



SOUTHERN CROSS HOUSING START WORK BONUS FACT SHEET

The Southern Cross Housing **Start Work Bonus** assists tenants starting work for the first time, or entering the workforce for the first time after becoming a tenant with Southern Cross Housing, by keeping rent payments the same as they were before starting work for the first six months a new job,

What is the Start Work Bonus?

We know that starting work can sometimes mean needing to spend money on new clothes and travel costs. If a person in the household over the age of 18 commences employment and is approved for the Start Work Bonus, the extra money earned when starting the new job will not be included for up to 26 weeks.

Eligibility

To be eligible applicants must:

- Be over 18 years of age
- Be living in a Social Housing Property that is owned or managed by Southern Cross Housing
- Not be living in an Affordable Housing Property
- Have received a Government pension, benefits or allowance as the primary source of income in the 12 months prior to starting work
- Be starting work for the first time since commencing as a tenant with Southern Cross Housing
- Submit an application for the Start Work Bonus within 28 days of starting work
- Employment may be casual, part-time, full-time, seasonal or self employment based.

Ineligibility

You are not eligible if you are:

- A tenant that lives in a property under the Affordable Housing Program
- A tenant that lives in a property that is owned by BlueCHP.
- Your tenancy is in rental arrears at the time that your application is submitted



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Applications

- Applications for funding must be received on the approved form which is available from <https://www.scch.org.au/community/start-work-bonus>
- Applications may be submitted at any time
- Applications must be accompanied by evidence of the total household income

Assessment of Applications

Applications are assessed by Senior staff at Southern Cross Housing. You will be advised of the outcome of your application within 14 days.

Conditions of Subsidy

All successful applications are required to sign an agreement that specifies conditions of the subsidy which are:

- Any additional income that is received by the household for a period of 26 weeks will not be included in the household calculation of rent that is payable.
- After 26 weeks the household rent subsidy will be decreased based on the new household income.
- If the household member stops work during the 26 week period the tenant must notify Southern Cross Housing. Southern Cross Housing will then reassess the rent subsidy to ensure that the household is paying the correct rent.
- Following completion of the 26 week subsidy, households may be approached by Southern Cross Housing to evaluate how the subsidy helped to make the transition to work easier.

More Information

For more information please contact the Southern Cross Communities Assist Team on 02 4413 1102 or email communities@scch.org.au.

Applications should be marked **Start Work Bonus** and may be posted to Southern Cross Housing, P.O Box 3421, Bomaderry, NSW 2541 or emailed to the above email address.