $145 per additional person.

POLICY

2. **Income Counted When Assessing Eligibility**

   *Definition of income that is counted* – Any benefit or allowance that is counted by the Centrelink or Department of Veterans’ Affairs in assessing a benefit.

   OR

   A wage/salary for applicants in paid employment.

   - Wages/Salary (Income received by an employee)
   - Salary Sacrificed Superannuation
   - Fringe Benefit Tax

GUIDELINES

2.1 Regular wages or a salary will be assessed over a 3 month period if wage slips are presented as proof of income. Most applicants complete the Employer Income Verification Statement.

2.2 Salary sacrificed amounts (including superannuation contributions) will be included in the gross assessable income.

2.3 A fringe benefit received as part of earned income but not as a wage or salary.
ELIGIBILITY RELATING TO THE INCOME OF APPLICANTS

Cont.....Income Counted When Assessing Eligibility

- Overtime
- Centrelink or Department of Veteran’s Affairs Benefits, Austudy/Abstudy payments (DEET)
- Dividends on shares/investments
- Interest “deemed” on money in non-interest bearing accounts above $8,250 singles and $15,500 couples
- Child maintenance payments
- Additional Family Tax Benefit A @ 10% (Basic exempt)
  Additional Family Tax Benefit B @ 5%
- Income derived from a business if applicant is self-employed.

2.4 Where overtime is known or can be confirmed to be a standard part of the employment package, this can be included without waiting the 3 month waiting period.

2.5 If an applicant is in receipt of the Austudy Loan Supplement, income will be assessed at the Austudy grant the applicant would receive if they were not receiving the supplement.

2.6 Interest will be calculated on the rate received.

2.7 An applicant with money in a non-interest bearing account will be deemed to be receiving a rate of interest identical to that used by Centrelink.

2.8 Discretion may be exercised where it can be proved that maintenance payments are not regular.

2.9 Spouse or child maintenance payments will be assessed at 20% of maintenance received.

2.10 Guidelines for Assessing Income of Self Employed Applicants such applicants will be required to provide the Housing Authority with their Notice of Assessment for the previous financial year. The assessment will provide information regarding the applicant’s taxable income on which the taxation assessment is based.

The taxable income will be regarded as the income on which the Housing Authority will assess eligibility. If the applicant has not retained the assessment, they can write to:

To request a copy of your tax assessment contact the Australian Taxation Office: telephone 132861 or log onto my.gov.au
ELIGIBILITY RELATING TO THE INCOME OF APPLICANTS

POLICY

Cont.....Income Counted When Assessing Eligibility

• Compensable Income – Applicants With a Disability

GUIDELINES

When the taxation assessment is received, any known increases should be included for the period after the assessment was made.

Similarly, any applicant whose circumstances have altered after the last income tax assessment was provided is obliged to substantiate the change of circumstances and supply an estimate of the new annual income. This should be accompanied by a statutory declaration supporting the claim.

The situation should be reviewed within the next 12 months.

Applicants who have not traded for a full financial year will be permitted to apply and build up time on the waiting list, on the understanding that they provide their taxation assessment on its receipt, and that their taxable income falls within the Housing Authority limits.

If the region concerned is unable to clarify the income received from the taxation return provided, or to fully understand the assessment made, the services of a local taxation agent should be employed at the applicant/tenant’s expense. (Taxation is a complex area and it often requires an expert to understand a business taxation return).

Applicants, whose income is derived from compensation payments due to a disability compensation payout, are eligible for Housing Authority assistance if their assessable income, minus care costs, does not exceed the Housing Authority income limits.

Income Not Counted When Assessing Eligibility

3. Definition of income not counted - All benefits and allowances that are granted by Centrelink and Department of Veterans' Affairs, because they are needed in full to assist with a particular situation or disability;

OR
Cont.....Income Not Counted When Assessing Eligibility

Any income source which is not counted by these departments for pension or benefit purposes.

- Overtime (where not regular)
- Basic Family Payment (minimum standard payment)
- Family Tax Payment
- Carer Allowance
- Scholarship Allowance for Children
- Carer Allowance (previously Domiciliary Nursing Care Allowance)
- Basic Family Tax Benefit A
- Ward Allowances, Fostering Allowances etc.
- Assistance for Isolated Children’s Scheme (AIC)
- Austudy Pensioner Education Supplement
- Child Care Rebate
- Multiple Birth Allowance
- Baby Bonus
- Paid Parental Leave
- Disability Costs
- Mobility Allowance
- Double Orphan Pension
- Carer’s Income

3.1 Family Payments – Income assessed at 10% of additional payment for Family Tax Benefit A and 5% for Family Tax Benefit Part B. Basic Family Tax Benefit A is non-assessable.

3.2 See Housing For People With Disabilities Policy.
## ELIGIBILITY RELATING TO THE INCOME OF APPLICANTS

### POLICY

**Cont....Income Not Counted When Assessing Eligibility**
- Austudy/Abstudy Fares Allowance
- Abstudy Incentive allowance
- Maternity Allowance and Maternity Immunisation Allowance
- Telephone Allowance (Centrelink)
- Bereavement payment (Centrelink)
- Remote Area Allowance (Centrelink)
- Pharmaceutical Allowance (Centrelink)
- District Allowance
- Portion of Austudy Loans Supplement (see 2.4)
- Employment Entry Payments
- Education Entry Payments
- Income of other household members
- Government ex-gratia payments.

**Local Government**

**Department of Veterans' Affairs Allowances**
- Attendants Allowance
- Car Maintenance Allowance
- Clothing allowance
- Decoration Allowance
- Recreation Allowance

### GUIDELINES

3.3 District Allowance is assessable for rental assessment purposes but not for eligibility.

3.4 See 8.1 Definition of other household member.

3.5 Ex-gratia payments, including those paid by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, are not taken into account when assessing eligibility or rent. Income and/or interest from these payments will be included for the purpose of determining income eligibility and/or rent assessment. For example: Redress WA and F-111 lump sum payments.

3.6 Elected Members Allowance that is paid to cover expenses is exempt of being treated as income if the amount of allowance actually used is on expenses. Any excess allowance is to be treated as income.
Cont.....Income Not Counted When Assessing Eligibility

War Disability Pension (UK also)
- Intermediate War Pension
- Extreme Disability Adjustment
- Totally Permanent Invalid (TPI) War Pension
- Prisoner of War (POW) Recognition Supplement.

Documentary Proof of Income

4. Applicants must supply documentary proof of income to confirm eligibility for Housing Authority assistance.

4.1 Applicants receiving a Centrelink benefit or pension must supply a Statement of Benefit (To Whom It May Concern Letter) from Centrelink that is not more than four weeks’ old. The Housing Authority reserves the right to request such proof of a lesser period. Evidence of a claim for a benefit is not sufficient. Or verification by the Income Confirmation Scheme.

In country areas where there may be a delay in obtaining a Statement of Benefit, an applicant may make application and accrue waiting time until the documents arrive.

In isolated country areas it is sufficient proof of income to photocopy the applicant’s bank book, provided that the deposits shown are equal to the benefit the applicant should receive and are paid on regular pension payment dates.
Cont.....Documentary Proof of Income

Cash Assets
5. Applicants must conform to the Housing Authority’s eligibility criteria relating to cash assets.

- Applicants in receipt of a wage or salary must have their employer complete the Employer Income Verification Statement or supply their last 3 months of wage or salary advice slips.
- Self-employed applicants must supply their last financial year Tax Assessment from the Australian Tax Office.
- Applicants receiving part Centrelink benefit and part wage/ salary must supply evidence of both income sources.
- Applicants with income sources from outside Australia must supply documentary proof of that income source. Example: UK pension. NB: July 2004 Recipients of Chile Pension of Mercy is not taken into account for eligibility or rental rebates.
- Documentary proof of the value of cash assets includes a Centrelink Income Statement no more than four weeks’ old, an up-to-date statement from a bank or other financial institution and/or evidence from a registered accountant.

Current criteria are:

- $38 400 – single applicant.
- $63 800 per couple.
- $80 000 Seniors 60 years plus (singles or couples).
- Disabled applicants as defined by the Housing for People with Disabilities Policy may not be subject to the cash assets limit of $100 000 (Refer to Housing for People with Disabilities Policy).

Definition of a cash asset: Cash assets refer to the financial investments of a Housing Authority client and any income derived from them and includes:

- deposits in a bank, credit union, building society, savings/cheque account, cash, term deposit and shares
- friendly society and insurance bonds, managed investments such as loans, debentures, unlisted equity and property trusts.
**ELIGIBILITY RELATING TO THE INCOME OF APPLICANTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>GUIDELINES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cont.....Cash Assets</td>
<td>• Cash assets do not include a client’s car, antique furniture, stamp collection or life insurance policies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Superannuation and annuities that are not accessible are not assessed but any annual income/return/dividend received is assessed as part of the income assessment process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Superannuation</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Superannuation funds for applicants under the age of 55 years</strong> Superannuation funds that cannot be realised (e.g. superannuation roll-over fund) are not assessed as an asset.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Superannuation funds for applicants 55 years of age and plus</strong> Where a lump sum superannuation payment is taken, it will be treated as a cash asset and any income derived will be assessed for eligibility and rent assessment purposes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Where superannuation is placed in a managed or roll-over fund and the client receives an annuity or allocated pension that income will be considered for eligibility and rent assessment purposes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The gross annual income is converted to a weekly amount for assessment.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source of Income**

6. An applicant’s income must derive from a source within Western Australia.  
   6.1 An applicant must be registered with a Western Australian office of Centrelink, be employed or have a registered business in the state.  

7. Applicants with no current source of income may make application for assistance and accrue time on the waiting list, but must have an income that meets the Housing Authority’s eligibility criteria when turn reached for assistance.  
   7.1 Example: Individuals serving a jail sentence, refugees, supported migrants.
### Income of Other Household Members

8. Income received by other household members who will be living in the household, but will not sign the tenancy agreement does not need to be proved at application, but must be proved at the time of the allocation of a property.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>GUIDELINES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income of Other Household Members</strong></td>
<td><strong>8.</strong> Other household members are non-dependent members of the household (excluding the applicant’s partner), who will not be signing the tenancy agreement. Their income is not included for eligibility purposes, nor do they have to be eligible for the Housing Authority assistance except in relation to a debt to the Housing Authority. Their income is included as part of gross household income for the purpose of calculating rental payments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>8.1</strong> Other household members are non-dependent members of the household (excluding the applicant’s partner), who will not be signing the tenancy agreement. Their income is not included for eligibility purposes, nor do they have to be eligible for the Housing Authority assistance except in relation to a debt to the Housing Authority. Their income is included as part of gross household income for the purpose of calculating rental payments.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>8.2</strong> Definition of a dependent household member. A dependent is a child of a family, or a child being fostered or cared for by a family, who is wholly or substantially in the care or control of the applicant and is financially dependent on the applicant.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>8.3</strong> Partner’s Income</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The applicant’s partner’s income is included when assessing eligibility relating to income. This is regardless of whether or not the partner will be a signatory to the tenancy agreement.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ELIGIBILITY RELATING TO CITIZENSHIP AND RESIDENCY STATUS

9. Applicants must hold Australian citizenship or have permanent residency status and have a residential and postal address in Western Australia.

Applicants Currently Living Interstate and Abroad

10. Applicants living in other states of Australia or in countries outside Australia are not eligible to make application for assistance, regardless of any future intention to live in Western Australia.

People Without Citizenship or Residency Status

11. People without Citizenship or Residency status may make application for assistance and accrue time on the waiting list, but cannot be allocated housing until they have been granted permanent residency or citizenship.

12. Applicants or tenants wishing to accommodate migrants without Australian Citizenship or Permanent Residency status will not be allocated property with bedrooms in excess of their entitlement to accommodate that person/s.

New Zealand Citizens

13. New Zealand citizens are eligible to apply for public housing subject to meeting all other eligibility criteria, including income and asset limits.

9.1 See s13 New Zealand Citizens.

10.1 Applications or tenancies in different Australian states are not transportable.

11.1 Only applicants with visa types that provide permanent residency status are eligible for public housing.

11.2 Applicants with visas allowing temporary residency are not eligible for public housing.
14. Applicants must not own or be part owner of property or land.

15. The Housing Authority may permit continuing ownership or joint ownership of property or land for a period of time after application, where there are specific difficulties relating to immediate disposal. However, sale of the property must have been concluded at the time of the allocation of a property.

14.1 A Park Home will be a barrier to public rental housing, only if it is so determined by Regional Management that it is suitable accommodation. Factors in this consideration will be the construction and permanency of the home, the suitability of the location and the needs/age of the applicant.

15.1 Examples:
- Where an applicant is pursuing a property settlement through the Family Court.
- Where the Housing Authority is building a property for a family which has a member with a disability.

Discretion can be exercised in all instances where there are specific difficulties in disposing of a property.

(See Discretionary Decision Making Policy)

Examples:
- Where the sale will realise limited or negative personal equity to the applicant.
- Where the asset owned is a single block of residential land of little value and the applicant has no prospect of building a home on it.
- Where there is limited or no real estate market in the area concerned e.g. some rural areas experiencing an economic downturn.
- Where a property is owned for the purpose of a business income, discretion may be exercised in permitting the applicant to retain the property. Example: a service station.
Cont... The Housing Authority may permit continuing ownership or joint ownership of property or land...

16. Clients housed by Community Housing Organisations cannot apply for public housing assistance.

17. Clients with an identified priority housing need (see Priority Housing Need Policy) can apply for public housing assistance where the need cannot be met by the Community Housing Organisation or in the Community funded housing in Aboriginal Communities.

18. Clients in rehabilitation, recovery and/or therapeutic programs provided in conjunction with Community Housing Organisations can apply for public housing assistance.

GUIDELINES

- Where a property has been purchased through a home ownership scheme administered by the Housing Authority and the property is being taken back by the Housing Authority and the disposal date is outside their control assistance can be provided following confirmation of the action by the Home Ownership section.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>GUIDELINES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 19. Applicants must be at least 16 years of age, with no upper limit on age. | 19.1 Applicants under the age of 18 will be referred to support services, where appropriate.  
19.2 Applicants between 16 and 18 years, who have a disability and have accommodation supports, should be referred to Housing Programs Directorate. |
| 20. A senior is classified as being 55 years or above or is the spouse of such a person. | 20.1 This is based on the definition of the *Retirement Villages Act (1992)*  
20.2 Where possible, applicants under 55 years of age should be listed for family or singles accommodation.  
20.3 Where local authority R codes require occupants of seniors' accommodation to be of a specific age, the Housing Authority will conform to the requirements. |
ELIGIBILITY RELATING TO APPLICANTS WITH A DEBT TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY

PREAMBLE

Many tenants who make application for further public rental housing assistance have debt from a previous Housing Authority assistance. The previous assistance will be from a previous tenancy, a Bond Assistance Loan (BAL) or a combination of both. It is an unsatisfactory business practice to re-house persons who owe money and the Housing Authority requires applicants to repay the debt before housing assistance is given. Discretion is available for applicants with extenuating circumstances (example: Family Violence). See Discretionary Decision Making Policy.

It must be appreciated that if some tenants do not pay their debt to the Housing Authority, there is less money for public housing generally and other applicants will have to wait longer to be assisted.

It is also an unsatisfactory business practice to lend money for a BAL, to persons who have not fully repaid the previous loan.

This policy is applicable to applicants for public rental housing, who include a partner or other people to be housed on their application, who have a debt to the Housing Authority from a previous assistance, regardless of whether that person/s intend to sign the tenancy agreement.

It must also be noted that the Housing Authority does not exercise a legal right to Joint and Several Liability and that joint applicants need only repay a proportion of the debt equal to the number of other tenants and need not accept responsibility for the proportion of the debt of the other party/s.

POLICY

21. Applicants with a debt to the Housing Authority will be requested to make arrangement to repay their debt; if applicable they may make application to participate in the Debt Discount Scheme.

GUIDELINES

21.1 Also see Discretionary Decision Making Policy.

- Bankruptcy policy suspended May 2001. Debt repayment does not apply to the bankruptcy component of any debt – this debt is non-recoverable.

22. An applicant requiring further public rental housing with a debt to the Housing Authority must enter into a proposal to repay the debt on application for assistance registered. The Applicant may apply to participate in the Debt Discount Scheme.

22.1 A registered application is one that is registered with the date of application but does not accrue time on the waiting list. However, when the debt is repaid, the application is given the benefit of the listing date and credited with the time accrued from that date. If payments are defaulted, the application may be withdrawn.

22.2 Any outstanding debt must be paid off in regular instalments, as agreed by the proposal.
23. The proposal to repay the debt will be confirmed in writing with the applicant and include an itemised account of the debt. The Applicant may apply to participate in the Debt Discount Scheme.

24. Any applicant who defaults on a proposal to repay may have their application for assistance withdrawn and will be required to reapply for housing assistance. The Applicant to be advised and may make an application to participate in the Debt Discount Scheme.

24.1 See identity policy.

24.2 The decision to withdraw the application will take into account the repayment history. Contact will be made with the applicant where possible, to ascertain whether there are any extenuating circumstances contributing to the default. Any future application after an application has been withdrawn may not have the benefit of the earlier listing date.

Debt Subject of Dispute

25. Where the debt is the subject of a dispute, which is pursued through court action or the Housing Authority Appeals Mechanism, no action will be taken until the process has been completed.

25.1 This includes entering in to a proposal to repay the debt.

Referral to Commercial Debt Collection Agency

26. A debt will only be referred to a commercial debt collection agency, after all approaches from the Housing Authority have failed.

26.1 Where personal contact can be made, the debtor will be contacted by the Housing Authority, advised of the debt and the intention to refer to a commercial agency and offered an opportunity to make repayment.
Statute-Barred Debt

27. Under the *Limitation Act 2005* (WA) the period for a tenancy debt is 6 years. Expiration of the period does not expunge the debt as if it never existed but once this period has elapsed, the debt becomes “statute-barred” and legal recovery is not permitted.

Under the *Bankruptcy Act 1996* (Cth), where a client declares bankruptcy, the debt becomes “statute-barred”, subsequent discharge of the bankruptcy relieves the customer of the legal liability to repay the debt, but it does not expunge the debt as if it had never existed.

Repayment of statute-barred debts will not be pursued by the Housing Authority and will not preclude housing assistance being offered by the Housing Authority.

27.1 Repayment of statute-barred debts cannot be actively pursued.

27.2 Statute-barred debts can be reactivated if a client makes a payment or provides the Housing Authority with written acknowledgement that the debt exists. The debt then becomes Written Off Recoverable and standard recovery procedures resume.
## Refusal of Housing Assistance

### Policy

28. The Housing Authority has the power and authority to refuse any application for housing assistance. This is pursuant to section 15(2) (e) of the *Housing Act 1980.*

The term 'applicant' under this policy refers to the applicant, their partner or a household member listed on the application.

### Guidelines

28.1 Where an applicant has a public housing tenancy history of disruptive behavior, using the premises for an illegal purpose, debt, property damage, poor property standards, property abandonment or other tenancy breaches, the application will be referred to a Housing Authority manager for assessment.

28.2 The applicant will be offered an interview to discuss any changes in their current circumstances which will be considered before the final decision being made by the manager.

28.3 The Housing Authority reserves the right to refuse housing assistance to any applicant who has acted in a violent or threatening manner towards Housing Authority staff performing their duties.

28.4 Housing assistance will be refused to any applicant who has previously been convicted of an offence amounting to the operation, or the intent to operate, a drug laboratory from public housing premises.

28.5 Housing assistance may be refused to any applicant who has been charged or convicted of intentionally or negligently causing or permitting significant damage, including by fire, to a Housing Authority property.

28.6 Based on an assessment of the applicant's unsatisfactory history with the Housing Authority, a manager may decide to grant conditional housing assistance.

28.6 Transfer applicants are subject to the Housing Authority’s Transfer Policy and *Residential Tenancies Act 1987.*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>GUIDELINES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conditional Housing Assistance</strong></td>
<td>29. These conditions may include but are not limited to:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29. The Housing Authority can place an applicant under management assessment with housing assistance being subject to the applicant complying with specific conditions.</td>
<td>Before being housed:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Entering into and maintaining debt repayment arrangements through direct deduction or a bill paying service until the repayment target is reached. If eligible, the applicant should enter into the Housing Authority's Debt Discount Scheme.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>When housed:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Participation in the Housing Authority's Support and Tenant Education Program (STEP).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Fixed term tenancy agreement for 3 or 6 months.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29.1</td>
<td>29.2 Applications placed under management assessment will be reviewed by Management. Applicants not meeting the specified conditions will have their application for housing assistance withdrawn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29.3</td>
<td>29.3 Where application approval is subject to specified conditions being met, upon meeting those conditions the applicant will be offered a fixed term tenancy for 3 or 6 months.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PREAMBLE

- Housing Authority customers, who have made application for bankruptcy which includes a debt to the Housing Authority for rental assistance or Bond Assistance Loan (BAL), and who apply for housing assistance subsequent to the bankruptcy, will have their application assessed by and in the same eligibility criteria as any other applicant. Bankruptcy Policy suspended 16 May 2001. Debt repayment does not apply to the bankruptcy component of any debt – this debt is non-recoverable.

Tenants in Occupation are also covered by this policy, but for specific criteria for tenants, see Tenant Eligibility Policy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>GUIDELINES</th>
</tr>
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</table>

**Proof of Bankruptcy**

30. The Housing Authority requires documentation from the Insolvency and Trustee Service, as proof of bankruptcy.

30.1 Undischarged bankrupts must provide their pink card.

30.2 Discharged bankrupts must provide their Discharge Certificate.

**Lodgement of Claim by the Housing Authority**

31. When a customer with a debt to the Housing Authority makes application for bankruptcy, a proof of debt claim will be lodged with the Official Receivers Office.

31.1 The minimum amount submitted to the Insolvency and Trustee Service (ITSA) for write-off is $50.
ELIGIBILITY RELATING TO OTHER CRITERIA

Principal Place of Residence
32. Applicants must reside in the allocated property as their principal place of residence.

Different Region
33. Applicants must be eligible for the region in which they are residing at the time of application even when the application is for a different region for which they may be currently ineligible.

Housing Authority Staff Member, Friends or Relatives
34. Employees of the Housing Authority who are eligible for public rental housing may make application for assistance, but their application must be approved by the Housing Authority’s Executive, before an allocation.

35. Friends and relatives of the Housing Authority’s employees making application for assistance will have their application treated the same as any other customer making application for assistance.

32.1 See Tenancy Management Policy - Absence from the Property and Housesitting.

33.1 Applicants must satisfy the eligibility requirements of the region of choice at allocation. Example: an applicant residing in a region covered by the North West and Remote income criteria for which they are currently eligible, may apply for assistance in a region covered by the Metropolitan and Country income criteria, although not income eligible for those regions at time of application.

34.1 This is not a requirement of the Housing Act (1980) but is to ensure the integrity of the process.

34.2 Before the allocation of a property the Regional Manager of the region concerned must present a submission to the Executive outlining the details of the application.

34.3 If an application is rejected, a written copy of the reasons must be placed on the employee’s file.

35.1 Staff must pass the administration of the Housing Authority service for a relative or friend to a senior officer if there is any likelihood of a perception of a conflict of interest.

35.2 Examples of unethical behaviour regarding dealing with services to employees or friends:
- Allocating a rental property ahead of turn
- Ignoring guidelines for eligibility
- Awarding consultancy contracts outside of prescribed guidelines.
ELIGIBILITY RELATING TO OTHER CRITERIA

POLICY

Cont... Housing Authority Staff Member, Friends Or Relatives

People Required to Prove Eligibility

36. Applicants, partners and co-applicants must prove eligibility for assistance and all household members must be eligible regarding a debt to the Housing Authority.

Eligibility Regarding Household Types.

37. Applicants make application for assistance according to their family and household composition.

GUIDELINES

- Providing sensitive or confidential information
- Approving maintenance outside of prescribed guidelines.

All work that is required to be carried out on properties known to be occupied by employees or relatives of the Housing Authority employees must be authorised by regional management (see s6.3 Maintenance Policy Manual).

36.1 All persons signing the tenancy agreement on the allocation of a property must prove eligibility for assistance.

36.2 See also – Definition of other household members, and Eligibility Relating to Applicants with a Debt to the Housing Authority Policy.

37.1 Household types:
- Single - singles under 55 years of age; single seniors 55 years and over.
- Couple - no children (either 55 years and over seniors or 55 years and under).
- Family – couple or single parent and dependent or non-dependent children.
- Shared – people not in a family relationship sharing accommodation. In a shared tenancy all applicants are regarded as co-applicants and will be assessed for eligibility on their individual basis. Adults will be allocated a bedroom each.
### ELIGIBILITY RELATING TO OTHER CRITERIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>GUIDELINES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cont...Eligibility Regarding Household Types.</td>
<td>Example:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Three single people, related or unrelated, wishing to share accommodation
- Two single mothers with dependants, wishing to share
- (Adults will be allocated a bedroom each and the children in relation to gender and age).

38. Applicants anticipating that their household type may change before the allocation of a property may make application according to the anticipated changes. However, the household must conform to that requirement at allocation.

38.1 Example: Families expecting a child, migrants who are expecting family members to join them in Australia.

**Appeal Regarding a Housing Authority Decision Relating to Eligibility for Assistance.**

39. Applicants can appeal regarding any decision made in relation to their eligibility for assistance.

39.1 See Housing Authority Appeals Mechanism.
**PREAMBLE** When an applicant’s turn is reached on the waiting list, an appropriate rental home will be allocated. The size and type of accommodation will be appropriate to the needs of the household.

Applicants, partners and/or co-applicants must be eligible at the time of application, while on the waiting list and before an offer of housing is made.

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### Eligibility

1. An applicant must be eligible on all categories before the offer of housing is made. If the applicant is no longer eligible the application will be withdrawn.

1.1 See Eligibility Policy.

1.2 The Manager Client Services, Manager Housing Services or Area Manager can approve the deferment of the allocation of a property (see s 11 and 12 Allocations Policy).

### Applicants with an Interest in Residential Property

2. Applicants with an interest or joint interest in residential property are not eligible for the Housing Authority’s assistance.

2.1 Examples where an applicant owning private property can be allocated accommodation on compassionate grounds:

- An applicant experiencing difficulties in a property settlement due to marital breakdown.
- An application escaping family violence
- Existing home unsuitable due to disability

2.2 See also Priority Housing Need Policy and Eligibility Policy.

### Housing Needs

3. Accommodation will only be offered to meet housing needs based on information provided by clients.
**ALLOCATIONS POLICY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FAMILY SIZE</th>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>GUIDELINES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 4. Family Size | An applicant will be allocated accommodation containing the number of bedrooms to match family size. | 4.1 Single person (under 55) – 1 bedroom flat, bedsitter, 1 bedroom townhouse.  
   - Lodging house accommodation will only be allocated to persons requesting this type of accommodation or through the Homeless Advisory Service. |
| | | 4.2 Single person (senior, 55 years and over) – bedsitter, 1 bedroom flat, 1 bedroom townhouse, 1 bedroom duplex, lodging house accommodation. |
| | | 4.3 Couples (senior) the same allocation as for singles (senior), excluding bedsitter accommodation (see Also s4.18). |
| | | 4.4 Couples and sharers (no children) - 1 or 2 bedroom accommodation of any type. Number of bedrooms will be dependent upon demand and turnover (see Also s4.18). |
| | | 4.5 Family, single parent, 1 child –2 bedroom accommodation (but 3 bedrooms may be allocated depending on housing stock/demand). |
| | | 4.6 Family, single parent, 2 children - 2 or 3 bedroom accommodation, depending on gender of children and housing stock/demand. |
| | | 4.7 Family, single parent, 3 children - 3 bedroom. |
| | | 4.8 Family, single parent, 4 children and above - bedroom allocation will depend upon gender of children. |
| | | 4.9 Where there is limited or no demand, applicants may be allocated accommodation in excess of their entitlement and general eligibility. |
4.10 Special consideration may be given to an allocation where there is considerable age difference between children of the same gender and an extra bedroom allocated, depending upon housing stock/demand and the willingness of the applicant to wait longer if necessary.

4.11 Single people sharing a tenancy will be allocated a bedroom each.

4.12 Single people with dependent children sharing a tenancy will be allocated a bedroom each, with the bedroom allocation for dependents depending upon the number and gender.

4.13 A relationship between 2 adults applying to share will only be recognised when declared as such by the applicants.

4.14 Applicants with children up to 6 years of age should be given the option of accepting upper floor flats, but advised of the possible danger and difficulties with children in such accommodation.

4.15 An applicant who is pregnant may be eligible for an increase in bedroom allocation

4.16 Care of Child

Where applicants have care arrangements for a child, an appropriate bedroom number will be allocated with consideration of the applicant’s housing needs and the best interest of the child.

Consideration must be given to cultural considerations, in which children stay with people on an irregular basis. Example: Aboriginal people, who frequently care for grandchildren (see also Cultural Diversity and Language Services Policy).
Cont.....Family Size

Example:
An arrangement where the children spend a week about, or half a week with each parent. (Where children stay only on weekend access – for example – casual sleeping arrangements can be made for them).

Proof of Care
- A statutory declaration from the primary caregiver.
- Written confirmation from a solicitor.
- Family court order.
- Written confirmation from Communities (Child Protection and Family Support).
- Statement from Centrelink showing receipt of family payments for the child.

4.17 A tenant with limited access may be offered accommodation in an area or accommodation type of low demand where they are able to have bedrooms in excess of entitlement (see s4.9).

4.18 The assessment for an extra bedroom will be made where the client has demonstrated the need. The probability of a longer wait for an extra bedroom (if applicable) must be explained to applicants.

Seniors (55 and over) may be allocated 2 bedroom accommodation this will be dependent upon the availability of stock and the needs of the applicant. Consideration will be given to applicant’s medical condition and requirements, family responsibilities and couples.

4.19 Sleep-out –Definition

Usually, a sleep out is an enclosed verandah or porch. It has a sloping roof, window (possibly louvers) a power point, light and a door opening onto the verandah. It is fully lined, although the roof may be lined on an angle.

A fully enclosed sleep-out is regarded as a bedroom. However discretion should be used in allocating a property with a sleep-out, taking into account the ages and gender of children to be housed. Where the sleep-out is to be regarded as a separate bedroom, it should have the same level of security as the rest of the house.
Cont.....Family Size

5. Applicants with a Prior Debt to the Housing Authority

Previous Tenancy History

6. Where a tenant has substantiated breaches of tenancy from previous assistance, they may be required to wait longer than usual for assistance while the debt is repaid or a suitable property is located.

7. Applicants will be advised immediately a suitable property becomes available.

4.20 An applicant requiring 4 bedroom accommodation may be allocated 3 bedroom accommodation and be listed for 4 bedroom accommodation. This must be documented as a Discretionary decision. The Housing Authority will assess the need for priority housing assistance based on information provided by clients. See also Priority Housing Need Policy.

5.1 See Eligibility Policy.

6.1 Breaches (e.g. Debt or nuisance behaviour) must be documented on file.

6.2 See Eligibility Policy.

6.3 Contact should be made, preferably while the property is still occupied or under maintenance, to facilitate early occupation. (Under the Residential Tenancies Act 1987, tenants must give 21 days’ notice of intention to vacate and the landlord may show premises to prospective tenants during this time).

7.1 Contact should be made by telephone in all circumstances where there is a telephone contact number, in order to make the offer as soon as possible.

7.2 Where there is no telephone, contact will be made by post, courier or personally, allowing three working days for a reply. This applies to properties under maintenance, or ready for occupation.

7.3 If the letter is returned “marked return to sender”, the application is withdrawn.

7.4 If there is no response, a “still interested” letter is sent, allowing five working days for a reply in the metropolitan area and 14 days in the country. Failure to respond to this correspondence will result in the application being withdrawn (see Waiting List Management Policy).
Cont.....Applicants will be advised immediately a suitable property becomes available.

7.6 Applicants should be given the opportunity to inspect the property under offer, internally. If it is under maintenance, explain this to the applicants and provide them with a copy of the job orders (costs may be deleted) so that they are aware of which specific improvements will be made.

7.7 An applicant must be eligible for assistance before an allocation of a property can be made and a full eligibility check must be undertaken.

7.8 **Property under Maintenance** The applicant is required to sign a written statement to the effect that they have understood that maintenance is being undertaken on the property and they will take this factor into account when making a decision regarding the suitability of the property.

7.9 **Property under Construction** An applicant being offered a property that is under construction may defer the acceptance or decline of the property until keys are available for them to view the property internally. This will enable them to make a decision regarding the suitability of the property. (Excludes purpose built properties for people with disabilities)

7.10 **Property subject to Redevelopment** An applicant being offered a property subject to redevelopment must have the situation clearly explained to them regarding property maintenance and the possibility of the allocation of a newer home in the future.
### Formalities of The Tenancy Agreement

8. **Sign-up:** Guidelines for authorising officers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>GUIDELINES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 8.1    | Requirements under the *Residential Tenancies Act 1987*  
Applicants must be given a copy of the Form 1AC – Information for Tenant and a copy of the Ingoing Tenant’s Pack. |
| 8.2    | Applicants in paid employment must supply the name and address of their place of employment. |
| 8.3    | **Tenancy Agreement**  
If the applicants are partners, the Tenancy Agreement must be in joint names, unless the applicants request otherwise and provide a reason acceptable to the Housing Authority. |
| 8.4    | The responsibilities and liabilities of a joint tenancy should be fully explained to the applicants. (They are jointly and severally liable for debts associated with the property). |
| 8.5    | If it is a shared tenancy, a joint tenancy should be used. |
| 8.6    | Tenants must be given time to read the Tenancy Agreement and ask questions. |
| 8.7    | **Property Condition Report (PCR)**  
The PCR must be conducted on site where possible and must be fully explained. The tenant must be advised to compare the condition of the property as recorded in the PCR with their own observations and return the signed PCR to the Housing Authority within 7 days of receiving it. If not received by the Housing Authority within 7 days, it is regarded that the tenant accepts the report as a true and accurate description of the condition of the premises. |
8.8 Rental Payments

Tenants must have the payment options carefully explained.

Payment options include:

a) Centrelink Direct Deduction (for Centrelink recipients)
b) Direct Debit from a Bank account
c) Direct Deduction from wage/salary
d) The Housing Authority Card

Clients receiving Centrelink pensions should be advised of the benefits of making their rental payments by Centrelink Direct Deduction.

Note: Rental Payments cannot be paid at Housing Authority offices

8.9 Under the Residential Tenancies Act 1987, in the first instance at sign up, the tenant is only obliged to pay two weeks’ rent. The interval of rental payments (e.g. weekly, fortnightly) after the initial payment must be negotiated at sign up and documented.

At the time of signing-up for a tenancy the Housing Authority will require the tenant to pay a maximum of two weeks’ rent to conform with Section 28 of the Residential Tenancies Act. They will be advised of the amount of money owing when their Centrelink Direct Deduction (CLADD) commences to maintain their rental account two weeks’ in advance. The tenant may then elect to have the full amount cleared with their first CLADD payment, enter into a clearing arrangement on CLADD or undertake to make the payment at an Australia Post office (see also Tenancy Management Policy).
### 8.10 The need to keep rental payments in advance must be fully explained to the applicant.

### 8.11 A rent assessment must be completed if applicable.

### 8.12 If applicable, proposal to repay other debts remaining must be renegotiated and signed.

### 8.13 Applicants from a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Background

If a customer has nominated an interpreter on the application form, the sign up must be undertaken with the assistance of a Housing Authority on-site interpreter if the language spoken is one offered as part of this service.

### 8.14 If not, the sign-up must be undertaken with use of an interpreter.

### 8.15 See Cultural Diversity and Language Services Policy.

### 8.16 Applicants with Literacy Problems, Intellectual or Physical Disabilities e.g. sight or hearing impaired.

If applicants have difficulties understanding their responsibilities, they should be encouraged to bring an advocate with them.

### 8.17 The number of people to be housed must be checked and accurately documented.
POLICY

Cont.....Formalities of The Tenancy Agreement

GUIDELINES

8.18 The signing of the documentation should be undertaken on site where possible.

8.19 Details regarding next of kin must be requested. (There is no obligation on behalf of the tenant to provide these).

8.20 Water consumption payments must be explained to the applicants. The water meter reading on the PCR should be drawn to the applicant's attention. The need for garden maintenance must be explained (see Water Consumption Policy).

8.21 The tenant must be given instructions on how to perform a push button test of an RCD. The Office of Energy Safety recommends that the tenant perform the test on a 3 monthly basis.

8.22 The tenant must be given instructions on how to perform a push button test of a smoke alarm. The Department of Fire and Emergency Services recommends that the tenant perform the test on a monthly basis.

Decline of a Property

9. Applicants will be made one valid offer of accommodation in the zone or country town of their choice, unless they provide a valid reason for declining (see s10 for definition of Valid Decline).

9.1 A valid offer of accommodation is one which:
   • Is in the zone of the applicant's choice (as indicated on the application form) and
   • Has the number of bedrooms the applicant requires and

9.2 Meets the client's housing needs. Applicants who do not have a valid reason for declining an offer will be removed from the waiting list and will have to reapply for assistance.

9.3 Applicants whose reason for decline is not regarded as valid must be advised of their rights of appeal.
Cont.....Decline of a Property

Valid Decline

10. A valid decline can be made to an offer of accommodation if the offer is:
   • Not in the zone of the applicant’s choice; or
   • Does not have the number of bedrooms the applicant is eligible for; or
   • Does not meet the client’s housing needs.

9.4 Applicants with Limited English
Applicants with limited English must be offered the use of an interpreter if the offer is to be regarded as valid.

9.5 Medical Grounds
Applicants declining a property on medical grounds must supply medical evidence supporting their claim, when submitting reasons for a decline.

10. A valid decline can be made to an offer of accommodation if the offer is:

10.1 Consideration will be given to a decline made on the following grounds:

10.2 Location Examples:
   • Too far from an essential amenity used frequently, such as medical, educational – special needs school.
   • Too far from transport if reliant upon public transport.
   • Too far from employment, particularly if reliant on public transport.
   • Too far from family if there is a demonstrated need for support.
   • Too close to known person/s who would be troublesome to the applicant e.g. family violence, feuding between families/groups.

10.3 Unsuitable Accommodation Type
Examples:
   • Medical e.g. stairs, phobias
   • Lack of security for victims of family violence.
10.4 Changed Circumstances

The applicant may not have advised the Housing Authority of altered circumstances after the application which render the offer unsuitable.

Examples:
- Now with a partner.
- Have extra dependants.
- Have acquired a pet.
- Changed or gained employment and offer too far from place of work.

An applicant is required to advise the Housing Authority of changed circumstances (see Waiting List Management Policy). However, if this has not been done, an applicant must advise of changed circumstances on the offer of a property before inspecting.

Any advice of a change of circumstances after a property has been inspected must be substantiated by the applicant.

10.5 Real Estate Lease

- Applicant has signed a lease for private rental which the applicant considers would be too costly to break.
- The applicant must provide a copy of the lease agreement as evidence of his/her claims.
- A deferment will be granted for the remainder of the lease only. This will be the only deferment. Discretion will be exercised where genuine difficulties are being experienced with a private real estate lease.
Deferment of an Allocation

11. An applicant who is unable to accept a property offer due to extenuating circumstances may request a one-off deferment of up to a maximum of 6 months. Decisions about the granting of a deferment are to be made by the Manager Client Services, Manager Housing Services or Area Manager.

11.1 Examples of extenuating circumstances include, but are not limited to:
- Hospitalisation of applicant
- Applicant recovering from serious illness or injury
- Recent death of a member of applicant’s immediate family
- Applicant serving a jail sentence
- Applicant awaiting the outcome of a visa or residency application
- Unresolved application for Disability Service Commission support.

11.2 Applicants requesting a deferment may be required to provide proof to support their request.

12. An applicant who remains unable to accept a property or is ineligible for assistance after the end of the deferment period will have their application withdrawn.

12.1 Applicants may submit a new application if they still require assistance.
APARTMENT
ALLOCATION
POLICY
APARTMENT ALLOCATION POLICY

PREAMBLE
While an applicant’s listing date is an important factor in allocating family apartment/flat accommodation, an application may be deferred if it is considered that the allocation would be detrimental to the applicant, or to the existing tenants in the block/apartment, or heighten or create conflict or problems in the complex/block.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>GUIDELINES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Allocations to apartment/flat accommodation must not be made solely upon date order of application but also have regard to:</td>
<td>1.1 Examples of Legitimate Deferral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The needs of the applicant</td>
<td>• An allocation to a family with children to a complex with a significant number of seniors who are already distressed at the noise of the children currently living at the complex/block.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The composition of the existing tenant group at the complex</td>
<td>• An allocation of a person or family of an ethnic group with which, there are current or historical tensions with another group already living in the complex/block.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Any particular problems associated with the complex</td>
<td>• A person/family who are unused to medium density and/or high rise accommodation or with extended family ties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Any substantiated, recent or consistent breaches of the Tenancy Agreement or Residential Tenancies Act 1987 by the applicant (private or the Housing Authority).</td>
<td>• A person/family with a substantiated record of poor tenancy, particularly disruptive behaviour.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 Children</td>
<td>1.2 Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The placement of applicants with children below the age of 12 years in apartment and flat accommodation is not preferred.</td>
<td>• Any allocation of apartment/flat accommodation to applicants with children below the age of 12 years should be made carefully and with regard for the history of the block/complex, the lack of play facilities and safety issues.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APARTMENT ALLOCATION POLICY

POLICY

Deferral of an Allocation

2. A deferral of an allocation must be referred to the Manager Client Services, Area Manager, and Manager Housing Services for approval.

Under-Occupancy

3. An allocation to apartment/flat accommodation may be in excess of an applicant’s bedroom entitlement as an incentive to occupy or to resolve a family problem.

Townhouse Complexes

4. The Apartment Allocation Policy may be used to govern allocations to townhouse accommodation at the discretion of the Regional Manager.

GUIDELINES

• The placement of applicants with children 6 years of age or below in above ground level apartment and flat accommodation should only occur at the applicant’s insistence.

1.3 Housing Services Officer

Any allocations to an apartment/flat complex must be made in conjunction with the Housing Services Officer responsible for the block/complex.

2.1 See s11 and s12 Allocations Policy.

3.1 Examples:

• A single person may be allocated 2 or 3 bedroom accommodation.
• A single non-custodial parent with limited access to children may be allocated a bedroom for the children, despite the fact that they stay for limited periods only.
• A tenant wishing to sponsor relatives under an assurance of support may be allocated sufficient bedrooms for the sponsored family.
• A senior may be permitted accommodation with sufficient bedrooms for grandchildren to stay over.
TENANCY

MANAGEMENT

POLICY
PREAMBLE
This section deals with policies relating to the occupation of the Housing Authority’s property. It also deals with the rights and responsibilities of a tenant and the contractual arrangement of tenancy.

Where a tenant does not adhere to the contractual obligations of the Tenancy Agreement the Housing Authority will take legal action to recover its property within the provisions of the Residential Tenancies Act 1987 and reserves the right to withhold future housing assistance.

Continued public housing assistance is subject to a tenant’s ongoing eligibility. If a tenant becomes ineligible for public housing, the Housing Authority may commence action to terminate the tenancy agreement. Tenants who are eligible for public housing may be required to relocate to an alternative public housing rental property if the Housing Authority wishes to recover the property they currently occupy for a specific reason.

Where an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander tenancy is in jeopardy, the Regional Recovery Officer must consult and/or refer tenants to the Aboriginal Customer Support Officer employed in the relevant office, wherever possible.

Other sections relating to the occupation of a Housing Authority tenancy are in a number of other policy categories dealing with specific issues, such as tenant liability, water consumption and transfers and these categories should be consulted in reference to a particular issue.

The Housing Authority also has responsibilities under the contractual obligations of tenancy. These are:

- To provide security of assistance to tenants who abide by the conditions of their Tenancy Agreement and the Residential Tenancies Act 1987.
- To provide possession of a property which is clean and in good repair.
- To provide a tenant with quiet enjoyment of a property and only seek entry according to the provisions of the Residential Tenancies Act 1987.
- To provide a secure premises.
- To pay local authority and Water Corporation Rates.
- To provide and maintain the property in a reasonable state of repair and to be responsible for all maintenance and repairs that are not due to neglect, misuse, wilful damage and rubbish.
- To comply with relevant building, health and safety laws.
- To provide the tenant with a copy of the Tenancy Agreement.
- To keep density accommodation pest free, with limited responsibility for single detached accommodation.
- To ensure the privacy and confidentiality of tenants.
- To inspect the property to maintain contact with tenant and for asset management purposes.
TENANCY MANAGEMENT POLICY

Major Responsibilities of a Tenant

General

1. A tenant must abide by the conditions of the Tenancy Agreement and the Residential Tenancy Act 1987 if continuation of the tenancy is to be assured.

   1.1 It is a principle of the Housing Act 1980 that people in public rental housing shall have security of assistance, subject to the fulfilment by the tenant of the tenancy conditions.

2. A tenant must honour his/her financial responsibilities pay the rent payments as agreed and advise the Housing Authority immediately of any increase in household income of $10 per week or more.

   2.1 This includes additional household occupants, where those persons are in receipt of an income.

   2.2 Rental payments are made by either:
   • Centrelink (CLADD) for pension and beneficiary recipients
   • Direct Bank Debit or direct deduction from salary
   • The Housing Authority Card.

3. A tenant is responsible for the payment of all water consumption, gas, electricity, and telephone charges relating to the property and for contents insurance if required.

4. A tenant may not do anything on the premises, or permit someone else entering the premises with the tenant’s permission to do anything, which causes a nuisance.

   4.1 A tenant is responsible for the actions and behaviour of visitors to the property.

   4.2 Nuisance is defined as disruptive behaviour which substantially interferes with one or more neighbour’s use or enjoyment of their premises.
5. A tenant must not use the premises or permit the premises to be used for illegal purposes.

6. A tenant is responsible for keeping the premises clean and undamaged, garden and yard maintained.
   • Definition – Internal of the property free from rubbish, wall and doors undamaged with no holes, premises and fixtures clean. Yards – grass cut, gardens maintained and free of rubbish.

7. A tenant is responsible for all costs associated with the maintenance of the property due to neglect, misuse, and wilful damage and rubbish removal.

8. A tenant must report damage to the premises as soon as practicable after the occurrence.

5.1 See Illegal Use of Premises Policy.

6.1 A tenant must maintain the property including the garden and yard, commensurate with general street and community standards. Assistance to re-establish gardens may be given to new tenants if the grounds have been neglected by previous tenants.

6.2 The tenant is responsible for regularly testing safety devices and for advising the Housing Authority immediately if a smoke alarm, RCD or any other safety device is not functioning.

7.1 This is termed Tenant Liability (TL).

7.2 Where a person other than the tenant is lawfully on the premises, the tenant is responsible for and will be held liable for any act by that person if they intentionally or recklessly causes damage to the premises or to any neighbouring premises.
   • Factors to consider when assessing Tenant Liability: fair wear and tear, accidental damage and damage caused by family violence.
9. A tenant is not responsible for damage done by:

- Unknown persons, if the matter has been reported to the police and the tenant/s has provided the Housing Authority with a report number provided by the police; or

- Visitors to the property, if the matter has been reported to the police and the tenant has provided the Housing Authority with the report number and the tenant has taken reasonable precautions to prevent visitors from doing damage.

- The Family Violence Policy should be referred to in situations where family violence is suspected to have contributed to damage done.

10. Tenants must not keep unlicensed or unroadworthy vehicles on the premises without the written consent of the Housing Authority.

Householders and Visitors

11. Any person who resides at a public housing property and is not a signatory to the Tenancy Agreement is considered a householder, unless they meet the definition of a visitor.

12. A visitor is a person who has a primary place of residence other than the public housing property and stays at the public housing property for no more than 8 consecutive weeks.

9.1 Unknown persons committing offences such as vandalism or breaking and entering.

9.2 Where a property is abandoned, the ex-tenant will be responsible for any damage, including vandal damage, until the Housing Authority has completed the Property Condition Report (PCR).

10.1 “Vehicles” includes a car, truck, bus, caravan, boat and motorcycle.

10.2 Tenants may be granted up to 6 months to remove or license a vehicle.

11.1 A householder will have their income assessed for rent from the date they occupied the property.

11.2 The Housing Authority may permit the number of occupants to exceed the maximum number allowed under the Tenancy Agreement provided the correct rent is paid, there are no cases of disruptive behaviour and/or no violations of local authority by-laws.

12.1 Evidence may be requested to verify that a visitor has a permanent address elsewhere.

12.2 If a visitor remains at the property for more than 8 consecutive weeks they will be considered a householder and have their income assessed for rent from the 9th week.
Tenant Relocation

13. The Housing Authority may offer a tenant an alternative public housing rental property if the property they currently occupy is required by the Housing Authority.

13.1 Tenants may be required to relocate to an alternative public housing rental property if the property they occupy:

- has more bedrooms than the household is entitled to under the Allocations Policy
- is required by the Housing Authority for the purpose of redevelopment
- was purpose-built or modified for a person with a disability and the modifications are not required by any member of the existing household.

13.2 The Housing Authority will pay (by reimbursement to the tenant or direct payment of an account) all reasonable relocation costs and may offer additional incentives to the tenant. See - Transfer Policy - Transfer Costs .

13.3 The needs and individual circumstances of the tenant including their age and medical status will be taken into consideration by the Housing Authority when negotiating with a tenant to relocate.

13.4 If the tenant has been offered an alternative public housing rental property, the existing tenancy agreement may be terminated.

Local Authority By Laws/ Strata Title Rules

14. A tenant must abide by the by-laws of the local government authority governing the area in which the property is located.

14.1 Local authorities have jurisdiction over issues such as health, rubbish disposal, parking and animals.

14.2 The local authority has jurisdiction over working from a property.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>GUIDELINES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15. A tenant living in a strata title complex, must abide by the rules</td>
<td>14.3 Approval to work or run a business from home must be obtained from the</td>
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<td>laid down by the Strata Company.</td>
<td>local authority. Written permission to work or run a business from home</td>
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<td>must also be given by the Housing Authority.</td>
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<td>14.4 The Housing Authority will support any action initiated by a local</td>
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<td>authority against a tenant.</td>
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<td>tenant at sign-up.</td>
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<td>16. The tenant must occupy the property as their principal place of</td>
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<td>residence.</td>
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<td>Housing Authority, they are absent from the property for:</td>
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<td>• A continuous period of more than one month, or</td>
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<td>• Any periods, which in total exceeds three months of a continuous 12</td>
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<td>month period.</td>
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<td>17. A tenant intending to be absent from the property for a continuous</td>
<td>17.1 If consent for absence is given the tenant must:</td>
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<td>period of more than one month must obtain written consent from the</td>
<td>• Provide the Housing Authority with their contact details, and</td>
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<td>• Ensure that all conditions of their tenancy agreement, including the</td>
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<td>month before the intended absence.</td>
<td>payment of rent and other charges, are met for the entire period of</td>
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<td>absence.</td>
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<td>17.1 If consent for absence is given the tenant must:</td>
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<td>circumstances, assessed on a case by case basis, including but not</td>
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<td>living in remote/country areas of the state only).</td>
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<tr>
<td>18. The Housing Authority may give a tenant permission to have a</td>
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<td>housesitter look after their property for a maximum continuous period</td>
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</table>
TENANCY MANAGEMENT POLICY

POLICY

Cont.....Housesitting

18.2 The tenant must request permission in writing from their Housing Services Officer one month in advance of their absence from the property. The tenant must provide documented evidence to support their request.

18.3 A housesitting arrangement will not be approved where the tenant and/or the housesitter have an unsatisfactory tenancy history with the Housing Authority, including but not limited to:
- debt
- history of eviction
- previous history of illegal use of premises
- prior substantiated complaints of disruptive behaviour.

18.4 Even if the housesitter and the tenant satisfy the housesitting requirements, the Housing Authority may, in its absolute discretion, refuse to grant permission for a housesitting arrangement.

18.5 The Housing Authority’s tenant remains the legal tenant and is responsible for property standards and all other obligations of maintaining the tenancy in accordance with the requirements of their tenancy agreement.

18.6 The housesitter does not have to satisfy the Housing Authority’s eligibility criteria but they must be suited to the dwelling type (e.g. only seniors can live in seniors’ accommodation). See Allocations Policy.

18.7 The tenant reserves the right to be able to return to the property at any time and resume immediate occupancy.

18.8 Subject to agreement by the tenant, a housesitter may continue to reside as a householder when the tenant returns. In this case, a new rent assessment will be required and backdated to the date that the tenant returned.

18.9 The housesitter has no right to take over the tenancy if the tenant does not return.
Cont.....Housesitting

19. A housesitter is a person who “occupies” a public housing property for no longer than 6 months and provides security and access to the property when required by the Housing Authority while the tenant is absent.

20. The tenant is responsible for maintaining all payments related to the tenancy during the period of approved housesitting.

Subletting

21. Housing Authority tenants are not permitted to sublet their public housing property at any time. A subletting request will not be approved by the Housing Authority.

Incarcerated Tenants

22. A tenant sentenced to a term of imprisonment, for which the minimum period to be served is six months or greater, will be considered to have ceased to occupy the property.

23. A tenant imprisoned for less than six months may be absent from the property for the term of imprisonment with the written consent of the Housing Authority.

19.1 A person is considered a housesitter only when the tenant is absent from the property during a period of approved absence by the Housing Authority.

19.2 A Housesitter is not considered a visitor even when a housesitting arrangement is less than eight weeks.

20.1 The tenant must continue to pay the same amount of rent they were paying prior to the housesitting approval (either 25% of the assessable household income or the market rent, whichever is the lower amount).

20.2 The housesitter will not be charged rent by the Housing Authority during a period of approved housesitting.

20.3 The income of the housesitter will not be included in the rent assessment.

20.4 Where the tenant fails to return to the property by the end date of the approved housesitting period and the housesitter remains in occupation, the tenant will be charged Market Rent from the end date of the period of approved absence, until the date the housesitter vacates.

21.1 Subletting is to lease or rent all or part of a leased or rented property to another person. (see Illegal Occupation).

22.1 The tenant will be considered to have ceased occupying the property from the date the sentence is ordered.

22.2 The Housing Authority will commence action to recover the property.

22.3 If the tenant has a partner who is not a co-tenant, the tenant can request for the partner to be added as a tenant.

23.1 The tenant must request the consent of the Housing Authority within 14 days of imprisonment.
23.2 The tenant may request the consent of the Housing Authority to have someone housesit the property while they are in prison, in accordance with the Tenancy Management Policy – Housesitting. The Housing Authority may grant consent with or without conditions.

23.3 If consent for the absence is given, the tenant must provide the Housing Authority with their contact details and ensure that all conditions of their tenancy agreement, including the payment of rent and other charges, are met for the entire period of absence, regardless of whether there is a housesitting arrangement in place.

23.4 The tenant will be deemed to be receiving the statutory benefits they would otherwise be entitled to for the purpose of determining rent for the period of imprisonment. See Rent to Income Policy.

23.5 Where the tenant has a partner or co-tenant as part of the tenancy agreement, the partner or co-tenant will be required to submit a new rent assessment form.

24.1 All efforts to contact the legal tenant will be made including making contact with the next of kin and/or friend/s as provided by the tenant/s at sign up.

24.2 If the legal tenant cannot be contacted or does not return to the property it will be treated as illegally occupied and action will be taken to remove the illegal occupant.

24.3 The legal tenant is responsible for any damage to the property, rent arrears and water consumption charges including legal costs to recover the property.

24.4 Confirmation in writing should be obtained from the illegal occupant on the circumstances of the sublet to confirm why they are occupying the property and the whereabouts of the legal tenant.
Improvements or Additions to a Property and Reimbursement

25. A tenant may apply to the Housing Authority requesting permission to make improvements or additions to their public housing rental property.

25.1 Reasons for application may be security (e.g. enclosed back veranda), medical (e.g. bathroom modifications for disabled tenant), or quality of life (e.g. bedroom additions). If there are any doubts, this should be referred to regional management for a decision.

25.2 Tenants may request to carry out the improvements/additions at their own expense or request that the cost be met by the Housing Authority.

25.3 Improvements/additions undertaken by the Housing Authority are subject to a satisfactory tenancy history and availability of funds.

25.4 Tenants requesting Housing Authority permission to undertake their own improvements/additions must have written approval from all applicable governing bodies (e.g. local council) and provide copies to the Housing Authority.

25.5 A transfer may be considered an option where urgent modifications are required.

25.6 The cost of removal of sub-standard improvements/additions will be charged to the tenant as tenant liability.

25.7 As of 28 March 2016 the Housing Authority does not permit the installation of swimming pools and/or spa pools which can hold water greater than 300mm in depth.

Tenants who received written consent from the Housing Authority before this date will only be required to remove the swimming pool and/or spa pool (including safety barriers):

- At the end of the structural life of the swimming pool and/or spa pool
- Before vacating the property
- If they fail to comply with legislative, local council or Housing Authority requirements.

25.8 Tenants who received written consent from the Housing Authority before 28 March 2016 to install a swimming pool and/or spa pool will not be permitted to replace the swimming pool and/or spa pool at the end of its useful/structural life.
Cont.....Improvements or Additions to a Property and Reimbursement

26. Where a tenant makes additions to a property at his/her own expense, but on Housing Authority land in order to house another person/s, the other person/s are regarded as other household members for the purpose of rental assessment.

27. There will be no reimbursement unless the Housing Authority plans to carry out the improvement as part of upgrade and then only at a depreciated value, and is subject to the correct approvals being obtained.

Surveillance Devices

28. A tenant wishing to install a surveillance device, at their expense, must seek approval from the Housing Authority. The Housing Authority reserves the right to approve or decline a tenant’s request to install and/or the ongoing use of a surveillance device.

28.1 Tenants must comply with the Surveillance Devices Act 1998.

28.2 A surveillance device must not be directed at, or be able to view other people’s private premises including doorways, windows, balconies or entrances or observe private activities or conversations.

28.3 A breach of the Surveillance Devices Act 1998 is an offence and may result in action being taken by the Police.

28.4 A tenant found to be operating a surveillance device without the required approval and/or in an illegal manner will place their tenancy at risk.

Transfer of a Tenancy Agreement

29. Where a joint tenancy ends due to the death or departure of a co-tenant, the tenancy can be transferred into the names of the remaining signatories to the tenancy agreement.

29.1 Where a joint tenancy ends due to the death of a co-tenant, a property inspection to apportion tenant liability and the signing of a new tenancy agreement is not required.

29.2 Where a co-tenant vacates, a property inspection must be conducted and tenant liability apportioned at the time that the tenancy is transferred to the remaining tenant/s. A new tenancy agreement is required.
TENANCY MANAGEMENT POLICY

POLICY

Cont.....Transfer of a Tenancy Agreement

30. There is no automatic right of succession to a tenancy by another household member who is not a signatory to the tenancy agreement.

GUIDELINES

29.3 If the remaining person (or persons) is no longer eligible for the number of bedrooms in the property, the Housing Authority reserves the right to transfer that person to accommodation for which they are now eligible (see also Tenant Eligibility Policy).

29.4 Where the tenancy was a family relationship, the party with the custody of the children is regarded as the legal tenant.

30.1 Another household member may apply to take over the tenancy.

30.2 The Housing Authority may or may not approve this application depending on the householder's circumstance, having regard to factors such as:
- Length of time the householder has occupied the property
- Relationship to legal tenant
- Eligibility for assistance (see Eligibility Policy)
- Householder's current status with the Housing Authority.

Pets

31. Tenants may have a cat or dog only if the property has an enclosed, non-communal yard and if the relevant Acts, Regulations and local government by-laws are not contravened.

31.1 Tenants are not permitted to keep a dangerous dog (restricted breed). These breeds are listed in the Dog Regulations 2013 as Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro, Japanese Tosa, American Pit Bull Terriers, Pit Bull Terrier, Perro de Presa Canario and any other breed of dog the importation of which is prohibited absolutely by the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956.

31.2 Tenants are not permitted to keep a dog that is a mix of 2 or more breeds, where one of the breeds is a restricted breed.

31.3 Existing tenants who at 22 April 2002 owned a dog that is listed as a restricted breed may retain the dog for the life of the dog. The dog cannot be replaced by another dog listed as a restricted breed.
Cont.....Pets

Household Pests
32. A tenant is responsible for the eradication of cockroaches, fleas and vermin in single detached accommodation.

31.4 It is the tenant’s responsibility to ensure that a dangerous dog that is either a restricted breed or declared (an individual dog that has shown itself to be aggressive and is consequently declared dangerous by a local council or its authorised agent) is kept in a child proof enclosure from which it cannot escape and from which it cannot be released without the authorisation of the person responsible for the dog. The tenant is responsible for putting up warning signs, of the type described in the Dog Regulations 2013, on all entrances where the dog is kept.

31.5 Failure to comply will result in the Housing Authority referring the matter to the local government for action under the Dog Act 1976.

32.1 This is not applicable where the infestation occurs within 3 months of occupation.

32.2 The Housing Authority is responsible for the eradication of cockroaches, fleas and vermin control in apartments, duplexes townhouse and pensioner complexes.

32.3 See R2.1.11 Pest in the Maintenance Policy Manual.

Ending of a Tenancy by Tenant or the Housing Authority
33. A tenant must give the Housing Authority 21 days’ notice in writing of intention to vacate a property, and remains responsible for the property as legal tenant, until the tenancy agreement is formally ended.

33.1 The advice must be signed, stating the date that the tenant intends to vacate and supplying a forwarding address.

33.2 Pre-vacation Inspection – When the 21 days’ notice is received, the Housing Authority will make arrangements to inspect the property and discuss with the tenant the vacated maintenance requirements and any estimated vacated tenant liability (see also s9.2).

34. The Housing Authority may terminate a tenancy due to a breach of the Residential Tenancies Act 1987.
Investigation of Complaints Against Housing Authority Tenants

35. The Housing Authority will investigate complaints by neighbours and members of the general public against Housing Authority tenants, where it appears that the tenant may have been in breach of the requirement of the Tenancy Agreement.

Complaints by Housing Authority Tenants Against Neighbours

36. The Housing Authority is unable to investigate complaints by Housing Authority tenants against private owners or private rental tenants. However, if a Housing Authority tenant notifies the Housing Authority in writing of problems with neighbours, including claims of harassment and aggravation, the Housing Authority will record this correspondence on the tenant’s personal file for future reference. The tenant will then be advised to pursue a complaint through an appropriate authority such as Police or local authority, civil action through the courts and/or mediation.

Debt to the Housing Authority

37. The Housing Authority will pursue the recovery of a debt through the provisions of the Residential Tenancies Act 1987 where the tenant does not repay the monies owing.

38. A tenant with a debt to the Housing Authority will be requested to enter into an agreement to repay the debt in affordable instalments and the payments must be maintained until the debt is cleared. For all debts, the Housing Authority should seek an arrangement so that the combined total of the tenant’s arrears and current rent does not exceed 30% of their total assessable household income.

35.1 Complainants must have first complained to the relevant authority/agency. Examples:
- Noise- local authority/Police
- Animals - local authority, RSPCA
- Health - local authority
- Fighting – Police
- Family matters - Department of Community Development, Family Court.

36.1 Personal antagonism between neighbours is a civil matter and must be resolved through mediation or the civil courts.
Cont…Debt to the Housing Authority
39. Tenants with a debt to the Housing Authority will not be assisted with property maintenance or upgrade above normal health and safety requirements.

Bankruptcy of a Tenant In Occupation
40. Tenants with a debt to the Housing Authority who make application for bankruptcy are subject to scrutiny as to whether the application was made to avoid the repayment of a debt to the Housing Authority. Such tenants are in breach of the terms of the tenancy agreement and where a court order has been obtained before the application for bankruptcy, action to evict may continue

Policy
40.1 See Eligibility Relating to a Bankrupt Applicant Policy.

GUIDELINES

Purchase of a Rental Property
41. A tenant may make application to purchase their rental property if they are eligible.
41.1 Information and brochures regarding the Housing Authority’s sales programs to be provided to tenant.
41.2 Tenants are to be advised if the property is not available to purchase. In this case, provided the tenant is eligible to purchase a property, tenant should be advised that the Housing Authority will canvass for a suitable property which it is willing to sell to the tenant.

Liquor Restricted Premises Declarations
42. A tenant may apply for a Liquor Restricted Premises Declaration to be issued for their rental property.
42.1 The Housing Authority will not apply on behalf of a tenant.
42.2 The Housing Authority will support all applications by tenants for their rental properties to be declared a liquor restricted premises.

43. The Housing Authority may apply for a Liquor Restricted Premises Declaration to be issued for:
   - an entire unit complex, or
   - the common grounds of a unit complex.
43.1 The decision to apply on behalf of an entire complex or common grounds of a unit complex is guided by the requirements of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and is at the discretion of the Regional Manager.
**Abandoned Premises**

44. If a tenant is believed to have abandoned the premises, the Housing Authority may enter the premises to inspect and secure the property in accordance with the *Residential Tenancies Act 1987*.

**Abandoned Goods and Documents**

45. If goods and documents are left on the premises more than 2 days after the termination of the tenancy, the Housing Authority will dispose of, remove, store or sell them.

44.1 If the Housing Authority suspects a premises is abandoned every effort will be made to contact the tenant before commencing action under the *Residential Tenancies Act 1987*.

45.1 The action taken will depend on the type of items abandoned and the value of these items.
DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT POLICY

PREAMBLE
Public housing tenants will be held accountable for behaviour that causes disruption to persons in the immediate vicinity of the premises. The Housing Authority’s responses will be proportionate to the severity of the behaviour.

Legal action may be pursued by the Housing Authority after a prescribed number of sanctions (known as strikes) are issued within a twelve (12) month period. A strike is a notice issued to a tenant following an investigation into a complaint against the tenant where they have been found to have caused or permitted a nuisance. The number of strikes to be issued before the initiation of legal proceedings will depend on the severity of the incident, which is defined in policy.

Action will be taken only where the Housing Authority is satisfied that an incident occurred which caused a nuisance to a person in the immediate vicinity of the premises, interfered with their comfort or privacy or posed a safety risk, and that the legal tenant caused or permitted the incident.

The Housing Authority will take action in line with this policy in all instances other than in exceptional circumstances as approved by Executive Management.

POLICY

1. The Housing Authority will investigate complaints against public housing tenants for disruptive behaviour.

2. Strike notices may be issued against tenants where the Housing Authority is satisfied that disruptive behaviour occurred. The response taken will be based on the nature, severity level and rate of occurrence of the behaviour over a defined time period.

Dangerous Behaviour
Response: Pursue legal action seeking the immediate termination of the tenancy following corroborated incidents.

GUIDELINES

1.1 Complaints against tenants will be investigated in a consistent and timely manner. An assessment of the nature of a particular incident will determine the course of action the Housing Authority will take in addressing a corroborated complaint of disruptive behaviour.

2.1 Corroborated incidents of disruptive behaviour will be assessed against the following definitions to determine the level of severity and the sanction to be applied:

Definitions:
Dangerous Behaviour - activities that pose a demonstrable risk to the safety or security of residents or property; or have resulted in injury to a person in the immediate vicinity of the premises with subsequent Police charges or conviction.
**DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT POLICY**

**POLICY**

**Serious Disruptive Behaviour**
Response: A first and final strike may be issued following corroborated incidents of serious disruptive behaviour. A subsequent incident of similar severity within twelve (12) months may result in legal action being pursued.

**Disruptive Behaviour**
Response: A strike will be issued for corroborated incidents of disruptive behaviour. Legal action may be pursued if three (3) strikes are issued within twelve (12) months.

**GUIDELINES**

Serious Disruptive Behaviour - activities that intentionally or recklessly cause serious disturbance to persons in the immediate vicinity of the premises, or which could reasonably be expected to cause concern for the safety or security of a person or their property.

Disruptive Behaviour - Activities that cause a nuisance, or unreasonably interfere with the peace, privacy or comfort, of persons in the immediate vicinity of the premises.
## ILLEGAL USE OF PREMISES POLICY

The Illegal Use of Premises policy outlines the Housing Authority’s response to illegal activities arising out of the use of public housing premises. The Housing Authority will respond to the illegal use of public housing premises in proportion to the severity of the offence.

The Housing Authority will take immediate action where there is sufficient evidence to seek the termination of the tenancy agreement. In most circumstances legal action will commence where a tenant or any other person, given express or implied permission to be on the premises by the tenant, has been convicted of an offence that warrants termination of the tenancy agreement. In some circumstances legal action will commence before a conviction.

If the public housing premises are a necessary component of criminal activity, it will be considered that the premises have been used for an illegal purpose and therefore action will be taken in line with this policy.

The Housing Authority will take action in line with this policy in all instances. Discretion cannot be applied by regional staff. In exceptional circumstances Executive Management may approve alternative action.

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<tr>
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<td>1.1 This includes any illegal activity occurring on the premises or arising out of the use of the premises.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. The Housing Authority will respond to illegal activities occurring on the premises or arising out of the use of the premises in proportion to the severity of the activity.</td>
<td>1.2 A tenant is responsible for any illegal act by a person who has been given express or implied permission to be on the premises by the tenant.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. The Housing Authority will apply to the court to seek the immediate termination of the tenancy agreement in response to dangerous illegal activities occurring on the premises or arising out of the use of the premises.</td>
<td>2.1 Where the activity causes considerable concern for, or is likely to impact on, the safety or security of the community or is sufficiently serious to warrant such action, the Housing Authority will apply to the court to seek the termination of the tenancy agreement.</td>
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<td>- This includes drug offences such as the unlawful sale, supply or manufacture of a prohibited drug.</td>
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<td>2.2 Where the activity does not cause significant concern for, or is unlikely to impact on, the safety or security of the community, the action taken by the Housing Authority will be based on the circumstances.</td>
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<td>3.1 Dangerous illegal activities include activities that pose an immediate risk to the safety or security of people or property.</td>
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TENANT ELIGIBILITY POLICY

PREAMBLE

The Housing Authority has strict eligibility criteria for all applicants for public rental housing. These are based on an applicant’s income, assets (property/land and cash assets), citizenship and residency status, age, and family size and subject to proof of identity.

Eligibility assessments are undertaken to ensure that tenants are eligible for public housing. While not all applicant criteria will be applicable to tenants, criteria relating to income, cash assets, ownership of property and land and family size/number of bedrooms continue to apply. Therefore, after occupation, the Housing Authority reviews ALL tenancies on an annual basis, to ensure continuing eligibility. Where a tenant’s circumstances and their housing requirements have changed the Housing Authority may take action to ensure that housing assistance is provided to those in greatest need.

Tenants who cease to be eligible for public housing assistance or who fail to provide income details when required will no longer be eligible to have their income calculated by reference to income (see Rent to Income Policy) and will be required to pay Individual Property Market Rent.

Income Eligibility

Income eligibility for the Housing Authority’s rental accommodation must be demonstrated and proven at the time of:
(1) Application for rental assistance
(2) Allocation of a property
(3) For the purpose of rent assessment and
(4) Annually, for the purpose of proving ongoing eligibility for public rental housing.

Applicants and tenants must also immediately declare to the Housing Authority any change in their financial circumstances as they occur.

In such situations an applicant or tenant must disclose and provide details of all sources of wage or salary income, statutory income, assets, shares or bonds, chattels, real property, assets held in corporate trust, inheritances, family trusts and any other income sources to which they are beneficially entitled. Failure to disclose all sources of income will result in the withdrawal of an application/allocation and recovery action in the case of an existing tenant.

Applicants or tenants who are unsure of what they are required to declare should discuss the matter with a Housing Authority’s Regional Officer.
TENANT ELIGIBILITY POLICY

Tenants who become ineligible after signing the tenancy agreement.

All tenants in occupation who become ineligible for continued public rental housing assistance will be advised of alternative housing options to consider including:

- Home ownership options
- Bond Assistance Loan
- National Rental Affordable Scheme
- Private Rental Brokerage Scheme; and
- Affordable Rental Housing options through the community housing sector.

The Housing Authority will only allow a period of up to 6 months (except tenants residing in remote locations) from the date ineligibility is established for the tenant to source alternative housing. Should a tenant not pursue or take up any of these options, the Housing Authority will seek vacant possession of the premises at the expiry of the vacation period where a tenant does not source alternative housing options.

Income ineligible tenants residing in North West and remote locations.

Tenants in this category have up to 2 years from the date ineligibility is established to source alternative housing options.
TENANT ELIGIBILITY POLICY

POLICY

1. Tenants must remain eligible for assistance during their tenancy.

2 Tenants with property or land will be required to pay an Individual Property Market Rent for the property. Tenants, who already pay a market rent, will be required to pay the current private market rent for the property.

3 Tenants who have given false or misleading information on an Application or rent assessment form will be subject to the same action as tenants who are no longer eligible. The Housing Authority also reserves the right to take criminal action in such cases.

GUIDELINES

1.1 Tenants must

- Not acquire property or land
- Not acquire cash assets in excess of $38 400 (single) or $63 800 couple, seniors 60 years and over $80 000 (singles or couple) or $100 000 (people with disabilities) and
- Remain eligible for the number of bedrooms allocated.

2.1 The Housing Authority will give 60 days’ notice of an increase in rent, as required by the Residential Tenancies Act 1987.

2.2 Both will be backdated to the purchase of the property.
RENT TO INCOME POLICY
### RENT TO INCOME POLICY

**PREAMBLE**

The Housing Authority requires tenants to pay either 25% of the household income as rent or the market rent for the property.

Tenants eligible to pay rent by reference to the household income will pay no more than 25% of the household income as rent. If 25% of the household income is more than the market rent then the rent payable is the market rent.

Tenants not eligible to pay rent by reference to the household income may pay a market rent which is more than 25% of the household income.

The Housing Authority is committed to providing a rent setting method that is fair and equitable for all public housing tenants.

After 28 March 2016 any income that is regular, ongoing and provided to meet the cost of living is considered by the Housing Authority to be “assessable” and used to calculate how much rent is payable. In addition, some previously non-assessable incomes and incomes assessed at less than 25% in the rent calculation became assessable at the full 25% rate from 28 March 2016. If applicable, tenants who occupied their current rental property before 28 March 2016 will receive rent increases until they are paying 25% of the assessable household income as rent or the market rent. The rent increases will be staged with increase limits applied to reduce the impact of the changes for these tenants.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>GUIDELINES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1. Tenants are required to pay 25% of the total assessable gross (before tax) income of all household members who have reached 16 years of age as rent or market rent, whichever is the lower amount. | 1.1 Assessable income includes:  
- “General income” - e.g. wages, salaries, superannuation, salary sacrificed amounts, child maintenance and interest from financial assets including savings  
- “Statutory Income” - e.g. pensions, benefits and allowances. |
| Any income which is regular, ongoing and provided to meet the general costs of living is considered assessable income for the purpose of calculating rent. | 1.2 Assessable income is further defined as payments that:  
- are or can be received as regular fortnightly income and therefore can be planned for;  
- are ongoing and for which recipients do not need to requalify for once eligible;  
- temporarily replace a recipient’s primary form of income - e.g. Paid Parental Leave;  
- are for, or able to be used for general livings costs. |
2. “Non-assessable” incomes are not used in calculating how much rent is payable. The Housing Authority currently treats the following incomes as non-assessable for the calculation of rent.

NON-ASSESSABLE GOVERNMENT INCOME PAYMENTS

Abstudy Pensioner Education Supplement
AIC Pensioner Education Supplement
Assisted and Isolated Children
Attendant Allowance
Austudy Education Pension Allowance
Bereavement Payment
Child Disability Allowance – One Off
Clothing Allowance (DVA)
Crisis Payment
Dad and Partner Pay
Decoration Allowance (DVA)
Disaster Recovery Allowance
DVA Disability Pension - Extreme Disablement Adjustment
DVA Disability Pension - General Rate
DVA Disability Pension - Intermediate Rate
DVA Disability Pension - Special Rate
Education Tax Refund Payment
Emergency Payment
Emergency Recovery Payment (including Burial Assistance, Hospital, medical and Repatriation Expenses)
Essential Medical Equipment Payment
Exceptional Circumstances Relief Payment
Ex-Gratia Payment
FACS Pensioner Education Supplement
Flexible Support Payment
Funeral Expenses – One Off
HECS or Course Fees
Income Support Bonus
Mobility Allowance
Newborn Supplement
Newborn Upfront Payment
Orphans Allowance/Pension (DVA)
Overseas Add-On Payment (For Child)
Pensions Loan Scheme
Permanent Impairment Payment (DVA)
Prisoner of War Recognition Supplement (DVA)
Recreation Transport Allowance (DVA)
Remote Allowance (DVA)
School Kids Bonus
Special Employment Advance
Stillborn Payment
Student Education Payments (DVA)
Student Start-Up Scholarship
Veterans Supplement (DVA)
3. Tenants who are not eligible to have their rent calculated by reference to income will pay the market rent for the property.

3.1 Tenants may be required to pay market rent if they:
- are ineligible for public housing (refer to the Tenant Eligibility Policy for information about tenants residing in the North West or remote locations and those who become ineligible after occupying the premises);
- do not keep the Housing Authority up to date with changes to their household income;
- do not respond to the annual income review; or
- leave the premises for longer than 6 months.

3.2 Tenants paying rent under this option may pay a market rent which is more than 25% of their household assessable income.

4. Applicants will be required to provide documentation as proof of income.

4.1 Centrelink and Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) pension or benefit recipients will need to provide a Statement of Benefit from Centrelink or DVA that is not more than four weeks’ old. The Housing Authority reserves the right to request such proof of a lesser period. A claim for benefit is not sufficient evidence.

4.2 Wage and Salary earners will need to provide their last 3 months’ payslips if available, or alternatively have their employer complete an Employer Income Verification Statement. If payslips are provided, an average income will be determined for the rent assessment even if the payslips cover less than a 3 month period. Any variation in income will be taken into account for the rent assessment once 3 months’ payslip history has been provided.
Salary Sacrifice

5. Salary sacrificed payments (including superannuation contributions) are included in the total assessable income.

Income from Assets

6. For the purpose of the rent to income assessment, all household members are required to declare all financial and property assets and income derived from these assets. Where an income from these assets is not provided, is not received, cannot be substantiated or does not accrue, then an income will be deemed, based on the net value of the asset, for the purposes of the rent to income assessment.

Income from Self Employment

7. Self-employed tenants will have their rent to income assessed on the basis of their taxable income or an equivalent award wage for the occupation in that industry, whichever is the greater.

4.3 **Overseas pension recipients** must provide proof of the pension source and amount.

4.4 For the purpose of determining rent, **tenants not in receipt of an income or with an income lower than the base statutory benefit** who are eligible to make application for a statutory benefit but choose not to, will be deemed to be receiving the base statutory benefit for which they would be eligible. Examples:

- A person who loses their job, but would prefer to live off savings than apply for unemployment benefits.
- A person who loses all or part of their payment for a period because they have breached the Centrelink Activity Test.

5.1 The salary sacrificed component is not deducted from the gross (before tax) income for the rent calculation.

6.1 The deeming rate that is applied to the value of financial and property assets is in line with Centrelink’s deeming rate for financial assets. (See Eligibility Policy for definition).

7.1 Self-employed tenants will need to provide their last financial year income tax assessment from the ATO. If they have difficulties in supplying this documentation, they will be assessed at the equivalent award rate for the occupation in that industry.
Lump Sum Compensation and Severance Payments

8. Tenants in receipt of a lump sum compensation or severance payment will continue to have rent assessed on the same income they received before the receipt of the lump sum payment, for the period that they are excluded from receiving a Centrelink benefit or allowance.

7.2 Where a household continues to be eligible for part or full Centrelink entitlements, including the New Enterprise Incentive Scheme (NEIS), then the assessable income will be the Centrelink entitlement or equivalent and the estimated profit from self-employment.

7.3 For the purpose of determining rent, where a couple are in a business partnership and the level of assessable income is less than an award wage for a similar occupation or trade, then only one wage is deemed.

7.4 The following is provided as an example only.

A taxi driver is considered self-employed. As there is no award for taxi drivers the Transport Workers (Passengers vehicle) Award is the closest equivalent.

- A fulltime taxi driver working 38 hours per week would have an assessable income of the award rate.

A part time taxi driver’s assessable income will be calculated by multiplying the number of hours worked by the hourly rate. The hourly rate is calculated by dividing the award rate by 38 hours.

8.1 Centrelink excludes a person from receiving a benefit or allowance for a period of time after the receipt of a lump sum compensation payment. The exclusion period is based upon Centrelink calculations regarding the component of the payment that is for loss of income.

8.2 Centrelink may exclude a person from receiving a benefit or allowance for a period of time after the receipt of a lump sum severance payment. Centrelink’s Unemployment Non-Payment Period may apply if a person becomes unemployed voluntarily or is dismissed by their employer due to misconduct.
Child Maintenance Payments

9. Child maintenance payments will be assessed as part of the household income.

Absentee Tenant Minimum Rent

10. Tenants in sole occupation who are required to enter supported accommodation will have their rent reduced to the minimum rent of $10 per week for a period of 3 months.

8.3 Any interest received from the lump sum payment will be included as income.

8.4 Where the partner continues to be eligible for Centrelink entitlement other than Family Allowance, then this amount may not be assessed if this causes income to be double counted.

9.1 Discretion may be exercised where it can be proved that maintenance payments are not regular.

10.1 This is applicable to tenants who are entering into a specific rehabilitation program, respite, nursing home and outpatient treatment where they are required to pay rent or lodgings to another organisation.

10.2 Tenants who are escaping Family Violence and are residing in a Women’s Refuge will have their application for Absentee Tenant Minimum Rent policy considered after a minimum of 7 days in a Women’s Refuge. The tenant must provide documentation to verify that they are residing in a refuge and unable to return to their tenancy. Verification may include a letter from the women’s refuge, a copy of current violence restraining orders, support letter from the Police Domestic Violence Resource and Referral Centre. The letter must advise the reason why they are unable to return to their property. (Refer to Family Violence Policy).

10.3 Public housing tenants are eligible for Centrelink Rent Assistance when in supported accommodation.
RENT TO INCOME POLICY

POLICY

11. Tenants and other household members receiving a non-assessable DVA disability pension will have their rent assessed using the full rate of the Centrelink benefit they would otherwise be entitled to receive.

Non-assessable DVA disability pensions:
- DVA Disability Pension - General Rate
- DVA Disability Pension - Intermediate Rate
- DVA Disability Pension - Special Rate (also commonly known as totally and permanently incapacitated pension)
- DVA Disability Pension - Extreme Disablement Adjustment.

GUIDELINES

10.4 A review will be undertaken at the end of 3 months. Absentee Minimum Rent can be cancelled at any time during the 3 month period if the tenant returns to the property or is found to be ineligible for the rent concession.

10.5 If there are other household members the rent is reassessed on their income only and no income details are entered for the tenant.

10.6 Tenants are to provide supporting documentation verifying that they are entering into a specific program to be entitled to Absentee Tenant Minimum Rent. Should they not remain in the program or are absent from the property for a period that is less than 3 months the Housing Authority is to be advised immediately they return to the tenancy and a new Rent Assessment Form is to be completed and submitted to the Housing Authority.

10.7 The tenant must advise the Housing Authority of contact address and telephone number(s) of the person(s) who will be taking care of the property during the absence period. The Housing Authority will enter into negotiations with the tenant and/or the nominated person in regard to property care and maintenance during the absence period.

11.1 Where a non-assessable DVA disability pension is received either as the sole source of income or in combination with a Centrelink pension, the full Centrelink benefit rate (Age or Disability Support Pension - single or partnered rate as appropriate) is assessed for the rent calculation. The DVA disability pension is not assessed.

Department of Veteran's Affairs (DVA) Disability Pensions

Non-assessable DVA disability pensions:
- DVA Disability Pension - General Rate
- DVA Disability Pension - Intermediate Rate
- DVA Disability Pension - Special Rate (also commonly known as totally and permanently incapacitated pension)
- DVA Disability Pension - Extreme Disablement Adjustment.
Tenants Housing Migrants with Assurances of Support or Persons Seeking Asylum

12. A Migrant with an Assurance of Support or a person seeking asylum in Australia who is housed by a tenant is not regarded as being in receipt of a statutory income and rent will be calculated using the total assessable gross income of all other household members.

12.1 Migrants with assurances of support or persons seeking asylum in Australia are not entitled to statutory benefit from Centrelink and are not to be confused with tenants who are eligible for Centrelink payments but do not apply for them.

12.2 Where the migrant or person seeking asylum in Australia is the partner of a single tenant who is in receipt of a Centrelink benefit, the Housing Authority will assess the tenant at the rate of income for couples, as determined by Centrelink.

12.3 Where a migrant with an Assurance of Support or a person seeking asylum in Australia is housed by a tenant, transfer to alternate accommodation in order to accommodate the increase in family size is not available.

Centenarians

13. Tenants and household members reaching 100 years of age will have their income excluded from the rent calculation from the date of their 100th birthday.

13.1 The requirement for the tenant to advise the Housing Authority of any changes to the income or details of household members will remain. Rent will be calculated using the total assessable gross income of all household members excluding the centenarian (100 year old person).
Changes to Household Members and/or Household Income

14. Tenants are required to advise the Housing Authority immediately if there is any change to the household composition and/or household income of $10 per week or more by submitting a completed Rent Assessment form.

15. Tenants who do not submit a completed Rent Assessment form when required will be charged market rent.

Backdating of Rent

16. Rent charges will be backdated where the tenant’s weekly household income increased by $10 per week or more and the tenant did not advise the Housing Authority by submitting a completed Rent Assessment form.

17. The Housing Authority is not liable to repay an overpayment of rent if the tenant does not immediately advise the Housing Authority of a decrease in household income by submitting a completed Rent Assessment form.

14.1 Completed Rent Assessment forms submitted by tenants will be processed immediately by the Housing Authority.

14.2 Any rent increase will be effective from the date that the household income changed.

15.1 Tenants submitting a completed Rent Assessment form after the due date will have the rent subsidy, if applicable, reinstated effective from the date that the Rent Assessment form was received by the Housing Authority.

16.1 Rent charges will be backdated to the date that the weekly household income increased by $10 or more.

16.2 Backdating rent charges for a period greater than 3 months must be authorised by a Housing Authority Manager.

16.3 Regional Management will consider the individual circumstances of the tenant and may exercise discretion on compassionate or medical grounds.
INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY MARKET RENTS POLICY

The Housing Authority assesses rental payments by two separate processes. A Rent to Income assessment is based on the tenant’s income and not the market features of the property occupied (See Rent to Income Policy).

An Individual Property Market Rent is charged where a tenant is not eligible to have the rent calculated in reference to income and the rent is based on the market features of a property. Under an Individual Property Market Rent, the market features of a property are assessed by data supplied by the Valuer General’s Office (VGO) and reviewed annually.

The VGO bases the market value of a property, on four property attributes and the location. These are:

1. Dwelling type: Whether the property is a single detached house, a medium density/grouped housing complex or a flat/apartment
2. The number of bedrooms contained in the property
3. Construction Material – Whether the property is brick/masonry or frame construction.
4. The age of the dwelling
5. The locational index. This is based on factors such as the suburb in which the property is located. It is further categorised by region in which the property is located – metropolitan/country, northwest (including Kalgoorlie/Boulder).

If you wish to know the market rent placed on an individual property, contact the Housing Authority’s regional or branch office responsible for the management of the accommodation.
TRANSFER POLICY

PREAMBLE

To ensure public housing stock is utilised appropriately and meets the changing needs of public housing tenants, the Housing Authority may approve a request from a tenant to transfer to a different property or the Housing Authority may require a tenant to move a different property. Tenants wanting to transfer must meet the Housing Authority’s eligibility criteria.

There are two ways by which a tenant may make application for a transfer. These include:

- **Eligibility Transfer:** applies only to families who have accepted apartment accommodation and/or seniors in bed-sitters. It does not apply to any other tenancy. This will be on a ‘wait turn’ basis – that is, the application is listed in order of date of lodgement in a ‘queue’ order and an allocation will be received when the applicant’s turn on the waiting list has been reached for their most preferred zone.

- **Priority Transfer:** undertaken where the tenant has a housing need and they meet the eligibility criteria for priority assistance (see Priority Housing Need Policy)

The Housing Authority may relocate a tenant to an alternative public housing rental property if the property they currently occupy is required by the Housing Authority (see Tenancy Management Policy).

The Transfer Policy must be read in line with the Priority Housing Need Policy, the New Living Policy and the Tenancy Management Policy.
GENERAL CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL CATEGORIES OF TRANSFER (excluding Tenant Relocation)

All Transfers
1. A tenant may transfer from one property to another, subject to meeting the relevant transfer criteria. In order to qualify for a transfer, a tenant must have no breaches of their tenancy agreement or the Residential Tenancies Act 1987 for a period of at least 1 year prior to the transfer request.

   1.1 Examples include, but are not limited to:
   - no debt,
   - have maintained acceptable property standards, and
   - no substantiated complaints of disruptive behaviour.

   1.2 If a tenant breaches conditions of their Tenancy Agreement or the Residential Tenancies Act 1987 their transfer application may be withdrawn.

Right of Appeal
2. Transfer applicants are eligible to appeal a decision regarding their application for transfer through the Housing Authority Appeals Mechanism.

   2.1 See Housing Authority Appeals Mechanism.

Transfer Costs
3. Tenants will be required to pay all costs associated with the transfer.

   3.1 These costs may include:
   - rent on both properties until keys for the previous property are returned,
   - ingoing fees for the new property,
   - any established tenant liability cost incurred from the previous property from which they have transferred,
   - payment of water consumption and any other debts, and
   - removal and Service Connection Fees at the new property.
## TRANSFER POLICY

### Property Inspection and Tenant Liability

4. A property inspection must be conducted before a transfer application is approved and again before the transfer occurs. Estimated tenant liability must be paid before the tenant transfers.

4.1 A property inspection is carried out to check that property standards are acceptable and to estimate tenant liability.

4.2 See Tenancy Management Policy.

### Eligibility for Housing Authority Assistance

5. Tenants must satisfy the Housing Authority’s eligibility criteria before a transfer application will be approved.

6. A tenant who is no longer eligible for the Housing Authority’s assistance is not eligible for a transfer.

5.1 See Tenant Eligibility Policy.

### CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ELIGIBILITY TRANSFER

#### Vacation of Property Before Transfer Received

7. Should a tenant vacate before receiving a transfer, the transfer application is withdrawn and the transfer listing date cannot be used as a listing date if the applicant requires assistance in the future.

7.1 See Priority Housing Need Policy.

7.2 Victims of family violence or who fear for their safety are exempt from this condition.

#### Listing Date

8. The listing date of an eligibility transfer is the date that the application received approval.

#### Valid Offer of Accommodation to a Transfer Applicant

9. A valid offer of accommodation is consistent with a valid offer of accommodation for applicants on the waiting list.

9.1 See Allocations Policy
Eligibility Transfer
10. The criteria for an Eligibility Transfer are:
   • Families occupying apartment accommodation in any location.
   • Seniors occupying bed-sitter accommodation in any location.

TENANT RELOCATION
11. The Housing Authority may offer a tenant an alternative public housing rental property if the property they currently occupy is required by the Housing Authority.

# DEBT RECOVERY POLICY

## PREAMBLE
The Housing Authority pursues debts in accordance with the *Residential Tenancies Act 1987*. Any monies owing to the Housing Authority result in less funds available to assist needy people waiting for housing assistance. The Housing Authority always prefers to come to an arrangement to repay a debt, rather than take legal action to pursue the matter through the courts.

## POLICY

**Applicants with A Debt to the Housing Authority**

1. See Eligibility Policy.

**Account Finalisation**

2. All accounts will be finalised within 90 days of vacation of the property.

**Tenants In Occupation**

3. Tenants with a debt to the Housing Authority, either current or relating to a previous tenancy or Bond Assistance Loan, will have no maintenance undertaken above what is required under section 42 of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1987*, unless alternative arrangements to repay the debt have been made and are being maintained.

**Debts Related to Current Tenancy**

4. Debts related to the current tenancy of the debtor will be pursued according to the requirements of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1987*.

## GUIDELINES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>GUIDELINES</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts will have details of the work done and the job order number.</td>
<td>A letter will accompany the account explaining the appeal process and where to get assistance and information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tenant must enter into a proposal to repay the debt and maintain payments until the debt is cleared.</td>
<td>2.1 Accounts will have details of the work done and the job order number.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Example: Rental arrears, tenant liability, water consumption debts; incurred during current tenancy.
Debt Recovery Policy

CONTINUED: Debts Related to Current Tenancy

Debts Relating to a Previous Tenancy

5. An arrangement to repay a debt from a previous tenancy is a private arrangement between the Housing Authority and the tenant/applicant debtor and cannot be reflected in the Tenancy Agreement. The client should provide evidence where part of the debt relates to bankruptcy and payments will not be sought.

Debts Relating to a Previous Tenancy at the Same Address

6. Where a court order has been granted to terminate a tenancy the Housing Authority may, in extenuating circumstances, approve continued occupation under a new tenancy. Any debt for the terminated tenancy must be treated as vacated debt.

Statute-Barred Debt

7. Under the Limitation Act 2005 (WA) the period for a tenancy debt is 6 years. Expiration of the period does not expunge the debt as if it never existed but once this period has elapsed, the debt becomes “statute-barred” and legal recovery is not permitted.

Under the Bankruptcy Act 1996 (Cth), when a client declares bankruptcy, the debt becomes “statute-barred”, subsequent

Guidelines

4.3 Failure to enter into a proposal to repay and maintain payments until the debt is cleared will result in a termination of tenancy under Section 62 of the Residential Tenancies Act 1987.

4.4 See also s5 to s5.1 for reasonable repayment proposal.

5.1 The agreement is reflected in the proposal to repay only.

5.2 Section 62 of the Residential Tenancies Act 1987 cannot be used to terminate debts from a previous tenancy (See s4 to s4.4).

5.3 Action can be taken under Section 15 of the Residential Tenancies Act for the tenant to repay the debt. The application under Section 15 would be lodged for the previous tenancy and not the current tenancy.

6.1 The tenant is to agree to and maintain a repayment arrangement for the Vacated Debt.

6.2 The Debt Discount Scheme will not apply where a new tenancy agreement has been granted and the tenant continues to occupy the same property.

7.1 Repayment of statute-barred debts cannot be actively pursued.

7.2 Statute-barred debts can be reactivated if a client makes a payment or provides the Housing Authority with written acknowledgement that the debt exists. The debt then becomes Written Off Recoverable and standard recovery procedures resume.
discharge of the bankruptcy relieves the customer of the legal liability to repay the debt, but it does not expunge the debt as if it had never existed.

Repayment of statute-barred debts will not be pursued by the Housing Authority and will not preclude further assistance being offered by the Housing Authority.

Arrears Repayment for Tenants In Occupation

8. The Housing Authority will act promptly to ensure that arrangements to repay a debt are made with a tenant in occupation, to prevent the accumulation of a large debt.

8.1 For all debts, the Housing Authority should seek an arrangement so that the combined total of the tenant’s arrears and current rent does not exceed 30% of their total assessable household income. Tenants may choose to pay more than 30% of income for the repayment of debt.

Example:

Where the agreed payments are not maintained, contact should be made with the tenant to ascertain why payments have ceased. Discretion should be exercised where there has been a loss of income, for instance due to Centrelink payment cancellation, loss of employment, or a cancellation of maintenance payments. The termination process should recommence once a final warning has been sent to the tenant and continue in the absence of a satisfactory response from the tenant.
Default on a Proposal to Repay a Debt

9. Any tenant failing to maintain an agreement of the proposal to repay a debt will be advised of default by letter and given 7 days with which to comply. Failure to comply will result in legal action commencing.

Joint Liability of Tenants

10. Tenants signatory to the Tenancy Agreement is jointly liable for any debt.

10.1 Tenants who jointly sign the Tenancy Agreement are jointly liable for any debt from the tenancy. This means that a debt is split evenly between all parties signatory to the agreement.

Minimal Maintenance

11. See Tenant Eligibility Policy.
DEBT DISCOUNT

SCHEME POLICY
PREAMBLE
In recognition that many customers have no other housing options other than public rental housing, the Housing Authority offers customers with a debt, the opportunity to repay a proportion of the monies owing in lieu of the full debt, in order to facilitate earlier re-entry into the public rental housing program.

It is also available to customers with a debt to the Housing Authority, wishing to access home ownership in order to facilitate private home ownership.

POLICY

1. A customer with a debt to the Housing Authority will be offered credit for monies repaid, in order to facilitate earlier re-entry into public rental housing or homeownership, if they participate in the scheme. To be eligible to participate in the scheme the debt must not relate to the current tenancy (The Debt Discount Scheme does not apply to Bond Assistance Loan debts). Applicants/Tenants should be advised of their rights to participate in the Debt Discount Scheme for debts that do not relate to the current tenancy. Where possible correspondence should include reference to the Debt Discount Scheme and application form. Applicants do not need to have a current application for public housing to participate in the scheme.

2. Any customer with a debt to the Housing Authority, which is currently being repaid, may participate in the scheme, the debt being calculated at the amount owing at the time of participation. (Not available to customers wanting to secure another Bond Assistance Loan or tenants with a debt in their current tenancy).

GUIDELINES

1.1 This is not available to tenants with a debt in their current tenancy (see s15).

1.2 A debt is an old debt when it is not related to a current tenancy.

2.1 Example:

Original debt $1 000; amount already repaid $500; debt for the purpose of participation in the Debt Discount Scheme $500.

The discount will be calculated on the amount owing at the time of participation, not the total debt.

2.2 If you are already repaying a debt you may participate in the scheme. However, the discount will only apply to the amount that remains to be paid at the time you enter the scheme.
**DEBT DISCOUNT SCHEME POLICY**

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3. Participants will have their application for assistance registered with the date of commencement of participation in the scheme and will receive the benefit of this date when the 50% of the debt has been repaid.</td>
<td>3.1 A registered application accrues time on the waiting list, but only becomes active after a debt has been repaid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. If the applicant ceases to make payments, or fails to make payments as agreed, the application may be withdrawn. Tenants will be advised in writing giving them 21 days’ notice of such a decision and information on the appeal process.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Tenants</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Tenants with a debt to the Housing Authority may only participate in the Debt Discount Scheme, in order to repay a debt from a previous tenancy/s.</td>
<td>5.1 The scheme does not apply to debts accumulated in the current tenancy or Bond Assistance Loan debts.</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scheme Details</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Participants will qualify for a discount of 50% off their debt; that is a $1 discount for every $1 paid, when 50% of the debt has been repaid.</td>
<td>6.1 Example: A debt of $600 – participant will only be required to repay $300 before the debt is considered to have been cleared.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.1 Example: A debt of $600 – participant will only be required to repay $300 before the debt is considered to have been cleared.</td>
<td>7.1 Example: Participant agrees to make repayments at $10 per week – $10 is the agreed amount and the interval is a week (see s14.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Payments must be maintained at the agreed intervals and at the agreed amount if participation is to continue.</td>
<td>7.2 Payments may be made as a single payment if a participant wishes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.1 Example: Participant agrees to make repayments at $10 per week – $10 is the agreed amount and the interval is a week (see s14.)</td>
<td>8.1 Signing the debt discount form does not necessary constitute agreement to the debt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. The Housing Authority recognises that a customer signing a debt discount scheme application form may still be eligible to follow the appeals or court process.</td>
<td>8.1 Signing the debt discount form does not necessary constitute agreement to the debt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.1 Signing the debt discount form does not necessary constitute agreement to the debt.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CLIMATE CONTROL POLICY
HEATING
Housing Authority Installed
1. The Housing Authority will install a heating appliance to designated seniors’ and disability accommodation within cold winter climate zones as determined by the Bureau of Meteorology. Heating appliances will not be installed in other accommodation types, unless the tenant applies for a heating appliance and is assessed for eligibility.

1.1 The provision of heating appliances is subject to available funding.
1.2 In seniors’ accommodation a gas room heater is provided. Where gas is not available an electric heater is provided.
1.3 Priority will be given to applicants with a proven need (e.g. medical) regardless of income source; others will be listed on a wait-turn basis, dependent upon available funds.
1.4 In country areas where there is no reticulated town gas, the use of solid fuel heaters, such as slow combustion stoves, is dependent upon tenant request and Regional discretion.
1.5 Designated seniors’ accommodation refers to accommodation specifically designated for seniors:
   • Aged persons units
   • Bed sitting units
   • Flats
   • Apartments
   • Townhouses
   • Lodging Houses.

It does not include seniors living in family accommodation.

1.6 Tenants with a debt to the Housing Authority may be refused the provision of a heating appliance unless alternative arrangements to repay the debt have been made and are being maintained.
Room Heater Hire

2. A standard fee of $1.30 per week will apply to all tenants who are required to pay the room heater hire fee for a Housing Authority-installed room heater.

All tenants who have a Housing Authority-installed room heater are required to sign a Room Heater Hire Agreement.

2.1 The room heater hire fee does not apply to seniors living in designated seniors' accommodation.

The hire of a room heater is optional. If a tenant does not want to pay the room heater hire fee the Housing Authority will remove the heater from the property (this does not apply to designated seniors' accommodation).

Tenant Installed

3. Tenants may apply to install internal heating devices at their own cost.

3.1 Such tenants may apply for reimbursement when the property is upgraded, or when the tenant reaches turn for assistance on the waiting list for a heating appliance.

3.2 The Housing Authority will only reimburse to the value of, including installation costs; the type of appliance that would have been installed had the tenant waited until the Housing Authority had undertaken the installation. If a tenant installs a heating appliance to a lesser value than that which the Housing Authority would have installed, reimbursement will only be to the value of the installed appliance.

COOLING

Housing Authority Installed

4. The Housing Authority will install ceiling fans to properties in the North West or Kalgoorlie and remote areas.

- The Housing Authority provides higher ceilings heights where ceiling fans are installed. Ceiling fans, Air conditioning apertures and ceiling/wall insulation have been provided to all new construction in the North West after 1990.

4.1 Tenants living in the North West or Kalgoorlie and remote areas whose properties are not fitted with Air Conditioning apertures may make application to have an aperture fitted subject to budget funding. The aperture will be installed to the Housing Authority’s Maintenance specifications with relevant electrical outlet being installed.
### CLIMATE CONTROL POLICY

**POLICY**

- Design features are considered in all new construction in the North West and Kalgoorlie due to the climate changes in those areas.

**GUIDELINES**

4.2 Tenants are responsible for the fitting and maintenance of their own air conditioning units installed in Housing Authority properties.

### INSULATION

5. The Housing Authority will install ceiling insulation at any property where the tenant or tenant’s partner are aged 80 years or over.

5.1 Tenants under the age of 80 years may make an application for ceiling insulation. Tenants must demonstrate they require ceiling insulation due to a current medical condition or disability. Medical evidence must be supplied to support the application.

5.2 The Housing Authority has a right to decline an application for ceiling insulation. Future use of the property and household composition will be taken into consideration in determining whether the application will be approved.

5.3 Should an application for ceiling insulation be declined, the tenant may appeal the decision through the Housing Authority Appeals Mechanism.

5.4 Tenants who are not eligible for ceiling insulation under the Climate Control Policy may install ceiling insulation at their own cost. Tenants must receive approval from the Housing Authority before installation.

5.5 Eligible seniors (tenants over the age of 55 years and under 80 years with a demonstrated need due to a medical condition or disability) who are currently residing in family accommodation will be offered a transfer to insulated seniors’ accommodation.
CULTURAL DIVERSITY
AND LANGUAGE SERVICES POLICY
# CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND LANGUAGE SERVICES POLICY

## PREAMBLE

The Housing Authority recognises that a number of applicants and tenants come from backgrounds which have differing cultural and sometimes religious requirements that may affect their housing needs. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and people from a culturally and linguistically diverse background are two such customer groups.

## POLICY

### Applications to House Extended Family Groups

1. Applicants who wish to be housed as an extended family group may make application as an extended family group or as separate application units to be housed within the same zone.

## GUIDELINES

1.1 Upon application applicants must be given information as to the relative waiting times for 4 bedroom (plus) stock and that they may make individual applications for accommodation within the same zone or country town.

1.2 Advice must also be given that it is not always possible to synchronise an allocation of this type, given that different accommodation types/bedroom numbers have different waiting times.

1.3 Aboriginal grandparents have care of grandchildren may be allocated extra bedrooms. This will be defined in the appropriate cultural context and the best interest of the child. For example: where some children stay irregularly, but consistently, with family members.

1.4 Applicants with extended family groups, which include persons without permanent residency status, must accommodate these people within their current accommodation entitlement and will not be entitled to extra bedrooms for the purpose of accommodating these people. Example: **Migrants with Assurances of Support** (see Eligibility Policy).

1.5 Definition of extended family within an Aboriginal context relatives of the family concerned, for whom they could be reasonably expected to take responsibility; that is, parents, children and grandchildren.
Interpreter Services

2. All Housing Authority customers are entitled to a professional interpreter to assist them with any transaction with the Housing Authority, in which they require assistance.

3. Any Aboriginal customer will be serviced by an Aboriginal employee where one is employed in the office concerned, on request.

4. Any customer unable to attend a Housing Authority office due to distance or disability may ring toll free numbers or ring Head Office and have their call transferred to the desired office, free of charge.

Guidelines

Interpreting for The Deaf

- This includes customers who require assistance with AUSLAN Interpreting for the Deaf. Such assistance may be through one of the Housing Authority’s regular weekly interpreting services in the metropolitan area, or through an interpreting and translating services.

2.1 Customers may also ring the Housing Authority from an outside number (such as home) through the Housing Authority’s approved interpreting service, with the Housing Authority being responsible for the cost of the call.

2.2 As of December 2010 regular weekly interpreting times are available in some Housing Authority offices.

2.3 To assist customers with language difficulties, all Housing Authority letterhead paper is endorsed on the reverse side with a message in various different languages.

Contact Details

- Head Office toll free: 1800 093 325
- Switchboard: 08 9222 4666
- Maintenance Line (including after hours) toll free: 1300 137 677
- Email: generalenquiries@housing.wa.gov.au
- Teletype (TTY) phone service: 08 9476 2446
Transfer
5. Tenants who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander can request a transfer to an alternative public housing property due to cultural reasons associated with a death in the tenancy.

6. Any tenant wishing to transfer to accommodate members of extended family may be able to use this reason to transfer. Refer to Transfer Policy.

Succession to a Tenancy for Extended Family Members
7. On the vacation or death of a family member, extended family members may make application to succeed to the tenancy.

Debt to the Housing Authority
8. In all instances the general conditions relating to a debt to the Housing Authority will be applicable.

Access to Properties by Maintenance Workers
9. Maintenance workers who are required to enter premises to conduct maintenance repairs or inspections are to enter subject to the conditions set out in the Maintenance Policy.

5.1 See Transfer Policy for assessment eligibility criteria.

7.1 The extended family members must demonstrate that they have been a contributing member of the household for a period of time.

7.2 See Tenancy Management Policy.

8.1 See Eligibility Relating to Applicants with a Debt to the Housing Authority Policy.

9.1 If a tenant insists for any reason a worker/contractor remove their shoes before entering the premises the worker/contractor is entitled to refuse to enter the premises to carry out the work.
‘GRANNY FLAT’ AND ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATION FOR EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBERS
‘GRANNY FLAT’ AND ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATION FOR EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBERS

PREAMBLE

The Housing Authority will consider the provision of a ‘granny flat’ or the provision of an additional bedroom or bathroom for the housing of extended family, under certain conditions.

The criteria will include:

- The relationship of the extended family members to be housed, to the tenant
- The eligibility of the extended family members to access public rental housing in their own right and why they have not already done so
- Whether the tenant or extended family members to be housed have a debt to the Housing Authority, or other tenancy breaches
- The viable housing options that exist for extended family members
- Subject to budget and program commitments

The type of accommodation able to be supplied will depend on a number of planning and construction factors such as the size of the block, general property access, age and construction type of the house concerned and the general economic viability of the project.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>GUIDELINES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exclusive Use</strong></td>
<td>1. Any reduction in the size of the family whereby the additional accommodation is no longer required, will mean that the remaining tenant/s will be required to transfer to alternate accommodation for which they are eligible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. A property, which has an extension or ‘granny flat’ addition to house extended family members, will be retained for the exclusive purpose of housing large family units.</td>
<td>1.2 This is the same requirement as for the housing of people with a disability, where purpose-built or modified accommodation is provided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1 Any reduction in the size of the family whereby the additional accommodation is no longer required, will mean that the remaining tenant/s will be required to transfer to alternate accommodation for which they are eligible.</td>
<td>1.3 On occupation of the extended family the current tenancy will be finalised and a new tenancy at the same address commenced.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eligibility</strong></td>
<td>3.1 See Eligibility Policy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Tenants applying for a ‘granny flat’ or extension to house extended family must have had no significant breaches of tenancy for a minimum of 12 months.</td>
<td>3.1 See Eligibility Policy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Extended family members to be housed must be eligible for Housing Authority assistance on all criteria.</td>
<td>3.1 See Eligibility Policy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Occupation</strong></td>
<td>4.1 See Rent to Income Policy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Members of an extended family are regarded as full members of the household and their income is calculated as part of the gross household income for the purpose of a rental assessment.</td>
<td>4.1 See Rent to Income Policy.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HOUSING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES POLICY
HOUSING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES POLICY

PREAMBLE

For assessment under this policy, for the Housing Authority’s purposes a person with a disability is defined as:

any person with an intellectual, psychiatric, cognitive, neurological, sensory or physical impairment that is permanent or likely to be permanent, **which impacts** on the housing needs of that person in terms of housing design, amenity level or proximity to appropriate medical and support services.

The principles underlying the Housing Authority’s policy for housing people with disabilities include:

- people with disabilities have ready access to a range of low cost housing options
- people with disabilities have access to appropriately designed and located housing which meets the individual’s needs
- the needs of people with disabilities should be understood and acknowledged by all Housing Authority staff.

This policy acknowledges there are a number of constraints faced by people with disabilities in accessing housing including:

- lack of accessible housing
- the cost of modifications
- additional costs of living expenses e.g. transport, delivery of goods etc.
- the need for support services.

Housing Options for People with Disabilities

The Housing Authority offers a number of housing programs, including mainstream rental housing, along with a number of community housing programs that are managed by the Housing Programs Directorate of the Housing Authority.

Some of these options are specifically for people with disabilities, such as the Community Disability Housing Program (CDHP) and the Access Home Loan scheme.

More information about all these programs is available on the Housing Authority’s website [www.housing.wa.gov.au](http://www.housing.wa.gov.au) or contact your nearest Housing Authority region or branch office.
1. **Mainstream Public Rental Housing**
   To be assisted under this program, applicants must meet:
   - Housing Authority eligibility criteria; and
   - Have a current application listed on the Housing Authority's waiting list either on a wait turn or priority basis.

   The mainstream public housing option is most suitable for people with:
   - Limited or no accommodation support needs
   - Individuals who can directly manage their own supports; and/or who can manage a high level of independence by obtaining support provided by others; or
   - People with disabilities who are living with their families who provide a majority of their support requirements.

   Applicants need to have legal capacity or a substitute arrangement and have an understanding of the responsibilities and obligations of a direct tenancy arrangement.

   **Please note:** The Housing Authority does not deliver or fund services for the provision of care or support for tenants.

2. **Community Disability Housing Program**
   This program is available to people who need support to achieve and sustain a degree of independent living within the community and to achieve this independence require ongoing funded support services/ and or accommodation support packages. Under this program the Housing Authority works closely with the Disability Services Commission (DSC) and the Mental Health Commission (MHC) who refer funded applicants on an annual allocation basis (where support is funded by those agencies).

   The Housing Authority provides the housing, which includes single independent units, shared group-homes, cluster units and other contemporary housing models. Other agencies such as DSC and DOH fund the support services or contract with non-government organisations to deliver the services. Eligibility criteria applies (Refer to the Eligibility Policy).

   The housing is provided to a non-government organisation or regional housing association who manage the accommodation for their clients. This arrangement is secured under a head lease agreement between the organisation and the Housing Programs Directorate.

   This program is managed by the Housing Programs Directorate and is available State wide. More information is available on the Housing Authority’s website [www.housing.wa.gov.au](http://www.housing.wa.gov.au)
3. **Access Home Loan Scheme (home ownership)**

The Access Home Loan Scheme is a shared-equity loan, structured to assist people with disabilities to buy or build their own home or modify an existing home to meet their disability needs. The Housing Authority will own an equity share in the home, until such time the applicant can buy the remaining share.

To be eligible applicants must meet the Housing Authority’s definition of disability (see s1.2 Eligibility for Housing Authority Assistance) and have an income that is within the income limits set by the Housing Authority. Other borrowing criteria must be satisfied and applicants will need to have sufficient financial resources and sufficient income to repay a home loan.

Enquiries can be directed to the Manager Access Home Loans. More information is available on the Housing Authority’s website [www.housing.wa.gov.au](http://www.housing.wa.gov.au)
Eligibility for Housing Authority Assistance

1. For assistance under this policy, applicants must satisfy the Housing Authority eligibility criteria for a person with a disability.

1.1 See also Eligibility Relating to the Income of Applicants Policy.

1.2 Eligibility Criteria
The disability may be intellectual, psychiatric, cognitive, neurological, sensory or physical disability which impacts on the housing needs of that person in terms of housing design, amenity level or proximity to appropriate support services.

1.3 Medical Evidence
Medical or paramedical information is required to support the application. Written medical or paramedical evidence provided should:

- confirm the nature of the disability and its permanency or probable permanency and
- state how the disability affects the applicant’s housing requirements.

1.4 Applications assessed under this policy will be referred to the Housing Authority’s Occupational Therapist to determine specific housing requirements.

1.5 The household member with a disability may require specific housing design features and housing within close proximity to appropriate services, networks or support arrangements.

1.6 Consideration is to be given to War Veterans whose needs may be somewhat different and more complex.
Cont.....Eligibility for Housing Authority Assistance

Cash Asset Limit for People with Disabilities

2. The cash asset limit for people with disabilities is $100,000. This cash asset limit is subject to the following conditions:

- Cash asset is defined as lump sum cash or investment, which is easily accessible to a person to be used for any purpose. Cash may be received in a number of ways including inheritance, compensation payout, gift or savings. Please see compensable application criteria (see s2 and s3 Eligibility Policy).
- Those applicants assisted through accommodation options such as group homes or cluster strata title developments for the purpose of sharing accommodation supports, provided through the Community Disability Housing Program, are exempt from the Cash Asset Limit.

1.7 Applicants with funded support “packages” may be eligible for referral to the Community Disability Housing Program (CDHP). Enquiries can be directed to the Housing Programs Directorate.

1.8 In country areas the Regional Manager or the Manager, is responsible for the co-ordination of mainstream rental housing services for people with disabilities. Enquiries for Community Disability Housing Program (CDHP) should be referred to the Housing Programs Directorate.

2.1 Cash or investment which is invested in a trust account for the sole purpose of purchasing care needs and/or generating an income will be deducted from the cash asset amount to determine the assessable cash asset limit.

2.2 All applicants with a disability, who have in excess of $100,000, will have their application referred to the Manager Customer Service or Regional Manager for assessment for eligibility.

2.3
- Care costs and/or amount invested for the sole purpose of generating an income can be deducted from the cash assets amount.
- Such cash asset must be invested in a trust managed account by a trustee or supported accommodation service for the sole purpose of purchasing care to enable and sustain independent living.
- The assessable income is not to be reduced to a level less than the current Disability Support Payment for the purpose of setting rent.
Cont.....Cash Asset Limit for People with Disabilities

Privacy and Confidentiality
3. Housing Authority staff will be sensitive and respect privacy and confidentiality at all times in accordance with the Housing Authority’s Privacy, Confidentiality and Duty of Care Policy.

Income Eligibility
4. The eligibility limits for households with a person/s with a disability is 25% higher than the Housing Authority’s maximum income limits for non-disabled applicants.

2.4 All decisions regarding eligibility based on cash asset limit can also be appealed, subject to appeal conditions.

3.1 Applicants may:
- Bring others (e.g. friend/advocate) with them during any contact with the Housing Authority;
- Have a support agency act on their behalf.

4.1 Assessment of income for eligibility will be consistent with general policy (see Eligibility Relating to Income of Applicants Policy).

4.2 Where an applicant requires a live-in carer and this is the principal place of residence of the carer, the carer’s income shall not be assessed for the purposes of eligibility, but will be for rent assessment.

4.3 A carer is a person such as a family member or friend, who provides regular, sustained care and assistance to a person with a disability. The carer is usually paid for their work, but not always.

4.4 Paramedical or Medical evidence will support the need for a client to have a carer and on what basis (full or part time, night only etc.)

4.5 Compensable applicants (those who derive all or part of their income from the interest on compensation payouts) will be assisted provided their yearly income assessment, less the cost of care and support services related to their disability, does not exceed the Housing Authority’s income limits.

Applicants in this category would need to produce documentary evidence of their:
- Daily/yearly care costs from a registered care agency, and
- Income for assessment.
HOUSING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES POLICY

Rent Assessment
5. Rent assessment will be consistent with general Housing Authority policy (see Rent to Income Policy).

5.1 Rent will be calculated on 100% of assessable income of tenant, partner and co-tenants and any non-dependent householder, including live-in carer.

5.2 Where the equivalent of full-time care is shared between 2 or more carers, rent will be assessed on the average assessable income of the carers.

Bedroom Allocation
6. Bedroom allocations will be consistent with general policy (see Allocation Policy), but consideration will be given to the individual's disability and housing requirements.

6.1 A single person with a disability who requires a live-in carer or future live-in carer is to be allocated a 2 bedroom property.

6.2 Where there is a need for additional space for storage or equipment relating to the disability, this will be considered in consultation with the Occupational Therapist.

Exclusive Use
7. All properties that have been fully converted or purpose built to meet the needs of a person with a disability are to be used exclusively for customers with a disability.

7.1 Accommodation that has been purpose built for a person with a disability and which subsequently becomes permanently vacant should be allocated to a person with similar housing requirements e.g. to a person who requires wheelchair access.

7.2 The decline of any valid offer (see Allocations Policy about valid offers and declines) will be assessed at the discretion of the Regional Office.

7.3 If there is no applicant with a disability on the waiting list who requires the vacated property, the accommodation may be let on a 3 month lease at the discretion of the Manager Client Services or Manager Housing Services or senior manager (or equivalent) or otherwise utilised for 3 months.
Ducted Air Conditioning

8. Tenants with a disability causing the loss of ability to control body temperature, may provide and install ducted air-conditioning to their tenancy at their own expense. 

(For Other types of Air Conditioning – refer to the Housing Authority's Maintenance Policy -Improvements/Additions).

7.4 Where the person with a disability no longer resides in a purpose built or extensively modified property, the remaining householders may remain in the property for up to 12 months before they will be required to transfer.

7.5 The Housing Authority will be sensitive in addressing issues of relocation with remaining householders.

8. The air-conditioning unit must be installed according to manufacturer’s specifications and must comply with the Housing Authority’s Improvements and Additions Policy.

8.1 Installation must be undertaken by a qualified installer and at no cost to the Housing Authority.

8.3 The tenant or agency renting the property is responsible for all operating costs and maintenance.

8.4 When the property becomes permanently vacant it will be allocated to a person with similar housing needs. If the Housing Authority is unable to locate a client with similar disability needs the Housing Authority’s policy on mobility vacants will apply.

8.5 The Housing Authority will not reimburse the tenant for any cost of the associated with the purchase or installation of ducted air conditioning unit either during the tenant or following vacation.

8.6 The ducted air conditioning unit must be left in good repair and operational when the tenant vacates the property. Any repairs required to return it to satisfactory condition will be charged to the vacating tenant as tenant liability.
HIV/AIDS
POLICY
HIV/AIDS POLICY

PREAMBLE

Relevant Legislation:

- The *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (s4) forbids discrimination on the grounds of disease or illness.
- The *Disability Services Act 1993* defines disability to include physical impairment which results in reduced capacity for communication, social interaction, learning or mobility and the need for continuing supports services.
- State *Equal Opportunity Act* (1984 - amended 1989) refers to impairment as a defect or disturbance to the normal structure or function of the body.

The Housing Authority recognises that there are specific issues relating to HIV/ AIDS in relation to confidentiality, discrimination and the deteriorating nature of the illness that requires particular policy definition.
**HIV/AIDS POLICY**

**Confidentiality**

1. Details relating to the HIV/AIDS status of a Housing Authority applicant or tenant must be kept strictly confidential.

   1.1 The file of an applicant or tenant with HIV/AIDS must not be distinguishable from the ordinary.

   1.2 Applicants or tenants with HIV/AIDS must be offered a private interview room for any interview with the Housing Authority.

   1.3 Contractors are not to be advised of a tenant’s HIV/AIDS status.

   1.4 Information relating to the HIV/AIDS status of a tenant or applicant must not be transferred to an internal or external source without the applicant/tenant’s consent or authority.

   1.5 Any breaches of confidentiality will attract disciplinary action.

**Allocation**

2. A single applicant with HIV/AIDS may be eligible for 2 bedroom accommodation if a carer or future carer may be required.

   2.1 A live in carer has no automatic right of succession to a tenancy on the death of the tenant for whom they were caring.

   2.2 Allocation of accommodation must take into account the medical definition of the current stage of the illness, but also the person’s financial situation, discrimination or harassment due to the illness.
WATER CONSUMPTION POLICY

PREAMBLE
The Housing Authority will pay the Water Corporation directly for water consumption charges in all tenancies. The tenant is responsible for reimbursing the Housing Authority for this payment.
Tenants will pay the Water Corporation directly for any infringements of the State’s permanent water efficiency measures including breaches of the sprinkler ban and watering roster.

POLICY

Tenant Responsibilities
1. Tenants are responsible for the payment of all water consumption charges incurred during the period of occupancy of a Housing Authority tenancy.
2. Tenants are responsible for the payment of all infringement notices issued by the Water Corporation during the period of occupancy of a Housing Authority tenancy.

Water Consumption Debt to the Housing Authority
3. Any water consumption charge paid on behalf of the tenant by the Housing Authority will be debited to the tenant’s rental account. The tenant must reimburse the Housing Authority within six weeks of receipt of the account.

Vacation of a Housing Authority Tenancy
4. Upon the vacation of a tenancy a special water meter reading will be arranged.

GUIDELINES

1. All tenants will receive an account from the Housing Authority.
1.2 Water consumption proportioning may be considered if a leak or leaks have been reported to the Housing Authority.

3.1 The tenant must reimburse the Housing Authority in full within six weeks or by affordable instalments as agreed to by the Housing Authority in line with 30% of assessable income.

4.1 The cost of the reading is borne by the Housing Authority.
4.2 The reading will be noted on the outgoing Property Condition Report.
Density Accommodation

5. Where accommodation has a master meter only, the Housing Authority will apportion the cost of water consumed among all residents on a simple ratio basis.

5.1 Consumption/Apportionment Entitlement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Entitlement</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bedsitter</td>
<td>.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 bedroom</td>
<td>1.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 bedroom</td>
<td>1.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 bedroom</td>
<td>2.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 bedroom</td>
<td>2.60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From these values an individual occupant’s share of the total account will be calculated on a simple ratio basis.

Example:

Total bill for complex – $200
The complex is comprised of four units:
- bedsitter unit
- 1 bedroom unit
- 2 bedroom unit
- 3 bedroom unit.

The apportioned account is then calculated as follows:

\[
\text{accounts} = \frac{\text{consumption entitlement}}{5.55} \times 200
\]

i.e. bedsitter : $27.03
1 bedroom : $39.64
2 bedroom : $57.66
3 bedroom : $75.67
NEW LIVING PROGRAMS POLICY
NEW LIVING PROGRAMS POLICY

PREAMBLE

The aim of the New Living Program is to develop older public housing estates to create a more attractive living environment, to reduce the Housing Authority’s rental presence and to encourage home ownership.

Given the scale of the projects, the relocation of tenants is integral to facilitate the refurbishment and renovation of properties in a timely fashion and to ensure the overall success of the projects.

Tenants are consulted about their housing preferences and are given sufficient information to choose alternative housing.

The policy also aims to minimise the financial costs incurred by the tenant for relocation.

Where a tenant does not wish to relocate to facilitate development, the Housing Authority will accommodate this wish if the move is not essential to the redevelopment at that time. If the property is crucial to redevelopment, the Housing Authority will explore all available options with the tenant in an effort to reach an acceptable compromise.

If an acceptable compromise cannot be reached, the Housing Authority may give notice of termination of the existing tenancy agreement if a new agreement for an alternative property has been offered to the tenant.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>GUIDELINES</th>
</tr>
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</table>

**Announcement of Redevelopment**

1. The Housing Authority will advise all affected tenants, as soon as possible, when a redevelopment project has been decided.

1.1 Tenants will receive

   - Information regarding the time frame for the redevelopment
   - Information regarding the housing options available
   - Information regarding Housing Authority assistance with the cost of relocation
   - Information regarding prospective properties until the relocation occurs.
   - See also s1 of New Living Programs Policy.

**Relocation Transfers**

2. Discretion may be exercised in relation to relocation transfers in relation to general eligibility and allocation requirements.

2.1 Example: income, numbers of offers, bedroom entitlement.
NEW LIVING PROGRAMS POLICY

**POLICY**

**Properties Identified for Demolition Under Redevelopment**

4. Properties identified to be demolished due to redevelopment will not receive property maintenance or upgrade, above normal health or safety requirements.

5. Properties identified to be demolished under the redevelopment program will be let to tenants on the understanding that they will transfer when required.

**Tenant Relocation**

6. Any relocation transfer to alternate accommodation will be within the tenant’s entitlement and must be accepted by the tenant.

7. Where the property has been identified for redevelopment the tenant must transfer when required.

**Debt to the Housing Authority and Breaches Of Tenancy**

8. The general conditions relating to a debt to the Housing Authority will be applicable.

**Rental Payments**

9. Tenants paying the full market rent at the current property will pay the full market rent at the new property. However, the Housing Authority will ensure that the market rent at the new property is approximately equivalent to the previous payment.

**GUIDELINES**

4.1 This applies to properties tenanted before and after the redevelopment was identified.

5.1 If the tenant is a community group the use of the property will be only until demolition and there will be no transfer of tenancy.

6.1 Where a tenant has a current transfer application, this will be satisfied under the usual criteria and not as a relocation transfer.

6.2 Where the property is not crucial for redevelopment the tenant will be permitted to remain in the property. The tenant must be advised of the possible disruption and noise.

6.3 The Housing Authority will pay (by reimbursement to the tenant or direct payment of account) all reasonable relocation costs and may offer additional incentives to the tenant.

8.1 See Tenancy Management Policy and Eligibility Policy.
FRAUD MANAGEMENT POLICY
FRAUD MANAGEMENT POLICY

PREAMBLE
The Housing Authority has specific eligibility criteria in order that applicants may qualify for public rental housing and Bond Assistance Loan. The Housing Authority has a statutory obligation to ensure that recipients are eligible for assistance and remain eligible. Some criteria are set by the Federal Government and some are set by the Housing Authority. Both criteria may change from time to time.

To be eligible for all types of assistance an applicant must be eligible according to criteria relating to income, assets and property ownership, age, citizenship, residency status and be able to prove their identity to the Housing Authority’s satisfaction.

Should the Housing Authority discover that an applicant or tenant has deliberately misled the Housing Authority as to their eligibility for assistance, the Housing Authority will take action.

One of the Housing Authority eligibility criteria is that applicants and tenants must not own property or land. This is due to the fact that it is considered that any person who owns property or land should use this asset to house themselves and not utilise a unit of public housing or loan funds. However, the most common instance of fraud that occurs for the Housing Authority is the discovery that an applicant or tenant is the owner of property or land.

The Housing Authority views this deception seriously and any tenant or applicant for public rental housing who gives false information as to property ownership or who acquires property after their application or tenancy will have their tenancy or application reviewed and the appropriate action taken. However, it must be noted that some applicants and tenants are given permission by the Housing Authority to retain property or land for a short period in extenuating circumstances, in order to have time to sell.

The Housing Authority will undertake a check through Landgate the State’s Authority data base of any applicant or tenant of whom suspicions exist as to the ownership of property. As well, the Housing Authority will undertake ‘spot’ audits of a sample group of applicants and tenants through the Landgate data base, on a quarterly basis.

In all instances of fraud the Housing Authority reserves the right to take civil or criminal action.

See also Tenant Eligibility Policy.
FRAUD MANAGEMENT POLICY

Applicants for Public Rental Housing

1. Applicants must answer all questions relating to their eligibility for assistance, truthfully and to the best of their knowledge and provide all necessary documentation required by the Housing Authority to prove their eligibility.

   1.1 In cases where false/misleading information is detected, the determining factor will be whether the customer answered truthfully and to the best of their knowledge.

2. Before an allocation has been made, any applicant who has provided false or misleading information, the Housing Authority will have their application withdrawn and will have to reapply for housing assistance and undergo a further eligibility check.

3. After an allocation has been made, the Housing Authority will consider any false or misleading information provided during the application and allocation process, as a breach of tenancy.

Rent Assessment

4. On allocation, applicants must complete the rent assessment form truthfully and to the best of their knowledge and supply the relevant documentation provided by the Housing Authority. The Housing Authority will consider any false or misleading information provided as a breach of tenancy.

   4.1 See s1.1
5. The tenant’s income will be reviewed annually to determine continuing eligibility and the tenant must answer all questions truthfully and to the best of their knowledge and provide documentation required by the Housing Authority. The Housing Authority will consider any false or misleading information provided as a breach of tenancy.

Bond Assistance Loan (BAL)

6. The BAL is a non-interest bearing loan to applicants by the Housing Authority for the purpose of payment of a rental bond to acquire private rental accommodation and if any false or misleading information is provided with the application the loan will be recalled immediately and criminal charges may be instigated.
REFURBISHMENT
OF OCCUPIED
PROPERTIES
POLICY
REFURBISHMENT OF OCCUPIED PROPERTIES POLICY
(INCLUDING NEW LIVING, RE-DEVELOPMENT AND REFURBISHMENT PROGRAMS)

PREAMBLE
The aim of the New Living, Re-Development and Refurbishment Programs is to develop older public housing estates to create a more attractive living environment.

Where refurbishment programs are progressing as per the agreed plan and tenants do not wish to move from their property (and the policy is that they do not have to) then they will have their property upgraded to a similar level to all other properties being refurbished, i.e. it should include improvements to lift the amenity level of the property.

This strategy is to reward tenants, who meet their tenancy obligations. Where tenants have not looked after their property within these developments, they should be managed in accordance with the Tenant Management Policy. However, if considered necessary, some upgrading can be done to encourage tenants to bring their property up to a satisfactory standard.

The Project Manager is to work around the tenant, if possible, and with the tenant, negotiate the amount of work, timeframes and alternatives. The preferred option may be to temporarily transfer the tenant and their belongings whilst work is being carried out.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- Move to alternative refurbished property, with the option to return to their property when refurbishment is completed, if they so desire.
- Provision of portable facilities on site.
- Provision of sewerage facilities on site.
- Free rent period (regional discretion) if the tenant remains in occupation
Refurbishment of Occupied Properties Policy

1. The upgrading of such properties is to be within budget and program.

Refurbishment of any property where monies spent will be greater than $25,000 requires the approval of the Executive Director Service Delivery.

1.1 The Housing Authority will:

- Pay all removal and furniture storage cost
- Clearly articulate the work required and timeframes
- Manage the project to ensure satisfactory workmanship and completion on time
- Offer the tenant the choice of colours/materials etc. (within the Housing Authority’s specifications standards)
- Keep the tenant informed of progress (negotiated with tenant)
- Ensure the contractor secures the property
- Carry out a Property Condition Report, (see s7.8 Allocation Policy and s10 Transfer Policy), on both properties and arrange a new Tenancy Agreement for the temporary tenancy, with similar action on return to the substantive tenancy. Rent will be charged only on one property.
- Ensure that building rubble and rubbish is cleared from site after completion of refurbishment and any related damage to the property is made good.
1.2 The Housing Authority will not:
- Take responsibility for damages/loss to furniture and belongings during removal or for items left (locked up) at the premises. Items removed by designated removalist and/or stored in an off-site designated storage area/s already have insurance liability.
- Maintain the lawns and gardens during the refurbishment work, as this is the tenant’s responsibility (regional discretion on extra costs), unless the tenant has relocated, in which case the Housing Authority will maintain the lawns and gardens.

1.3 The Tenant will:
- Pay rent and water consumption costs as normal during the period (regional discretion on extra costs including rent-free period).
- Look after the lawns and gardens at the property in which they are residing.
## DOCUMENT HISTORY

For further information contact:

Owner: Business Process Support
Division: Service Delivery Metropolitan
Telephone: (08) 9222 4666
Email: GeneralEnquiries@housing.wa.gov.au

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>File Ref No</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Date loaded on Internet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 2019</td>
<td>Amendments to Disruptive Behaviour and Illegal Use of Premises Policies.</td>
<td>19/D643035</td>
<td>Manager Service Planning</td>
<td>24 April 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2019</td>
<td>Section 4.16 of the Allocations Policy and section 1.3 of the Cultural Diversity and Language Services Policy amended to removed requirement to demonstrate 50% care of a child for bedroom allocation purposes.</td>
<td>18/D1517238</td>
<td>A/Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>24 April 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2019</td>
<td>Removal of the Waiting List Management Policy and amendments to the Allocations Policy with consideration of the new Application Management Policy.</td>
<td>18/D690784</td>
<td>A/Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>24 April 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2019</td>
<td>Amendments to Eligibility Relating to an Applicant with an Unsatisfactory History with the Housing Authority Policy section 29.1.</td>
<td>19/D589180</td>
<td>Business Process Support</td>
<td>11 April 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2019</td>
<td>Removal of CROSS TRANSFERS section from Transfer Policy.</td>
<td>18/D1534651</td>
<td>Business Process Support</td>
<td>20 March 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2019</td>
<td>Removal of ELIGIBILITY RELATING TO THE PROOF OF IDENTITY (POI) OF AN APPLICANT section and changes to RENT TO INCOME POLICY section with consideration of the new Identity Policy.</td>
<td>19/D28863</td>
<td>Business Process Support</td>
<td>5 March 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2018</td>
<td>Debt Recovery Policy – 2. Account Finalisation updated to state that accounts for vacating tenants will be finalised within 90 days</td>
<td>2018/MS/91[v2]</td>
<td>Manager Business Process Support</td>
<td>01 Oct 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Reference</td>
<td>Author</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 2018</td>
<td>16.2 updated to read: &quot;the community housing tenant demonstrates a need that ...&quot;</td>
<td>2018/MS/91 [v2]</td>
<td>Business Process Support Officer</td>
<td>29 June 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2018</td>
<td>The Water Consumption Policy has been amended to clarify that tenant’s must deal with the Water Corporation directly in relation to fines.</td>
<td>LEG183775</td>
<td>A/Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>29 May 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2018</td>
<td>Housesitting policy updated to clarify what will occur when the tenant fails to return to the property.</td>
<td>17/D1475821</td>
<td>A/Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>22 May 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2018</td>
<td>Update to various policies to allow for extraction of Priority Assistance Policy and the implementation of the Priority Housing Need Policy as a separate document.</td>
<td>18/D833711</td>
<td>Business Process Support Officer</td>
<td>30 April 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2018</td>
<td>Bond Assistance Loan Policy has been amended in relation to Proof of Identity (POI) to remove the requirement to provide proof of identity for partners and dependents.</td>
<td>18/D256758</td>
<td>Business Process Support Officer</td>
<td>27 April 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2018</td>
<td>Disruptive Behaviour Management Policy has been amended to remove the term 'substantiated' and replace with 'corroborated'. Other minor changes have been made to improve clarity and readability.</td>
<td>17/D1913048</td>
<td>Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>29 January 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2017</td>
<td>Debt Recovery Policy and Eligibility Relating to an Applicant with an Unsatisfactory History with the Housing Authority Policy have been amended in relation to Fixed Term Tenancies to ensure operational practices are in accordance with the Residential Tenancies Act 1987.</td>
<td>17/D1878946</td>
<td>Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>18 December 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2017</td>
<td>Tenancy Management Policy 22. and 23. has been amended in relation to Incarcerated Tenants to ensure compliance with the Residential Tenancies Act 1987.</td>
<td>17/D1434564</td>
<td>Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>30 October 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2017</td>
<td>Family and Domestic Violence Policy renamed the Family Violence Policy in line with contemporary legislative terminology.</td>
<td>17/D1312232</td>
<td>Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>30 October 2017</td>
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<td>17/D1544364</td>
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<td>Responsible Officer</td>
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<td>October 2017</td>
<td>The Tenancy Management Policy - Liquor Restricted Premises Declarations 42 to 43.1 has been updated to clarify the responsibilities for applying and managing Liquor Restricted Premises Declarations for both the tenant and the Housing Authority.</td>
<td>17/D1544364</td>
<td>A/Policy and Practice Research Officer</td>
<td>30 October 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2017</td>
<td>Tenancy Management Policy 16 and 17 amended to align definitions of non-occupying a property with the definition outlined in public housing Tenancy Agreements. Tenancy Management Policy 41 and 42 relocated to section 21 and 22 and subsequent section numbering adjusted.</td>
<td>17/D1069565</td>
<td>Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>1 August 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2017</td>
<td>Tenancy Management Policy 39 (A ‘Good’ Tenant) removed and section numbering adjusted.</td>
<td>17/D1069664</td>
<td>Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>31 July 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2017</td>
<td>Bond Accrual Policy Section s8 and 8.1, Housing Programs, removed as bond accrual does not apply to Community Housing Organisations.</td>
<td>17/D1009851</td>
<td>A/Manager Operational Policy</td>
<td>10 July 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2017</td>
<td>Tenants’ obligation to pay infringement notices issued by the Water Corporation has been inserted under “Tenant Responsibilities”.</td>
<td>17/D576735</td>
<td>A/Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>21 April 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2017</td>
<td>The Tenancy Management Policy sections 16 to 22.4, 37 to 38.4 and 41 to 42.4 has been amended to reflect that Subletting has been superseded by Housesitting. The section on Subletting (was 17) has been deleted.</td>
<td>17/D419266</td>
<td>A/Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>3 April 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2017</td>
<td>Acceptable documents listed under Eligibility Relating to the Proof of Identity (POI) of an Applicant Category B have been amended. Change of name is no longer obtained by Deed Poll and applicants now receive a Change of Name Certificate as legal evidence of their registration.</td>
<td>17/D0163561</td>
<td>A/Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>February 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2016</td>
<td>The following policy sections have been amended in relation to Housing Authority initiated tenant relocation: Tenancy Management preamble and s13, Priority Assistance s28, Transfer preamble and s14, New Living preamble and s7. New Living s10 has been deleted.</td>
<td>16/D1795863</td>
<td>Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>1 December 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2016</td>
<td>The Eligibility Relating to the Proof of Identity of an Applicant policy has been amended to accept current original birth certificates or extracts, original death certificates and Western Australian Working with Children</td>
<td>16/D1751518</td>
<td>A/Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>24 November 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 2016</td>
<td>The requirement that original Australian Birth Certificates must have been issued more than five years ago to be accepted as Primary/Category A POI is now obsolete.</td>
<td>16/D1750592 A/Policy and Practice Officer 24 November 2016</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>November 2016</td>
<td>The Transfer Policy has been updated so the listing date for an eligibility transfer reflects the date the transfer was approved. Wording changes have been made to improve readability.</td>
<td>16/D1722393 A/Senior Policy and Practice Officer 24 November 2016</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>November 2016</td>
<td>Tenant Management Policy section 10 Guidelines have been amended to add 10.1 and 10.2 and remove staff procedures related to unroadworthy or unlicensed vehicles.</td>
<td>16/D1721834 A/Senior Policy and Practice Officer 24 November 2016</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>November 2016</td>
<td>Allocations Policy sections 8.3 and 8.18 (testing RCDs and Smoke Alarms) have been deleted and the information relocated to 8.21 and 8.22 along with additional information on the testing regime.</td>
<td>16/D1721834 A/Senior Policy and Practice Officer 24 November 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 2016</td>
<td>Eligibility Relating to the Income of Applicants Policy section 4 has had the word “registered” inserted before “accountant” in relation to documentary proof of cash assets.</td>
<td>16/d1385230 A/Senior Policy and Practice Officer 17 November 2016</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2016</td>
<td>The Waiting List Management Policy section 10 has been updated to include the option for a Manager Housing Services, Manager Client Services or Area Manager to reinstate a withdrawn application in the event an appeal has not been formally lodged.</td>
<td>16/D1391844 A/Policy and Practice Officer 8 September 2016</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>September 2016</td>
<td>The Rent to Income Policy guideline 12.3 has been reworded so that it is clear that it only applies to tenants requesting a transfer to larger accommodation as a result of housing a migrant with an Assurance of Support or a person seeking asylum.</td>
<td>16/D1376110 A/Policy and Practice Officer 8 September 2016</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2016</td>
<td>The Rent to Income Policy has been updated to stipulate that tenants are required to pay 25% of the assessable income of all household members who have reached 16 years of age. Any income received by a household member who is under 16 years of age or has reached 100 years of age is non-assessable for the calculation of rent.</td>
<td>16/D1376110 A/Policy and Practice Officer 8 September 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 2016</td>
<td>Eligibility Relating to the Income of Applicants Policy sections 4 and 5 have been amended to align with the Bond Assistance Loan Policy and Service Delivery procedures in relation to acceptable documentary proof of cash assets.</td>
<td>16/D135230</td>
<td>A/Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>8 September 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2016</td>
<td>The 'Rental Payments' policies in the Priority Assistance and Transfer Polices have been removed as the varying rates (23% to 25%) for rent calculations that were previously in place are now obsolete.</td>
<td>16/D1126543</td>
<td>A/Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>21 July 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2016</td>
<td>Rent to Income Policy s.2 Non-Assessable Government Income Payments list has been amended to remove Carer Supplement which was incorrectly included.</td>
<td>16/D983581</td>
<td>A/Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>16 June 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2016</td>
<td>Tenancy Management Policy 23 (Transfer of a Tenancy) has been updated to clarify that a new tenancy agreement and property inspection to apportion tenant liability is not required following the death of a co-tenant.</td>
<td>16/D904905</td>
<td>Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>2 June 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2016</td>
<td>The Rent to Income Policy has been amended with an updated list of non-assessable government income payments and to clarify the treatment of Department of Veterans' Affairs disability pensions.</td>
<td>16/D708698</td>
<td>Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>21 April 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2016</td>
<td>The Rent to Income, Debt Recovery and Housing for People with Disabilities policies have been amended to align with the 25% Rent Calculation Changes which commence 28 March 2016.</td>
<td>16/D504298</td>
<td>A/Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>24 March 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2016</td>
<td>Tenancy Management Policy s.19 Improvement or Additions to a Tenancy, Reimbursement, has been amended to prohibit the installation of swimming pools and/or spa pools at public housing properties.</td>
<td>16/D504378</td>
<td>A/Policy and Practice Support Officer</td>
<td>24 March 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2016</td>
<td>The Rent to Income Policy has been amended to clarify the policy intent for the backdating of rent.</td>
<td>16/D448498</td>
<td>A/Policy and Practice Support Officer</td>
<td>24 March 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2016</td>
<td>New Living Programs Policy has been updated to reflect the changes made during rent harmonisation during 2010 from 23% to 25%.</td>
<td>10/D1313898</td>
<td>A/Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>24 March 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Reference Number</td>
<td>Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 2016</td>
<td>Rebranding of the manual to Housing Authority. Grammatical and formatting amendments for accuracy and clarity.</td>
<td>15/D1519906</td>
<td>A/Policy and Practice Support Officer</td>
<td>24 March 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2015</td>
<td>Allocations Policy s8.3 inserted and Tenancy Management Policy s6.2 amended to align with implementation of the Electrical Safety Device Program.</td>
<td>14/D1059507</td>
<td>A/Policy and Practice Support Officer</td>
<td>22 October 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2015</td>
<td>Department of Housing updated to Housing Authority due to name standardisation (legal name).</td>
<td>15/D972729</td>
<td>A/Policy and Practice Support Officer</td>
<td>11 September 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2015</td>
<td>Eligibility Relating to an Applicant with a Previous Tenancy History with the Department – such as Debt, Disruptive Behaviour, and Previous Property Standards has been renamed to Eligibility Relating to an Applicant with an Unsatisfactory History with the Housing Authority. S32 has been amended and renamed to Refusal of Housing Assistance. S33 Conditional Housing Assistance has been added. Policy has been amended to guide decision making on refusing an application or placing conditions where the applicant has an unsatisfactory history.</td>
<td>15/D1019881</td>
<td>A/Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>11 September 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2015</td>
<td>Climate Control Policy s5 amended for accuracy and clarity.</td>
<td>15/D788333</td>
<td>A/Policy and Practice Support Officer</td>
<td>23 July 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2015</td>
<td>The Eligibility and Rent to Income Policies have been amended to clarify the treatment of ex-gratia payments for the purposes of eligibility and rent assessments.</td>
<td>15/D762644</td>
<td>A/Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>23 July 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2015</td>
<td>The Tenancy Management Policy has been amended to clarify the difference between a householder and a visitor.</td>
<td>15/D786741</td>
<td>A/Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>23 July 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2015</td>
<td>Tenancy Management Policy updated. Surveillance Devices (21 to 21.4) inserted to provide guidance on the installation of surveillance devices in Department of Housing properties.</td>
<td>15/D350095</td>
<td>Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>28 May 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2015</td>
<td>Tenancy Management Policy s23 has been amended to include dangerous dog (declared) to comply with the Dog Act 1976. The breeds of restricted breeds have been updated with reference to the Dog Regulations 2013.</td>
<td>15/D496969</td>
<td>A/Policy and Practice Support Officer</td>
<td>May 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Policy Number</td>
<td>Author</td>
<td>Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 2015</td>
<td>The Allocations Policy (1, 1.1, 11, 11.1, 11.2, 12, 12.1) has been amended to clarify the treatment of applications where an applicant is unable to accept an offer of accommodation.</td>
<td>15/D404773</td>
<td>Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>May 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2015</td>
<td>Eligibility Relating to the Income of Applicants (7.) amended to clarify income requirements for applicants when turn reached for assistance.</td>
<td>15/D404773</td>
<td>Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>May 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2015</td>
<td>Waiting List Management Policy s10.4 has been added to provide transparency on the retention and destruction schedule for rental applications.</td>
<td>15/D132275</td>
<td>Policy and Practice Support Officer</td>
<td>February 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2015</td>
<td>Section 2 of the Climate Control Policy has been amended to clarify that seniors living in designated seniors' accommodation are exempt from paying the room heater hire fee.</td>
<td>15/D22880</td>
<td>Policy and Practice Support Officer</td>
<td>January 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2015</td>
<td>The Cultural Diversity and Language Services Policy have been amended to provide updated contact details for the WA Deaf Society and the Department’s TTY phone service.</td>
<td>15/D22890</td>
<td>Policy and Practice Support Officer</td>
<td>January 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2014</td>
<td>Tenancy Management Policy Section 33 A ‘Good’ Tenant has been updated to remove any reference to the issuing of paint kits as a reward for good tenancy behaviour as this practice is now obsolete.</td>
<td>14/D1089189</td>
<td>Policy and Research Officer</td>
<td>November 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2014</td>
<td>The Rent to Income Policy (s4, 5, 10 and 22) has been amended in line with Habitat system requirements.</td>
<td>14/D1083900</td>
<td>Policy and Practice Support Officer</td>
<td>October 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2014</td>
<td>Section 3 of the Disruptive Behaviour Management Policy has been moved to the preamble.</td>
<td>14/D1004931</td>
<td>Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>October 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2014</td>
<td>The Illegal Use of Premises Policy preamble and section 2.1 has been updated to clarify when the Department will seek the termination of the tenancy.</td>
<td>14/D1004931</td>
<td>Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>October 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2014</td>
<td>The Rent to Income Policy section 1 has been amended to define when current tenants have their Family Tax Benefit assessed at 11% or 15% from 15 September 2014.</td>
<td>14/D821043</td>
<td>Policy and Practice Support Officer</td>
<td>August 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Reference</td>
<td>Author</td>
<td>Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 2014</td>
<td>The Allocations Policy guideline 8.7 has been amended to clarify the management of Property Condition Reports after sign-up.</td>
<td>14/D801969</td>
<td>Policy and Practice Support Officer</td>
<td>August 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2014</td>
<td>The Eligibility Relating To Property Ownership And Other Residences policy section 16 has been amended to clarify that discretion can be applied where circumstances warrant a Community housing tenant being placed on the Department’s waiting list.</td>
<td>14/D718833</td>
<td>Policy and Practice Support Officer</td>
<td>July 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2014</td>
<td>Tenancy Management Policy section 27 ‘Investigation of complaints against the Department tenants’ has been amended to remove out-of-date wording relating to pre 1st July 2013 Tenancy Agreements.</td>
<td>14/D712404</td>
<td>Policy &amp; Research Officer</td>
<td>July 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2014</td>
<td>Minor changes have been made to the Debt Recovery Policy to correct punctuation and layout.</td>
<td>14/D707724</td>
<td>Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>July 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2014</td>
<td>The Debt Recovery Policy guideline 8.4, relating to tenants with an existing debt repayment arrangement, has been merged into guideline 8.2 as they relate to the same situation. Guideline 8.1, relating to debt arrangements, has been reworded for clarity.</td>
<td>14/D707724</td>
<td>Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>July 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2014</td>
<td>The ‘Eligibility relating to the proof of identity (POI) of an applicant’ policy has been amended to include the new Department of Transport photo card as an acceptable proof of identity document.</td>
<td>14/D702498</td>
<td>Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>July 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2014</td>
<td>The Rent to Income Policy and Debt Recovery Policy have been amended to reflect the changes to the assessable components of Family Tax Benefit for rent assessment. Obsolete references have been deleted.</td>
<td>14/D692670</td>
<td>Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>June 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2014</td>
<td>The Climate Control Policy has been amended to set the room heater hire fee to a single rate. Policies 2 and 3 have been inverted for fluency of information.</td>
<td>14/D680007</td>
<td>Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>June 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2014</td>
<td>The Housing for People with Disabilities Policy (s1.3, 4.1 and 4.2) has been amended to clarify eligibility for the Disability Working Allowance.</td>
<td>14/D373855</td>
<td>Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>May 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Reference Number</td>
<td>Author</td>
<td>Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 2014</td>
<td>The Eligibility Relating to Applicants with a Debt to the Department of Housing Policy and the Debt Recovery Policy have been amended regarding repayment of statute-barred debts.</td>
<td>14/D344954</td>
<td>Policy and Research Officer</td>
<td>April 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2014</td>
<td>Illegal Use of Premises Policy NEW</td>
<td>12/D576943</td>
<td>Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>March 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2014</td>
<td>The Eligibility Relating to Applicants with a Debt to the Department of Housing Policy 26.2 and the Allocations Policy 8.8 have been amended as the Department is not able to require Centrelink Direct Deduction for rental payments.</td>
<td>14/D43360</td>
<td>Policy and Research Officer</td>
<td>January 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2014</td>
<td>The Family and Domestic Violence Policy has been amended as part of the Cyclical Policy Review.</td>
<td>14/D5417</td>
<td>Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>January 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2013</td>
<td>Rent To Income Policy: Guideline 7.2 has been deleted to remove the need to update the Policy with a different percentage figure whenever the deeming rate changes.</td>
<td>13/D1089862</td>
<td>Policy and Practice Support Officer</td>
<td>December 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2013</td>
<td>Bond Accrual Policy has been amended as part of the Cyclical Policy Review.</td>
<td>13/D1081537</td>
<td>A/Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>December 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2013</td>
<td>Tenancy Management Policy: the preamble has been amended and Guideline 3.1 has been deleted to clarify that the Department is not contractually required to insure its buildings and provide public liability insurance.</td>
<td>13/D1065394</td>
<td>A/Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>December 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2013</td>
<td>Appendix has been updated.</td>
<td>13/D957237</td>
<td>Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>November 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2013</td>
<td>Debt Recovery Policy 6 and Guidelines 6.1 have been amended to provide clarification around vacated debt when it relates to the tenant's previous tenancy at the same address.</td>
<td>13/D965003</td>
<td>A/Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>November 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2013</td>
<td>The descriptor minor has been removed from the Disruptive Behaviour Management Policy.</td>
<td>13/D531007</td>
<td>A/Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>September 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2013</td>
<td>Amendments have been made to the wording around Family Tax, 'assessable component' has been removed to avoid confusion.</td>
<td>13/D587611</td>
<td>A/Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>September 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2013</td>
<td>The Disruptive Behaviour Management Policy has been amended, for consistency 'substantiated complaint' has been replaced by 'substantiated incident'.</td>
<td>13/D608947</td>
<td>A/Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>September 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Reference</td>
<td>Signed By</td>
<td>Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 2013</td>
<td>The Allocations, Priority Assistance and Waiting List Management Policies have been amended to provide clarification around declining an offer of accommodation.</td>
<td>13/D612728</td>
<td>A/Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>September 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2013</td>
<td>The Youth Policy has been deleted due to the repetition of information and amendments to eligibility age.</td>
<td>13/D529846</td>
<td>A/Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>July 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2013</td>
<td>Amendments have been made in relation to minor tenants (eligibility age changed from 18 to 16 years old) and succession.</td>
<td>13/D529846</td>
<td>A/Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>July 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2013</td>
<td>The reference to SHAP (Supported Housing Assistance program) has been replaced by STEP (Support and Tenant Education Program).</td>
<td>13/D529778</td>
<td>A/Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>July 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2013</td>
<td>The Eligibility relating to the Proof of Identity of an Applicant has been amended, learner’s permit and provisional license have moved from category D Not Acceptable to category C Acceptable.</td>
<td>13/D529905</td>
<td>A/Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>July 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2013</td>
<td>Example Centrelink deeming rates removed from Eligibility Relating to the Income of Applicants 2.7</td>
<td>13/D472012</td>
<td>A/Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>July 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2013</td>
<td>All references to rental subsidy have been removed and replaced when necessary with rent assessment.</td>
<td>13/D471989</td>
<td>A/Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>July 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2013</td>
<td>The reference to a special clause on the Tenancy Agreement in the New Living Programmes policy has been removed.</td>
<td>13/D471989</td>
<td>A/Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>July 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2013</td>
<td>The reference to the addendum of the tenancy agreement in the Granny flat and additional accommodation policy has been removed.</td>
<td>13/D471989</td>
<td>A/Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>July 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2013</td>
<td>The Tenancy Management policy has been amended in relation to the calculation of rent by reference to income.</td>
<td>13/D471989</td>
<td>A/Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>July 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2013</td>
<td>The reference to tip pass and mini skip bin service in the Tenancy Management policy has been removed.</td>
<td>13/D471989</td>
<td>A/Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>July 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2013</td>
<td>The statement in the Allocation policy requiring tenants in receipt of a Centrelink pension or benefit to make their rental payments by Centrelink Direct Deduction has been removed.</td>
<td>13/D471989</td>
<td>A/Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>July 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Document Numbers</td>
<td>Author</td>
<td>Date</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2013</td>
<td>The policy manual has been amended to comply with the amendments of the Residential Tenancies Act in relation to the eligibility age, the timeframe to return the signed copy of the Property Condition Report, the bond accrual, the timeframe to report damage, the pre and post 1996 Tenancy Agreements.</td>
<td>13/D471989, 13/D472597</td>
<td>A/Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>July 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2013</td>
<td>The Tenancy Management Policy has been amended to comply with the Residential Tenancies Act in regard to sections of the RTA to use for breach of tenancy and when a tenancy ends.</td>
<td>13/D252947, 13/D472583</td>
<td>A/Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>July 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2013</td>
<td>The Tenancy Management Policy has been amended to comply with the Residential Tenancies Act in regard to abandoned premises, goods and documents.</td>
<td>13/D252964</td>
<td>A/Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>July 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2013</td>
<td>The reference to the Wait Turn Transfer Policy in the Tenancy Management Policy has been removed.</td>
<td>13/D472272</td>
<td>A/Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>July 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2013</td>
<td>The Good Neighbour Policy and Acceptable Behaviour Agreement are no longer relevant since the insertion of the Disruptive Behaviour Management Policy and therefore have been removed.</td>
<td>2012/00159/12, 13/D471989</td>
<td>A/Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>July 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2013</td>
<td>An additional example has been inserted in the non-exhaustive list of policy 16.1 Eligibility Relating to Property Ownership and Other Residence.</td>
<td>13/D330194</td>
<td>A/Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>July 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2013</td>
<td>The Priority Assistance Policy has been amended to reflect the appropriate approval level of portable priority application</td>
<td>13/D257985</td>
<td>Policy and Practice Support Officer</td>
<td>April 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2013</td>
<td>Cultural diversity and languages services - Weekly interpreting times have been removed.</td>
<td>2013/MSD/30</td>
<td>Policy and Practice Support Officer</td>
<td>April 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2013</td>
<td>References to the Translating and Interpreting Services (TIS) have been removed due to the change in service provider.</td>
<td>13/D252365</td>
<td>Policy and Practice Support Officer</td>
<td>April 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2013</td>
<td>Cultural Diversity and Language Services Policy – Preamble amended to remove out-dated data and information.</td>
<td>12/D693963, 13/D182090</td>
<td>A/Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>March 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2013</td>
<td>Family and Domestic Violence Policy 3.1 – minor amendments to remove references no longer needed.</td>
<td>12/D693963, 13/D182090</td>
<td>A/Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>March 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Policy</td>
<td>Details</td>
<td>Document Numbers</td>
<td>Revised By</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 2013</td>
<td>Priority Assistance Policy 11.2, 16. 16.2, 19.1, 20.2, 29. – Amended to remove references to previously removed Wait Turn Transfer policy and other minor typographical errors.</td>
<td>12/D693963 13/D182090</td>
<td>A/Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>March 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2013</td>
<td>Rent to Income Policy – Preamble amended to remove references to Commonwealth State Housing Agreement and references to pre-rent harmonisation models. 4.4, 9.4, 15.1, 15.2 - Amended to provide clarity, including removal of example.</td>
<td>12/D693963 13/D182090</td>
<td>A/Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>March 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2013</td>
<td>Tenant Eligibility Policy – Separate criteria for residents of Brownlie Towers and Wandana Flats removed as expiry date has passed.</td>
<td>12/D693963 13/D182090</td>
<td>A/Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>March 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2013</td>
<td>Tenancy Management Policy – References to Aboriginal Housing Infrastructure Directorate replaced with Aboriginal Customer Service Officer. 6.1 and 29.1 – removed. 35.1 – out-dated references removed</td>
<td>12/D693963 13/D182090</td>
<td>A/Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>March 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2013</td>
<td>Allocations Policy – minor amendments to correct references</td>
<td>12/D693963 13/D182090</td>
<td>A/Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>March 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2013</td>
<td>Eligibility Policy – amended to provide clarity and remove out dated information – Preamble, 2.9, 11, 11.1-11.5, 12.1,16.2, 26.33.3.</td>
<td>12/D693963 13/D182090</td>
<td>A/Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>March 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2013</td>
<td>References to the State Commonwealth Housing Agreement replaced with National Affordable Housing Agreement.</td>
<td>12/D693963 13/D182090</td>
<td>A/Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>March 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2013</td>
<td>Introduction, Department’s Objectives, Department of Housing Functions, Policy Rental Manual, Layout of Manual and Contact the Department sections added or amended to provide up to date information.</td>
<td>12/D693963 13/D182090</td>
<td>A/Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>March 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2012</td>
<td>Tenancy Management Policy 27 has been updated to reflect the changes to the Residential Tenancy Act 1987.</td>
<td>12/D348118</td>
<td>A/Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>August 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Month</td>
<td>Policy Update</td>
<td>Document Number</td>
<td>Author</td>
<td>Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 2012</td>
<td>References to the Legal Recovery Manual have been removed.</td>
<td>12/D442378</td>
<td>A/Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>August 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2012</td>
<td>Eligibility Policy and Rent to Income Policy have been updated in relation to Baby Bonus and Paid Parental Leave.</td>
<td>12/D459769</td>
<td>A/Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>August 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2012</td>
<td>Family and Domestic Violence Policy (page 143), reference to section 73 has been removed.</td>
<td>12/D348118</td>
<td>A/Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>July 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2012</td>
<td>Disruptive Behaviour Management Policy has been amended to reflect the changes to the Residential Tenancies Act 1987.</td>
<td>212/D348118</td>
<td>A/Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>July 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2012</td>
<td>Tenancy Management Policy, reference to section 64 (13.2) and s.13.3 have been removed, subsequent section renumbered.</td>
<td>12/D348118</td>
<td>A/Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>July 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2012</td>
<td>Tenancy Management Policy s. 37 and 38. Added to provide advice to staff about the Department’s position regarding Liquor Restricted Premises Declarations.</td>
<td>12/D288210</td>
<td>Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>June 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2012</td>
<td>Rent to Income s.21 Centenarians amended – removed procedural advice to put on online procedures. Removed Tenancy Management Policy s. 37 Centenarians due to repetition.</td>
<td>2012/00159/12</td>
<td>A/Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>April 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2012</td>
<td>Eligibility Policy amended to clarify eligibility for New Zealand citizens applying for public housing.</td>
<td>12/D129688</td>
<td>A/Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>April 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2012</td>
<td>Rent to Income Policy 1.3 ‘See also 11 to 11.9’ changed to 10 to 10.9</td>
<td>12/D48111</td>
<td>A/Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>January 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2012</td>
<td>Waiting List Management Policy 16.1 (previously 13.1) updated to provide clarification between wait turn and priority applications.</td>
<td>12/D16729</td>
<td>A/Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>January 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2012</td>
<td>‘Transfer of Application’ section of Waiting List Management Policy reworded to clarify that this section applies to wait turn applications.</td>
<td>12/D16729</td>
<td>A/Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>January 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2012</td>
<td>‘Joint Applications’ section of Waiting List Management Policy renamed ‘Partners and Co-Applicants’, and 4.1 added to provide clarification for split applications when partner added after initial application.</td>
<td>12/D16729</td>
<td>A/Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>January 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Reference</td>
<td>Author</td>
<td>Month</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 2011</td>
<td>Remove references to Housing Access/Assistance Loan and replace with Bond Assistance Loan (BAL). Remove references to BAL that are duplicated in Bond Assistance Loan Policy.</td>
<td>11/D778418</td>
<td>A/Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>January 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2011</td>
<td>Phone numbers updated through the policy manual when required.</td>
<td>11/D773847</td>
<td>A/Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>December 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2011</td>
<td>Updated KeyStart and Rental Sales details page 80, 35.1.</td>
<td>11/D773847</td>
<td>A/Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>December 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2011</td>
<td>Updated details of Department of Immigration and Citizenship (page 20, 11.3), previously known as DIMA.</td>
<td>11/D773823</td>
<td>A/Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>December 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2011</td>
<td>Updated the Free Telephone Numbers list and specialised services email address, page 7.</td>
<td>11/D773847</td>
<td>A/Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>December 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2011</td>
<td>Updated Eligibility policy and Rent to Income policy to include the Prisoner of War Recognition Supplement as non-assessable income.</td>
<td>11/D673863</td>
<td>Policy and Practice Support Officer</td>
<td>December 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2011</td>
<td>Updated Tenant Eligibility Policy Preamble to include alternative housing options and time periods to source alternative housing. Removed Centrelink Income Confirmation Scheme (ICS) procedure details.</td>
<td>11/D676691 11/D772534</td>
<td>Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>December 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2011</td>
<td>Amendments made to remove a number of outdated references related to Community Housing.</td>
<td>11/D684159</td>
<td>Policy and Practice Support Officer</td>
<td>December 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Policy Description</td>
<td>Change Date</td>
<td>Author</td>
<td>Notes</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2011</td>
<td>Tenant Eligibility Policy 5.1: Minor typographical error corrected.</td>
<td>2011/00121/3</td>
<td>A/Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>September 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2011</td>
<td>Rent to Income Policy 22. - Minor typographical error corrected and two references to Federal Government changed to State Government.</td>
<td>11/D558705 11/D563117</td>
<td>A/Policy &amp; Practice Support Officer</td>
<td>September 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2011</td>
<td>Climate Control Policy 1. Amended in relation to the heating appliances in order to be consistent with the Maintenance Policy Manual and to reflect current practice.</td>
<td>11/D505771</td>
<td>A/ Senior Policy &amp; Practice Officer</td>
<td>August 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2011</td>
<td>Insertions have been made to Eligibility Policy 31.3, Allocations Policy 6.2 and Priority Assistance Policy 13.2 to clarify the department’s position regarding further housing assistance to former tenant who has operated a drug laboratory in public housing premises.</td>
<td>11/D509399</td>
<td>Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>August 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2011</td>
<td>Debt Recovery 8.2 and 8.3 inserted to clarify the treatment of Family Tax Benefits and Maintenance Payments when calculating income for the purposes of payment arrangements.</td>
<td>11/D437427</td>
<td>Policy &amp; Practice Officer</td>
<td>July 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2011</td>
<td>Due to the position being abolished, the references to the Coordinator Disability and Seniors Services have been removed.</td>
<td>2011/00121/3</td>
<td>Policy and Practice Support Officer</td>
<td>July 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2011</td>
<td>Minor typographical and grammatical errors corrected.</td>
<td>2011/00121/3</td>
<td>Policy and Practice Support Officer</td>
<td>July 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2011</td>
<td>Changed the date of the Residential Tenancy Act from 1989 to 1987; page 64, Policy 1 of the Tenancy Management Policy.</td>
<td>2011/00121/3</td>
<td>Senior Policy and Practice Officer</td>
<td>July 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2011</td>
<td>Removed from Family and Domestic Violence: “email the police on <a href="mailto:information.release.unit@police.wa.gov.au">information.release.unit@police.wa.gov.au</a>&quot;, and replaced by “email the relevant District Crime Intelligence Coordination Unit (CICU)”, p.142.</td>
<td>2011/00121/3</td>
<td>Policy and Practice Support Officer</td>
<td>July 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2011</td>
<td>Due to the insertion of the Disruptive Behaviour Management Policy, the Tenant Eligibility Policy has been renumbered from 38-43.6 to 1-6.6.</td>
<td>2011/00121/3</td>
<td>Policy and Practice Support Officer</td>
<td>May 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2011</td>
<td>Disruptive Behaviour Management Policy NEW</td>
<td>2011/00121/3</td>
<td>Senior Policy &amp; Practice Officer</td>
<td>May 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2011</td>
<td>Good Neighbour Policy updated in line with the Disruptive Behaviour Management Policy.</td>
<td>2011/00121/3</td>
<td>Policy &amp; Practice Support Officer</td>
<td>May 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Reference</td>
<td>Author</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 2011</td>
<td>Allocations Policy – 10.5, previously incorrectly read (See 9.4) amended to (See 10.4).</td>
<td>11/D237065</td>
<td>Policy &amp; Practice Officer</td>
<td>May 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2011</td>
<td>Removed from Eligibility Policy 31.3 &quot;Delegation of Authority. Decision regarding previous tenancy agreement to be made by the Regional Manager, Assistant Regional Manager, Manager Housing Service, Manager Client Service or Area Manager. Decision not to rehouse – see Delegation of Authority Register Folio 037” Delegated Authority register has been amended and no longer includes details related to ‘decision to rehouse’. 31 and 31.1 deemed adequate to cover deletion of 31.3</td>
<td>11/D184081</td>
<td>Policy &amp; Practice Officer</td>
<td>May 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2011</td>
<td>Language Services Policy, Interpreting Services section 2.3 updated with current services. Spanish interpreter for Fremantle removed. Somalian interpreter for Cannington changed from Mon 10am to 12 noon to Tues 12noon to 2pm.</td>
<td>10/D1314264, 10/D1314267, 10/D1314221, 11/D15460</td>
<td>Senior Policy &amp; Practice Officer</td>
<td>February 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2011</td>
<td>Rent to Income policy section 22 for Non-assessable Pension Increase extended to 20 March 2011.</td>
<td>2011/00121/3</td>
<td>Senior Policy &amp; Practice Officer</td>
<td>February 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2011</td>
<td>Document history changed to descending order (recent policy updates/changes listed first)</td>
<td>2011/00121/3</td>
<td>Senior Policy &amp; Practice Officer</td>
<td>February 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2011</td>
<td>Rent to Income Policy dated percentage rates for subsidised rent removed in the preamble, section 2, 3 and 5.5. Rent Harmonisation standardised 25% of gross assessable income information inserted in the Rent to Income Policy preamble and section 2. All subsequent policy sections from Austudy/Abstudy (previously policy section 4 renumbered to 3) in the Rent to Income policy renumbered up to policy section 22.</td>
<td>10/D1313898</td>
<td>Senior Policy &amp; Practice Officer</td>
<td>February 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2011</td>
<td>Removed from Rent to Income Policy 1.1 (phased out confirmed with Mark Barrett). ‘For the third and subsequent dependents a fixed $amount per child per week is applied. This amount is reviewed annually. NOTE: This fixed amount of $1.10 per child will be phased out over 4 years from 31 October 2005.’</td>
<td>2011/00121/3</td>
<td>Senior Policy &amp; Practice Officer</td>
<td>February 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Action</td>
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<td>Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 2010</td>
<td>Updated Tenant Eligibility Policy section 38. Previous exception for income ineligibility for Brownlie Towers and Wandana Flats residences who were offered a five year fixed term lease. Residents fixed term leases will be honoured during five year term but will subject to usual eligibility criteria thereafter.</td>
<td>10/D1307990</td>
<td>A/Senior Policy &amp; Practice Officer</td>
<td>December 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2010</td>
<td>Updated Eligibility Relating to Income of Applicants 2.2, Rent to Income 6.2 to include salary sacrificed superannuation amounts in the gross assessable income for eligibility and rent. Where tenants continue to salary sacrifice superannuation they will received a six month grace period until it is included as assessable income. Rent to Income 41.5 Where the tenant is deemed ineligible refer to Tenant Eligibility Policy.</td>
<td>11/D81399</td>
<td>A/Senior Policy &amp; Practice Officer</td>
<td>November 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2010</td>
<td>Remove Customer Service Charter, Discretionary Decision Making Policy and Privacy, Confidentiality and Duty of Care Policy. All documents to sit alone to maintain version control (duplicated in the Bond Loan Policy) and easier staff access</td>
<td>A/Business Solutions Manager</td>
<td>June 2010</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2010</td>
<td>Remove all references to the Ministry and replace with the Authority or the Department</td>
<td>A/Business Solutions Manager</td>
<td>June 2010</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>June 2010</td>
<td>Remove all references to DOLA and replace with Landgate</td>
<td>A/Business Solutions Manager</td>
<td>June 2010</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>June 2010</td>
<td>Insert ‘Language Services’ into Cultural Policy heading front page</td>
<td>A/Business Solutions Manager</td>
<td>June 2010</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>June 2010</td>
<td>Remove reference to Emergency Housing Policy in the Priority Assistance Policy preamble</td>
<td>A/Business Solutions Manager</td>
<td>June 2010</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2010</td>
<td>Remove all references to Homeless Helpline and replace with Homeless Advisory Service</td>
<td>A/Business Solutions Manager</td>
<td>June 2010</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2010</td>
<td>Tenancy Eligibility Policy renumbered to commence from section 39 of Tenancy Management Policy</td>
<td>A/Business Solutions Manager</td>
<td>June 2010</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2010</td>
<td>Remove all references to the Water Authority of WA and replace with the Water Corporation</td>
<td>A/Business Solutions Manager</td>
<td>June 2010</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>June 2010</td>
<td>Remove all reference to Infonet and replace with iNhouse</td>
<td>A/Business Solutions Manager</td>
<td>June 2010</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Author</td>
<td>Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 2010</td>
<td>‘Granny Flat’ and Additional Accommodation for Extended Family Members Policy renumbered to commence from section 10 of Cultural Diversity and Language Services Policy due to duplication.</td>
<td>A/Business Solutions Manager</td>
<td>June 2010</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2010</td>
<td>Due to duplication in policy numbering Tenant Eligibility Policy renumbered from section 38.</td>
<td>A/Business Solutions Manager</td>
<td>June 2010</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2010</td>
<td>Remove Housing Appeals Mechanism Policy. HAM document sits alone to maintain version control (duplicated in the Bond Loan Policy)</td>
<td>A/Business Solutions Manager</td>
<td>June 2010</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2010</td>
<td>Removal of references to Stamp Duty “lease duty”</td>
<td>A/Policy Officer</td>
<td>April 2010</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2010</td>
<td>Income Eligibility – Non-assessable Income Types: added Redress WA payments</td>
<td>A/Policy Officer</td>
<td>April 2010</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2010</td>
<td>Rent to Income – Non-assessable Income: added Redress WA payments</td>
<td>A/Policy Officer</td>
<td>April 2010</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2010</td>
<td>Tenancy Management Policy – 10 – damage by minors – removed</td>
<td>A/Policy Officer</td>
<td>March 2010</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2010</td>
<td>Insulation Policy – Climate Control</td>
<td>A/Policy Officer</td>
<td>March 2010</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2010</td>
<td>The Department of Housing – Appeals Mechanism – update</td>
<td>A/Policy Officer</td>
<td>January 2010</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2009</td>
<td>Priority Assistance Policy – Homelessness Definition</td>
<td>A/Policy Officer</td>
<td>January 2010</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2009</td>
<td>Insertion of “Federal Government Single Pension increase exclusion from rent assessment (20/09/09-20/10/10)</td>
<td>A/Policy Officer</td>
<td>August 2009</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2009</td>
<td>Correction of typographical error “Allocations Policy” Section 4.17-reference to section 3.9 to read “4.9”</td>
<td>A/Policy Officer</td>
<td>June 2009</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2009</td>
<td>Change in terminology from “The Commission” to “The Authority” in the Privacy, Confidentiality and Duty of Care Policy</td>
<td>A/Policy Officer</td>
<td>June 2009</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2009</td>
<td>Insertion of Links to Practice Guides in “Privacy, Confidentiality and Duty of Care” Policy</td>
<td>A/Policy Officer</td>
<td>June 2009</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Code</td>
<td>Officer</td>
<td>Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 2008</td>
<td>Removal of Special Transfers from Transfer Policy</td>
<td>2005/40592</td>
<td>Policy Officer</td>
<td>29 October 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2008</td>
<td>Priority Assistance Policy</td>
<td></td>
<td>Policy Officer</td>
<td>31 July 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2007</td>
<td>Eligibility relating to applicants with a debt to the Department and Debt Recovery Policy updated to amend policies referring to statute-barred debt.</td>
<td>2005/40592</td>
<td>Senior Policy Officer</td>
<td>October 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Department’s Appeals Mechanism, Waiting List Management Policy, Transfer Policy &amp; Allocations Policy updated to amend policies affected by Community Housing program</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2007</td>
<td>Housing for People with Disabilities updated to amend the policy relating to the Department’s Disability Allowance</td>
<td>2005/40592</td>
<td>Policy Officer</td>
<td>June 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2007</td>
<td>The Department’s Appeals Mechanism updated to include a reference to the ineligibility of fixed term leases.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2007</td>
<td>Tenant Eligibility Policy Preamble updated to clarify the process relating to negotiations with tenants with pre 1996 tenancy agreements</td>
<td>2005/40592</td>
<td>Policy Officer</td>
<td>April 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2007</td>
<td>Priority Policy Preamble updated (written evidence of inability to find private accommodation)</td>
<td>2005/40592</td>
<td>Policy Officer</td>
<td>March 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2006</td>
<td>Tenant Eligibility – income eligibility re tenants above 26th parallel and remote regions</td>
<td>2005/40592-02</td>
<td>Policy Officer</td>
<td>December 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2006</td>
<td>Eligibility policy relating to the income of applicants s 8.1 clarified, s 8.3 added</td>
<td>2005/40592</td>
<td>Policy Officer</td>
<td>July 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Policy Officer Code(s)</td>
<td>Policy Officer</td>
<td>Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 2006</td>
<td>Eligibility Relating to the Income of Applicants S 2.7 (deeming rates amended) &amp; S 5.1 (cash asset limits for singles &amp; couples amended)</td>
<td>2005/40592 F92462Y97A</td>
<td>Policy Officer</td>
<td>July 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2006</td>
<td>Priority Assistance Policy s 25 amended, s25.2 inserted, s 19.1 added, s 7.2 added, s 4.1 updated</td>
<td>2006/20298 2005/40592</td>
<td>Policy Officer</td>
<td>July 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2006</td>
<td>Eligibility relating to proof of identity s 21.1 2nd dot point added</td>
<td>2005/40592</td>
<td>Policy Officer</td>
<td>July 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2006</td>
<td>Eligibility relating to previous tenancy history s 31.1 provisions added</td>
<td>2005/40592</td>
<td>Policy Officer</td>
<td>July 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2006</td>
<td>Waiting List Management – preamble updated; S 7.2 9th dot point added</td>
<td>2005/40592</td>
<td>Policy Officer</td>
<td>July 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2006</td>
<td>Allocations s 8.1, 9 and 9.2 clarified and reworded</td>
<td>2005/40592</td>
<td>Policy Officer</td>
<td>July 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2005</td>
<td>Rent to Income policy- s 10.4 amended</td>
<td>2005/40592</td>
<td>Policy Officer</td>
<td>May 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2006</td>
<td>Income limits for Eligibility</td>
<td>2005/40592</td>
<td>A/Policy Officer</td>
<td>April 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2006</td>
<td>Housing for People with Disabilities – Preamble updated s 6, 10.2, 10.3, 8,12,12.2</td>
<td>F92451Y97A</td>
<td>Policy Officer</td>
<td>March 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2006</td>
<td>HIV/AIDS Policy- Preamble updated</td>
<td>F92451Y97A</td>
<td>Policy Officer</td>
<td>March 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2006</td>
<td>Allocations Policy s 3 (added)- s3 onwards renumbered</td>
<td>2005/40592</td>
<td>Policy Officer</td>
<td>March 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2006</td>
<td>Domestic Violence Policy s 2.1 updated</td>
<td>2005/40592</td>
<td>Policy Officer</td>
<td>March 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Policy Description</td>
<td>Section Numbers</td>
<td>Reference</td>
<td>Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 2006</td>
<td>Priority Assistance Policy s2, 3,3.1,9,16, 28.1,28.2 (updated)</td>
<td>2005/40592</td>
<td>Policy Officer</td>
<td>February 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2006</td>
<td>Eligibility Policy- Eligibility Relating to Property Ownership and Other Residences s15.1</td>
<td>2005/40592</td>
<td>Policy Officer</td>
<td>January 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 October 2005</td>
<td>Rent to Income Policy s 2 (updated), 2.3 (deleted), 5.5 (added), 21.3 (added)</td>
<td>2005/40592</td>
<td>Policy Officer</td>
<td>January 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2005</td>
<td>Good Neighbour Policy (NEW)</td>
<td>2005/09781-03</td>
<td>Policy Officer</td>
<td>January 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2005</td>
<td>Tenancy Management Policy (s2 added) s 2 onwards renumbered, s 5.2 (added) s6.1,8.2,13,18.1,24.1,35.1 (amended)</td>
<td>2005/40592</td>
<td>Policy Officer</td>
<td>January 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2005</td>
<td>The Department’s Rental Function. Rental housing statistics updated</td>
<td>2005/40592</td>
<td>Policy Officer</td>
<td>December 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2005</td>
<td>Eligibility Policy relating to incomes 3.6- Section number added, amendments made</td>
<td>2005/40592</td>
<td>Policy Officer</td>
<td>December 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2005</td>
<td>Rent to Income Policy- section numbers added to dot points (s7.1-7.4) added guideline at s 7.2</td>
<td>2005/40592</td>
<td>Policy Officer</td>
<td>December 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2005</td>
<td>Debt Discount Scheme Policy s 13,13.2 and 17.1 amended</td>
<td>2005/40592</td>
<td>A/Policy Officer</td>
<td>November 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2005</td>
<td>Rent to Income s 6.2 -added</td>
<td>2005/40592</td>
<td>A/Policy Officer</td>
<td>December 2005</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Policy Description</td>
<td>Document Number</td>
<td>Responsible Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 2005</td>
<td>Eligibility Relating to Income s 2.2 added – Renumbered s 2.2-2.9 to 2.3- 2.10</td>
<td>2005/40592</td>
<td>A/Policy Officer</td>
<td>December 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2005</td>
<td>Rent to Income Policy s 10.4 added</td>
<td>2005/40592</td>
<td>A/Policy Officer</td>
<td>November 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2005</td>
<td>Cultural Diversity Policy s 9 and 9.1 added</td>
<td>2005/40592</td>
<td>A/Policy Officer</td>
<td>November 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2005</td>
<td>Eligibility Relating to the Income of Applicants 4.1 dot point, Chile Pension of Mercy</td>
<td></td>
<td>A/Policy Officer</td>
<td>August 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2005</td>
<td>Eligibility Relating to the Income of Applicants S2.6</td>
<td></td>
<td>A/Policy Officer</td>
<td>August 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2005</td>
<td>Allocations Policy, S8 &amp; 9.2</td>
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