

Start Safely Subsidy



Will I still be eligible if I get other housing assistance?

The subsidy can be provided with other Housing NSW private rental assistance products/services which include:

- Rentstart
- Tenancy Facilitation
- Tenancy Guarantee
- Private Rental Brokerage Service.

Are all your questions answered?

If all your questions have not been answered in this brochure:

- contact your local Housing NSW office or
- call 1300 HOUSING (1300 468 746) or
- go to the Housing NSW website www.housing.nsw.gov.au



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August 2010



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Community Services**
Housing NSW

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What is Start Safely?

Start Safely is a subsidy to provide short to medium term financial help to women and women with children who have experienced domestic or family violence so they can secure private rental accommodation and do not have to return to the violent situation.

Who is eligible?

To be eligible to receive a rent subsidy, you should:

- be escaping domestic or family violence, and
- be homeless or at risk of being homeless, and
- be eligible for public housing, and
- be able to demonstrate that you will be able to afford the private market rent after the subsidy period ends, and
- be willing to receive support services, where relevant.

Start Safely is not intended for people with long-term support needs.

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How will it work?

You will need to complete an application for Housing Assistance form. Your application will then be assessed to determine if Start Safely is suitable for you.

If you are approved to receive Start Safely you will need to find an affordable rental property. Subsidised rents will be available to approved applicants from Housing NSW, for up to 12 months if required.

Where do I apply

You can apply for housing assistance at any Housing NSW location or with a Community Housing Provider participating in Housing Pathways.

What is the subsidy level?

The subsidy is calculated according to your income. An applicant receiving Start Safely pays all of their Commonwealth Rent Assistance entitlement and 25 percent of the rest of their income as rent. The subsidy is paid directly by Housing NSW to the real estate agent.

How will I know a property is affordable?

The Start Safely subsidy will only be approved on a private rental property that is considered affordable and within your financial means. An affordable property means that you will not be paying more than 50 percent of your income on top of Commonwealth Rent Assistance on rent without the Start Safely subsidy.

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How long is the subsidy paid for?

Initially the subsidy will be paid for three months, and can be paid for up to 12 months (the maximum subsidy period). The need for the subsidy will be reviewed quarterly.

Is there an income test?

To receive Start Safely you must be eligible for public housing. Income for Start Safely purposes will include Commonwealth Rental Assistance even if you have not yet applied for or received this form of income support. Start Safely can continue to be paid if your income increases during the subsidy period so long as it does not exceed the subsidy eligibility limit used by Housing NSW to pay rent subsidies to its tenants who earn income.

Is there an assets test?

You can receive the subsidy if you have assets but cannot access them in the short to medium term because of circumstances beyond your control. For example you might have an interest in the family home but the Family Court has ordered that the property cannot be sold pending court proceedings.