

COMMONWEALTH RENT ASSISTANCE

FACTSHEET

WHAT IS COMMONWEALTH RENT ASSISTANCE?

Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA) is a non-taxable rent supplement paid by the Commonwealth Government to people living in community housing or renting privately.

In NSW, all registered community housing providers (CHPs) contracted by the Government to deliver housing assistance to people are required to collect 100% of residents' CRA payment in rent. The income from CRA is then used to support additional social and affordable housing.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

City West Housing (CWH) residents may be eligible for CRA if they:

- receive an eligible income support payment / supplement or service pension; or
- receive more than the base rate of Family Tax Benefit Part A; and
- pay more than a minimum amount of rent set by Centrelink.

CWH RENT POLICY REGARDING CRA

CWH is aligning its rent approach with other Affordable and Community Housing providers in NSW and one of the changes involves setting the CRA assessment rate at 100% towards rent.

CWH will work out the rent contribution for each household based on the maximum entitlements for each resident and the information about child support income referred to in any documents from Centrelink. For example, if your income statement from Centrelink says that you receive \$8,000 per annum in child support, this will be included in your rent calculation regardless of whether you receive it.

It is the responsibility of all residents to make sure information from Centrelink accurately reflects the income they are receiving.

HOW DO PEOPLE APPLY FOR CRA?

Based on the household's income, CWH will estimate the amount of CRA that residents may be eligible to receive from Centrelink. Residents will need to advise Centrelink of their new rent in order to receive the correct amount of CRA. Your Housing Manager can sign the Rent Certificate to confirm the new rent amount.

Residents can apply either online under their myGov account or they can complete the relevant form and visit one of Centrelink's service centres. [Click here](#) for more information about the steps to claim rent assistance.

WHAT HAPPENS IF RESIDENTS CHOOSE NOT TO APPLY FOR CRA?

For residents who are eligible to receive CRA, 100% of the payment will be included in the rent contribution when the new policy takes effect.

For eligible people who choose not to apply for CRA, their rent contribution will still include 100% of the CRA payment they are entitled to receive. This will mean that the resident will find themselves out of pocket.

WHO CAN ASSIST IF I HAVE FURTHER QUESTIONS?

CWH's Housing Managers are available to provide further information about CRA and any rent policy related matters. They can be contacted by phone on 8584 7500 or email enquiries@citywesthousing.com.au

To find out the current rates of CRA as set by the Commonwealth Government, [click here](#).