



# Rent Reviews & Calculations for Co-operative (Co-ops) tenants

- How Co-ops and Common Equity NSW (CENSW) calculate and review your rent
- Your responsibility to inform of any changes to income or household circumstances

## Market rent

CENSW will inform the market rent (MR) for all the Co-op properties it supports for rent review management. Co-ops that manage their own rent reviews, will need to ensure that the MR is sourced from the same rent data, published quarterly in the Rent and Sales Report from the NSW Department of Communities and Justice. This means the market rent of the properties will be comparable to similar properties on the private rental market.

## Your rent subsidy

A Rent Subsidy is provided to eligible tenants to make your rent more affordable. The household's gross assessable income (this is the total amount before tax) is used to calculate your rent subsidy and the rent you will pay. You will pay rent based on 25% of your household's gross assessable income plus 100% of your household's entitlement to Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA). The assessment rates for each type of income are set by the NSW Government and vary for different household members. The table below shows the types of income that can be assessed and the current rates applicable.

## How do I apply for a rent subsidy?

To apply for a rent subsidy, you need to fill out the Rent Subsidy Application form. You may request an application form from your Co-op or by calling us on **1800 066 834** or by emailing us at [cdt@commonequity.com.au](mailto:cdt@commonequity.com.au)

The form is also available on our website at [www.commonequity.com.au](http://www.commonequity.com.au).

INCOME TYPE	RATE
Most pensions, benefits and allowances paid by Centrelink and the Department of Veterans' Affairs	25% for tenants, their spouse or live-in partner, irrespective of their age and all other people living in the household who are aged 21 years or over.
Wages, salaries, and work allowances such as overtime, bonuses, shift allowances, and penalty rates	15% for people living in the household aged 18– 20 years (inclusive) who are not the tenant, their spouse or live-in partner
Income such as regular superannuation, compensation, interest from savings, maintenance, and lump sum payments.	NIL for other household members aged under 18 years who are not the tenant, their spouse or live in partner
Family Tax Benefit Parts A & B	15%
Commonwealth Rent Assistance entitlement	100%

## What if I have no income?

If you or a household member have no income or a low income, you will be assessed as having an income, equivalent to Centrelink payment that you would normally be eligible to receive. (This is called the Statutory Income). Proof of no income is required.

## Rent reviews

Rent reviews occur every six months for all Co-op tenants. The reviews ensure that tenants receiving a rent subsidy continue to be eligible to receive this subsidy and determine the amount of rent you pay according to your household income. You will be advised in writing when this review will occur.

## What information do I need to provide with my rent subsidy application?

Each tenant is responsible for collecting the income details of household members and providing these details to their Co-op or CENSW so that their rent can be assessed. Tenants must declare all assessable income and provide proof of the amount received by their spouse/partner and each other member of their household aged 18 years and over.

The Co-op or CENSW may request further documentation or evidence to support the proof of income requirements. Proof of income documents must be original and must not be more than one month old on the date they are submitted.

Tenants who fail to supply income details by the due date will not be eligible for a rent subsidy and they will be required to pay market rent.

## Proof of Income Documents

- **Benefits and allowances paid by the Department of Veteran's Affairs (DVA)**
- **Child Support or Maintenance**
- **Income from bank accounts and investments, trust accounts, and other financial assets**
- **Overseas Pension**
- **Self-Employed:** A profit and loss statement
- **Superannuation**
- **Wages/Salary:** Pay slips or a letter or statement from the employer
- **WorkCover**
- **Benefits and allowances paid by Centrelink:**  
An income statement from Centrelink from the Income Confirmation Scheme (ICS)

## What if my household circumstances change?

CHANGE TYPE	DOCUMENTATION
Moving Out	Provide document to verify new address
Someone Moving In or Birth of a Child	New house member must provide proof of ID
Starting Work or Changing Employer	Provide payslips or last payslip
Stopping Work	Provide separation certificate
Change in Work Hours	Provide payslips for last 4 weeks
Other Changes to Income	Please check with Co-op Development Team

If you receive a rent subsidy and there is a change in your household income, or if someone leaves or joins your household, you must advise CENSW within **21 days** by completing a new Rent Subsidy Application form.

You must submit proof of income for each household member aged 18 years or over, as well as supporting documentation for the change indicated.

**It is important to understand that if you receive a Centrelink income, Centrelink does not tell the Co-op or Common Equity NSW about any changes to a person's income details, even if you participate in the Income Confirmation Scheme (ICS).**

When you advise us of a change, this will be recalculated for your rent. You will receive a written confirmation of your new rent amount you need to pay.

If you do not advise of an increase to your household income, your rent subsidy and rent charges may be backdated or cancelled.

Notify Centrelink of the new rent to ensure that the CRA is applied, as CENSW or the Co-op cannot do this for you.

### **What if I disagree with the decision?**

If you believe there is a mistake, you should first discuss your concerns with the Co-op if they were responsible for the review or with the Co-operative Development Officer assigned to your Co-operative by phoning **1800 066 834**.

### **Translating and Interpreting Service**

If you need assistance with language interpretation, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on 131 450.

**Please** return your rent subsidy application and supporting documentation to Common Equity NSW:

**Email:** [cdt@commonequity.com.au](mailto:cdt@commonequity.com.au)

**Mail:** PO Box Q1323 Sydney NSW 1230

**Offices** – Level 13, 31 Market St Sydney NSW 2000

**Or**

Direct to the delegated person at your respective Co-operative