



\$1 million in grants for financial counselling to help vulnerable renters

Free and independent financial counselling will be available in-house, for the first time, alongside tenancy support services to private renters who are struggling financially.

The Financial Counselling Foundation has announced \$1.17 million in grants for the next three years at:

- Tenants Victoria
- Tenants Queensland and
- VERTO in New South Wales.

The Financial Counselling Foundation has identified increased need for financial counselling services for private renters. This is only going to increase due to temporary government income and rental support measures ending soon and many sectors, like tourism and hospitality, yet to recover from COVID impacts.

Financial counsellors provide free, independent and confidential assistance for people who are struggling with debt. They are qualified professionals who provide information, advice and advocacy to people in financial difficulty.

Tenants Victoria CEO Jennifer Beveridge said,

“Tenants Victoria is delighted to receive the grant from Financial Counselling Foundation. We know that many renters who contact us have problems that are complex and require more than legal advice alone.

Adding a financial counsellor to our team will enable renters to receive an integrated service from Tenants Victoria.”

Tenants Queensland CEO Penny Carr said,

“We welcome the opportunity for COVID impacted Queensland renters who have struggled with debt arising from rent and other living costs to access early advice regarding their financial situation.”

VERTO CEO Ron Maxwell said,

“Being able to provide independent financial counselling to our clients will have life-changing results for many and compliment the really important free services VERTO currently offers in our local communities.”

Financial Counselling Foundation CEO, Jane Nash said,

“These grants will enable in-house access to free financial counselling for thousands of people seeking help with rent issues. If you cannot pay your rent, a financial counsellor can provide information and advocacy to stabilise your situation and help to get you back on your feet.”

Funding for the grants is from the Foundation and a donation of \$120,000 from the Credit Union of Australia (CUA).

CUA is pleased to support the Financial Counselling Foundation with this donation as part of our Financial Inclusion Action Plan, which committed \$1 million to help community organisations support Australians facing financial vulnerability exacerbated by COVID-19” said CUA Head of Communications and Community, Allison White.

About the Financial Counselling Foundation

The Financial Counselling Foundation is a charitable trust established in December 2017 to increase access to free and independent financial counselling for people with money and debt problems. This was in response to chronic underfunding of financial counselling relative to demand.

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