



David Elliott MP

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Minister for Corrections, Emergency Services and Veterans Affairs

Ray Williams MP

Member for Castle Hill
Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier for Western Sydney

MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW LAWS TO STOP CRACK DOWN ON CRIMINALS AND SAFEGUARD SOCIAL HOUSING TENANTS

Criminal activity in social housing communities will no longer be tolerated with new laws cracking down on anti-social and illegal behaviour amongst tenants passing NSW Parliament this week.

Hills local MPs David Elliott and Ray Williams both agreed that the *Residential Tenancies and Housing Legislation Amendment (Public Housing - Antisocial Behaviour) Act* will make it easier for social housing landlords to evict people who have committed serious crimes such as drug dealing which can make their neighbours' lives a misery.

"Everyone has a right to feel secure in their neighbourhood. The vast majority of social housing tenants are honest people who just need a hand, but for too long they have had to put up with the poor behaviour of a minority," Mr Williams said.

"There are 38,358 people living in social housing in Western Sydney and they can rest easier knowing that the Government is supporting their right to safe housing.

"The laws also strengthen the powers of social housing landlords to crackdown on cases where tenants fraudulently claim a reduced rent to which they are not entitled." Mr Elliott said.

New "three strikes" laws will also send a clear warning to tenants engaging in other forms of antisocial behaviour, such as threatening and abusing their neighbours, that they risk eviction if they continue this behaviour.

Social housing residents will be contacted through *Your Home* magazine, (which goes to all tenants in social housing), about the new safeguards, how it assists them, and what they can expect from the new laws.

For more information visit: www.facs.nsw.gov.au/reforms/social-housing-in-nsw/antisocial-behaviour