

The *Family Responsibilities Commission Act 2008* – how it may affect you as a tenant

About the Family Responsibilities Commission

In early 2008, the Cape York Reforms commenced with a partnership between four Aboriginal communities in Cape York, the Australian Government, and the Queensland Government which has led to the establishment of the Family Responsibilities Commission.

From 1 July 2008, the Commission will link families with support services to help strengthen the family roles and will make recommendations for families based on the best interests of their children.

What is the department's role?

As tenancy managers of housing in your community, the department is required to notify the Commission if a tenant has not complied with the conditions of their tenancy agreement under the *Family Responsibilities Commission Act 2008*.

The department must notify the Commission if you have been sent a Notice to Remedy Breach and provide details about:

- your tenancy agreement
- the conditions of your agreement that you have not complied with
- the action the department has taken to help you fix the problem, and
- your role in fixing the problem.

The Commission may request further information to help it make a recommendation

What is a tenancy agreement?

The tenancy agreement is a legal contract between the Department of Housing and Public Works or Council and you as a tenant. The tenancy agreement describes your rights and responsibilities and those of the department.

What is a Notice to Remedy Breach?

If you break the conditions of your tenancy agreement, the department may send you a Notice to Remedy Breach. The Notice to Remedy Breach provides options on how you may fix the problem and gives a date when this needs to be done.

Why would I get a Notice to Remedy Breach?

You may be sent a Notice to Remedy Breach if:

- you are behind in your rent and have not made arrangements with the department to repay any outstanding rent arrears
- you have not complied with an agreement with the department to repay outstanding rent arrears
- your house has not been kept clean and tidy, or has been damaged
- there has been a disturbance to the peace, comfort and privacy of your neighbours
- your house is being used for illegal purposes.

What is my role as tenant?

Your role as tenant is to:

- pay your rent on time
- keep your rent account up to date
- keep your home and garden clean and tidy
- understand your rights and responsibilities as a tenant

This fact sheet outlines the department's obligations under the *Family Responsibilities Commission Act 2008* and how they affect you.

How does this affect you as a tenant?

There are no changes to the conditions of your tenancy agreement.

The department will continue to manage your tenancy agreement as required under the *Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008*.

The only change is that the department must now let the Commission know if you break the conditions of your tenancy agreement.

When will these arrangements be in place?

The department is required to notify the Commission of any breaches of a tenancy agreement that have occurred since 1 July 2008.

For more information about the department's obligations under the *Family Responsibilities Commission Act 2008*, please contact your Housing Officer or contact the department on 4036 5555 or by mail.

For further information, contact:
The Area Manager

5B Sheridan Street
William McCormack Place
PO Box 471 Cairns Qld 4870