

Challenging neighbours

Neighbours can be a valuable support for us in our community. However, we all like to live differently, therefore, sometimes issues with neighbours can arise.

Challenges with neighbours can be stressful and upsetting. These challenges may include:

- Excessive noise
- Verbal abuse
- Throwing things
- Animal nuisance
- Disorderly behaviour in common areas
- Unruly visitors

It's important to remember these issues can be overcome if approached well. If you are experiencing any of these behaviours from your neighbour, you can:

- Calmly approach the neighbour and try to resolve the issue
- Discuss your concerns with your landlord
- If required keep a diary of the behaviour including dates and times and how it impacted you
- Make sure you don't do anything that puts your own tenancy at risk

TIP

Have an open conversation with the neighbours. Ask a friend, relative or support worker to be present. Seek advice from your local Tenancy Advocacy and Assistance Program (TAAP) for any support with Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) or negotiations with your landlord. Advise your NDIS care team.



Serious disturbances

More serious disputes and disturbances from your neighbour can include:

- Physical harassment
- Ongoing verbal harassment
- Property damage
- Family violence
- Rioting
- Drug dealing
- Arson
- Rubbish dumping

If you are experiencing any of these behaviours from your neighbour, you should consider the following:

- Call the police if you are in danger
- Seek support from your friends, family or support workers
- Advise your landlord
- Discuss your situation with NDIS care team
- Use self-care strategies and look after yourself
- Do not do anything that puts your own tenancy at risk

What happens if my visitors behave inappropriately and how can I resolve it?

When you have visitors at your property it is important to remember you are responsible for their behaviour. If your visitors are causing a nuisance, consider the following:

- Ask your visitors to leave
- Offer a genuine apology to your neighbours if they have been disturbed by your visitor's behaviour
- If the behaviour is ongoing your landlord may approach you to discuss the matter
- In future, suggest meeting with your visitors at a different location if you think their behaviour will be offensive to your neighbours

For further information and support

Tenancy

Consumer Affairs

1300 55 81 81

www.consumer.vic.gov.au

Victorian Office of the Public Advocate

1300 309 337

www.publicadvocate.vic.gov.au

Mental health

Wellways

Helpline: 1300 111 500

wellways.org

Lifeline

13 11 14

www.lifeline.org.au

