

Start Safely Private Rental Assistance



**Link
Wentworth**
Providing homes, building futures.

Domestic and family violence is serious, and can be a major factor in causing you to experience homelessness. If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic or family violence, Link Wentworth can help you to access safe and affordable housing through the NSW Government's 'Start Safety' Private Rental Assistance Subsidy program.

What is 'Start Safely'?

'Start Safely' is a rental assistance program that provides rent support to those who have already left or need to leave an unsafe home due to family or domestic violence. We provide support by:

- Helping you find a safe and affordable rental property
- Paying a portion of rent for up to three years
- Assisting with education and employment to encourage financial independence.

Who is eligible for the Subsidy?

You may be eligible for Start Safely if you:

- Are escaping domestic or family violence
- Homeless or at risk of homelessness
- Willing to receive support services where relevant.
- Can work towards financial independence.

To be eligible, you must also have the capacity to afford private rental accommodation at the end of the subsidy period. Clients on this program are eligible to receive Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA), which is provided to suitable people renting in the private or community housing market.

How does it work?

It is expected you will find a property within your financial means, and that the rent should not exceed 50% of your household's total gross weekly income (not including the CRA). For the first 12 months, you would contribute 25% of your income to rent (plus 100% of any CRA you receive). The NSW Government then funds the remaining amount, which is paid directly to the landlord or real estate agent, either by us (if you are a Link Wentworth client) or by the local housing office. If you are a Link Wentworth client, we will pay the landlord or real estate agent the subsidy amount 28 days in advance – every time. Gradually, the amount the client contributes to the rent increases.

What assistance does Link Wentworth provide in relation to the subsidy?

Our staff support clients on the Start Safely subsidy by:

- Working with landlords or real estate agents to find suitable housing for our clients
- Paying the subsidy direct to the landlord/agent – 28 days in advance.
- Issuing Bond Extra if necessary (providing up to \$1,500 GST inclusive to real estate agents or landlords to cover rental arrears and/or property damage, over and above the rental bond).
- We can also act as a liaison point between the client and the landlord/agent if necessary.
- We will conduct regular reviews during the duration of this program to ensure you are able to sustain this tenancy long term.

If you need more information, please contact Link Wentworth on 13 14 21 or email enquiries@linkwentworth.org.au

Do you need a translator?

TIS National provides access to phone and on-site interpreting services in over 150 languages. Call 13