



Co-resident carer fact sheet

The Department of Communities is making changes to how rent is calculated for public housing tenants, with an eligible co-resident carer residing in the property. This will help reduce the financial barriers preventing people with disability to access informal assistance in their homes.

It will encourage people with disability to access co-resident care arrangements to maintain their independence and live better lives. It will also provide some relief for carers and an incentive for people who want to be carers.

Who is a co-resident carer?

A co-resident carer is someone who meets all the following criteria:

- lives with a person with disability to provide ongoing care
- uses that property as their principal place of residence, and
- would otherwise live elsewhere if they were not the carer for that person.

Who is not a co-resident carer?

Someone who is:

- the tenant or co-tenant in the property
- in a marital or de facto relationship with the person they are providing care for
- the parent or legal guardian providing care to a child who is under 18 years of age
- employed to provide care for the person with disability.

What is informal assistance?

Informal assistance is where someone provides unpaid care for the person with disability.

Formal assistance is where a carer is paid to provide this care.

What does this mean for the way my rent will be charged?

Housing charges rent at 25% of assessable household income or market rent for the property, whichever is lower.

The new Co-Resident Carer Rent Policy will cap the co-resident carer's income at the full rate of the Centrelink Carer Payment or actual income, whichever is the lower amount.

This policy will benefit households with co-residents that earn more than the full rate of the Centrelink Carer Payment. As a result, the rent charged will be whichever is lower:

- 25% of the weekly assessable household income (with the co-resident carer's income capped at the full rate of the Centrelink Carer Payment or the lower amount if their actual income is less than this rate), or
- the market rent of the property.

How will this rent be assessed?

To be assessed under this policy, a rent assessment form will need to be completed, together with income details for all householders. Evidences will also need to be attached and provided to the Department of Communities for assessment.



What evidences will need to be supplied?

The following two criteria that must be met and suitable evidences must be supplied are:

1. The client receiving care from a co-resident carer has disability.¹

Suitable evidence to be provided are:

- a current Centrelink Income Statement not more than four weeks old showing the client is receiving the Disability Support Pension
- a Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) income statement not more than four weeks old showing the client is receiving the Disability Pension
- a completed Department of Communities medical information form
- a letter from a doctor or specialist
- a confirmation outlined in an aged care plan care provider
- a home care arrangement through a home care package
- a letter from a support agency or other relevant agency
- an individualised living option plan through the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) or
- a plan from a disability provider.

2. The co-resident carer² is the identified carer for the person with disability and provides on going care.

Suitable evidence to be provided are:

- a current statement from Centrelink showing the Carers payment or Carers Allowance is paid to the co-resident carer for the person with disability
- confirmation outlined in the individualised living option plan through the NDIS
- confirmation outlined in the Mental Health Support plan through the Mental Health Commission or a similar provider
- confirmation outlined in an aged care plan through a care provider
- confirmation in a home care arrangement through a Home Care Package
- written confirmation from a disability provider, or
- written confirmation from a support agency or other relevant agency.

For more information you can contact your local Department of Communities office, visit our website: communities.wa.gov.au, email us: generalenquiries@housing.wa.gov.au

Translating and Interpreting Services (TIS)
Telephone: 13 14 50

If you are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment, contact us through the National Relay Service. For more information, visit: relayservice.gov.au

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- 1 Based on the definition in the Housing for People with Disabilities Policy in the Rental Policy Manual – a disability is defined as being a) attributable to an intellectual, psychiatric, cognitive, neurological, sensory or physical impairment or combination of those impairments; and b) is permanent or likely to be permanent; and c) may or may not be of a chronic or episodic nature; and d) results in (i) substantially reduced capacity of the person for communication, social interaction, learning or mobility; and (ii) a need for continuing support.
 - 2 Based on the definition in the Housing for People with Disabilities Policy in the Rental Policy Manual – a co-resident carer is defined as someone who lives with a person with disability to provide ongoing care and uses that property as their principal place of residence who would otherwise live elsewhere if they were not the carer for that person. To be eligible a co-resident carer cannot be a tenant or co-tenant in the property, be in a marital or de facto relationship with the person they are providing care for, or be a parent or a legal guardian providing care to a child with disability who is under 18 years of age.