# HELP WITH A RENTAL HOME

#### **HELP FROM CONSUMER PROTECTION**

Call 1300 30 40 54 or visit consumerprotection.wa.gov.au for advice on:

Rental agreements and tenant rights

Rent increases, bond disputes

Repairs and maintenance

Ending a lease

Family and domestic violence support

# **RENTAL TERMS & LAWS (WA)**

Tenant: Pays rent and lives in the property

Landlord: Owns the property

Property Manager: Manages the property

Governed by:

- Residential Tenancies Act 1987
- Residential Tenancies Regulations 1989

### **COMMON ISSUES**

- Repairs
- Rent increases or arrears
- Bond refunds
- Lease disputes
- Keep written records. Always continue paying rent—even during a dispute.

#### **5 STEPS TO RESOLVE A RENTAL DISPUTE**

- 1. Talk to Your Landlord Refer to your lease and raise the issue in writing.
- 2. Contact Consumer Protection Use their free conciliation service.
- 3. Issue a Breach Notice Use the correct form, follow notice rules.
- 4. Request a Commissioner's Decision For issues like pets or minor changes.
- 5. Go to the Magistrates Court For unresolved disputes or bond claims.

## **BREACHING THE LEASE**

Tenant breaches: Subletting, damage, unapproved changes, nuisance, etc. Landlord gives 14 days (Form 20) to fix the issue, or terminates with Form 1C.

Landlord breaches: Entering without notice, illegal rent demands, evictions without grounds.

Tenant may issue Form 23 or a written breach notice.

## **GOING TO COURT (QUICK GUIDE)**

- Register on eCourts portal
- Upload evidence (photos, emails)
- Use Form 6 (bond) or Form 12 (other)
- Attend court and represent yourself or use an advocate

#### **CHECKLIST**

- Review your lease
- Communicate in writing
- Document everything
- Keep paying rent
- Contact Consumer Protection if needed
- Lodge with the Magistrates Court if unresolved