

# Sharing a house

## How to be a good housemate



Being able to ***maintain your tenancy*** means staying and living comfortably in the home you are renting, boarding house or share house you are living in. It also means that neighbours enjoy living comfortably. By being a responsible Tenant you will be able to stay in your home which will help you cope with your everyday living activities and feel safe every day.

### Key Responsibilities

- **Pay the right amount of rent, on time**
- **Pay the right share of common bills, on time**
- **Agree in writing at the beginning of your sharing arrangement what portion of the household bills you will contribute too**
- **Understand if you are named on the lease/or not named on the lease and know your rights and responsibilities**
- Clean up after yourself especially in the kitchen and bathroom
- Wash dishes each day
- Wash your clothes and linen regularly
- Remove all rubbish inside the house and outside the house
- Maintain the garden and lawns and other outside spaces of the house

### Tips for being a good boarder or housemate

- **Always remember that this home is a shared space, everyone needs to help keep it clean and comfortable**
- Keep up with your rent payments
- Keep up with your bill payments
- Contribute to the daily cleaning activities

- Clean up after yourself, especially in the kitchen and bathroom
- Treat the home with respect, as there are likely to be shared rooms, furniture and other items.
- **Respect** each other's privacy, remember to knock on bedroom doors before opening them, and not eating others food in the fridge
- **Remember** that if you want friends or family to visit and stay over, talk to your housemates first and let them know and come to an agreement about this
- **Remember** that you are all sharing the same space and there are going to be activities that you want to do within your home, like a party or a dinner for friends and family. Remember to always talk to your house mates before organizing these events.
- **Contribute** to the chores to the house as you agree, like doing the shopping, dishes, laundry, agree on this before you commence your share house arrangement so that you understand your contribution

Being a good housemate can help you maintain your tenancy, to stay in the home you are sharing. Sharing a home can be done successfully by being respectful, discussing issues as they arise, being honest and contributing to the house in the ways you agreed to do when you moved in. By doing this you and your housemates will live together in a positive way making your home somewhere you feel safe and comfortable.

**What else will you do to be a good housemate (Write below)?**