



THE LAW SOCIETY
OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Our ref: CLC/DHrg:1548851

18 June 2018

The Hon. Pru Goward, MP
Minister for Family and Community Services
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Minister,

Inner city local allocation strategy for public housing estates

It has come to the attention of the Law Society of NSW that Family and Community Services (FACS) has implemented an Inner City local allocation strategy for FACS properties in Redfern, Waterloo, Surry Hills and Glebe.

We understand that applicants with a record of criminal convictions relating to drug manufacture and/or drug supply within the past five years will not be offered a property in these inner city locations, and neither will applicants who do not consent to a criminal records check.

We have concerns about the privacy issues such a strategy raises, and the concerning precedent set in requiring the disclosure of criminal records for the purposes of public housing. We are further concerned that FACS and the NSW Police Force may make punitive decisions against people who have already been dealt with by the criminal justice system, which would, in effect, amount to double punishment.

We would appreciate advice about the implementation of any such strategy, including whether FACS is considering implementing this strategy in other suburbs, and/or extending it to current tenants.

Yours sincerely,

Doug Humphreys OAM
President