

NSW changes to support tenants who are victims of domestic violence

Start 11 December 2020

Communication Pack

NSW Fair Trading



Communication pack

This communication pack has been developed to help your organisation share information about the changes to the list of professionals who can make a domestic violence declaration to help tenants escape a domestic violence situation.

This pack contains content for:

- newsletters for different groups
- social media.

For more information, please visit the [NSW Fair Trading website](#).



About the changes

From **11 December 2020**, more professionals will be able to help tenants escape a domestic violence situation in a rented home by making a declaration.

A tenant can end their fixed-term or periodic tenancy immediately and without penalty if they or their dependent child is in a domestic violence situation. To do this, a tenant needs to give their landlord or agent a termination notice and certain evidence.

Since February 2019, medical practitioners could make a declaration as evidence that a tenant is in a domestic violence situation.

Starting 11 December 2020, a wider range of professionals can also make a declaration. This supports more tenants who are in this situation to access help.

We want to ensure tenants and the professionals who help them know about these changes. Please help us by sharing this messaging with your members, patients, customers and stakeholders.

Visit the [NSW Fair Trading website](#) for more information.



Newsletter content for tenants, agents & landlords



Changes to support tenants who are victims of domestic violence

Tenants can now access more types of professionals for a declaration that will help them escape a domestic violence situation in a rented home.

A tenant can end their tenancy immediately and without penalty, if they or their dependent child are in a domestic violence situation. To do this, a tenant needs to give their landlord or agent a termination notice with one of the approved types of evidence.

One type of evidence that can be attached to a termination notice is a declaration signed by a 'competent person' that the tenant, or their dependent child, is a victim of domestic violence.

Starting **11 December 2020**, a wider range of professionals can make this declaration as competent persons:

- registered health practitioners like nurses, psychologists, paramedics and physiotherapists
- some social workers and counsellors
- NSW government employees who work in child protection
- government funded domestic violence victim support service employees.

More information

Visit the [NSW Fair Trading website](#) for copies of the declaration forms, resources for victims and more information on ending a tenancy due to domestic violence.

Newsletter content for health practitioners



Changes enabling health practitioners to make a domestic violence declaration

On **11 December 2020**, changes to NSW tenancy laws enabled registered health practitioners to help their patients escape a domestic violence situation in a rented home by making a domestic violence declaration. The declaration allows a tenant to end their lease immediately, without penalty when provided with a termination notice.

To make a declaration, the health practitioner must hold general or specialist registration under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (NSW)* and have consulted with the victim of domestic violence in their professional capacity. The victim can be the tenant or the tenant's dependent child.

As a trusted professional, you can help a victim escape domestic violence in a rented home by telling your patients about the protections available to them.

More information

Visit the [NSW Fair Trading website](#) for copies of the declaration forms, resources for victims and more information about making a declaration.

Newsletter content for medical practitioners



Changes enabling more professionals to make a domestic violence declaration

On **11 December 2020**, changes to tenancy laws enabled more professionals to help tenants escape a domestic violence situation in a rented home by making a domestic violence declaration. This includes other registered health practitioners, social workers and some victim support service employees. The declaration allows a tenant to end their lease immediately, without penalty.

Medical practitioners have been able to make a domestic violence declaration since February 2019 and can continue to do so if they hold general or specialist registration.

New declaration forms are available on the NSW Fair Trading website. Medical practitioners should use the new declaration form from 11 December 2020. However, if the previous declaration form is used by a medical practitioner after that date, a tenant will still be able to use it to terminate their tenancy.

Apart from the new declaration forms, the requirements for providing domestic violence declarations have not changed.

As trusted professionals, medical practitioners and other health practitioners can help a victim escape domestic violence in a rented home by telling their patients about the protections available to them.

More information

Visit the [NSW Fair Trading website](#) for copies of the declaration forms, resources for victims and more information.

Newsletter content for other competent persons



Changes enabling more professionals to make a domestic violence declaration

On **11 December 2020**, changes to NSW tenancy laws enabled more professionals to help tenants escape a domestic violence situation in a rented home by making a domestic violence declaration. The declaration allows a tenant to end their lease immediately, without penalty.

Along with medical practitioners who could already make a declaration, you can now make a declaration if you are:

- a registered health practitioner that holds general or specialist registration under the *Health Practitioner National Law (NSW)*
- a social worker who is a member of the Australian Association of Social Workers
- a NSW government employee working in child protection
- an employee of a non-government agency that receives government funding to provide services for victims of domestic violence/sexual assault or refuge/emergency accommodation
- an approved counsellor under the *Victims Rights and Support Act 2013*.

To provide a declaration, you must have consulted with the victim of domestic violence in your professional capacity. The victim can be the tenant or the tenant's dependent child.

As a trusted professional, you can help a victim escape domestic violence in a rented home by telling them about the protections that may be available.

More information

Visit the [NSW Fair Trading website](#) for copies of the declaration forms, resources for victims and more information about making a declaration.

Social media content

We have provided the content below for you to use in posts on your own social media channels:

- From 11 December, tenants can now access more types of professionals for a declaration that will help them escape a domestic violence situation in a rented home. Find out more on the NSW Fair Trading website: bit.ly/TenantDomesticViolence
- The NSW Government has made changes to tenancy laws so that more professionals can help tenants escape a domestic violence situation in a rented home by making a domestic violence declaration. Learn more: bit.ly/TenantDomesticViolence

For the new professionals who can now make a domestic violence declaration

- You can now help tenants escape a domestic violence situation in a rented home by completing a declaration form. Find out more on the NSW Fair Trading website: bit.ly/TenantDomesticViolence

Posts will be published on NSW Fair Trading's social media channels for you to share where appropriate:

- [NSW Fair Trading | Facebook](#)
- [NSW Fair Trading | Twitter](#)
- [NSW Fair Trading | LinkedIn](#)

