

MEDIA RELEASE

Commissioner of Consumer Affairs

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Free Advice for Tenants and Landlords in Competitive NT Rental Market

An ever changing rental market within the Northern Territory has prompted Consumer Affairs to launch an education campaign to highlight the rights and responsibilities of tenants and landlords.

Consumer Affairs Commissioner Gary Clements, who is also the Commissioner for Tenancies, said the *Residential Tenancies Act* was quite specific about the rights and responsibilities of the parties involved in tenancy agreements and encouraged both tenants and landlords to familiarise themselves with its provisions.

“The demand for rental properties in the NT is expected to grow with major projects such as Inpex coming on line,” he said.

Mr Clements said Consumer Affairs provides free and accessible advice to tenants and landlords and the education campaign was aimed at increasing awareness of the provisions of the *Residential Tenancies Act* to all concerned, including real estate agents and property managers.

“A range of publications are available on the Consumer Affairs website where tenants and landlords can view the legislation and download brochures, fact sheets and forms.

“They can also download the booklet, ‘A Guide to Renting in the Northern Territory’, which clearly summarises the rights and responsibilities of tenants and landlords under the Act. “ Copies are also available from the Consumer Affairs office in Casuarina and Belvedere House in Alice Springs.

On-line brochures and fact sheets cover a wide range of issues including:

- Breaking a Lease Early
- Moving Out of Home
- Rent Bidding
- Repairs and Maintenance of Rental Properties
- Share Houses
- Unclaimed Residential Tenancy Bonds
- Sharing a Property
- What Tenants Should Know About Renting
- Resolving Common Tenancy Disputes
- Applications to the Commissioner of Tenancies

- Bonds and Security Deposits
- Breaking a Tenancy Lease Early
- Boarders, Lodgers and Sub-Tenants
- Abandoned Goods

Mr Clements said tenants and landlords can access the Commissions free advice service by calling 1800 019 319.

Website information can be found at:

http://www.nt.gov.au/justice/consaffairs/res_tenancies.shtml

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