



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tenant Advisory Group members - Sandra Miller, Shirley Lomas, and Kim Ryan

Paying your rent on time

- Under the *Residential Tenancies Act 2010*, you must pay your rent on time.
- If you do not pay your rent on time then you are in **rent arrears**.
- If you are in rent arrears, you put your tenancy with Bridge Housing at risk.
- Bridge Housing is committed to working with you to help you resolve rental arrears issues and keep your tenancy on track.
- If you are in rent arrears, contact your Housing Manager straight away and agree to a payment plan.
- **It is never too late to call us!**

Call the Housing Team on **8324 0885**

What you can do about arrears:

- Call us to arrange a payment plan. The earlier you contact Bridge Housing to discuss your arrears the better.
- Arrange a direct debit for your rent to go out of your wages or Centrelink payments so you never miss your rent again.

- Meet with an independent Financial Counsellor at Bridge Housing. A Financial Counsellor will help to negotiate a realistic payment plan with Bridge Housing based on your current finances and any other debts you might have.
- You can also see an Aboriginal Financial Counsellor if you would prefer.
- Ask your Housing Manager if you want some support to deal with whatever is making your life difficult. We partner with organisations that focus on working with Aboriginal people and their communities.
- Ask us about whether you are eligible for our Hand Up Arrears Program for extra support.

Who else can you talk to?

- The **Greater Sydney Aboriginal Tenant Advice Service** provide advice and support about arrears, going to the tribunal and other tenancy matters – call them on **9833 3314**.
- The **Credit and Debt Hotline** on **1800 007 007** provide advice, referrals, and legal assistance.
- **Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre** on **1800 686 687** assist with legal advice.
- Come along to the **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tenant Advisory Group** meetings – meet other Aboriginal tenants and Bridge Housing staff. Call the Community Team on **8324 0827** for more information.

For more information

You can find out more about paying your rent at:

www.bridgehousing.org.au/pages/rent.html