

Private Rental Assistance

This fact sheet provides information about financial assistance available for people who need help finding or keeping a private rental.

What help is available?

Private Rental Assistance (PRA) is provided through a payment that could be for:

- bond
- rent in advance
- rent in arrears
- removal costs or
- storage costs for people escaping family violence.

PRA is only available if your private rental tenancy is affordable on an ongoing basis.

Who is eligible?

To be eligible for PRA, you must:

- live in Tasmania
- be an Australian citizen, or a permanent resident including refugee visa subclasses 200, 201, 202, 203 and 204
- be 16 years of age or older
- be on a low-income and eligible to keep a Commonwealth Health Care Card
- not own land or a home of your own, and
- not have financial assets worth more than \$35 000 – such as shares, property and money in the bank. It does not include cars or household items. Superannuation funds that cannot be accessed, and self-managed superannuation funds are also excluded.

All household income is included when assessing eligibility for PRA.

How do I apply?

You can apply for PRA with Housing Connect.

You can call Housing Connect on 1800 800 588.

Housing Connect offices are open from 9am to 5pm from Monday to Friday.

You can find out the office locations by visiting www.homestasmania.com.au/housingconnect

How much PRA can I get?

Housing Connect will assess your situations to see what support or assistance you need.

The amount of financial assistance available is usually capped at four weeks' rent for your property.

Help with removal costs are provided based on the cheapest of three quotes and capped at the amount of four weeks' rent.

If you are moving into your first private rental or recently arrived in Tasmania as part of the Humanitarian Settlement Program, you can also access a \$100 tenancy starter pack.

I have already had PRA this year, can I apply again?

PRA is generally available only once every 12 months.

If you received PRA during a 12-month period but it was less than the cap of four weeks' rent, you may be able to receive another PRA payment.

An exception may also be applied where the lease was only for a six-month lease period.

What other options are there if I'm not eligible?

Housing Connect assists people who facing homelessness or in housing need statewide.

Housing Connect can talk to you about other services and assistance available that may be able to help you.

More information

For more information, contact Housing Connect on 1800 800 588.