



Tips: Renting around Koori Knockout

The Tenants' Union and the [Aboriginal Tenants Advice and Advocacy Services](#) put together these top tips to help Aboriginal renters get ready for Koori Knockout season. Make sure your home and rent are all sorted beforehand so you can enjoy the Koori Knockout stress-free.

And for more info about renting, check out the [Koori Renters Kit](#).



What is Koori Knockout?

The Koori Knockout (KO) is an annual football competition that draws crowds of over 40,000 spectators each year.

In 1971 at the Clifton Hotel in Redfern, six deadly blackfullas created what is today the largest gathering of First Nations people in NSW. It is run by and for the Aboriginal community, largely funded from private sponsorship and community support.

Today men's and women's teams come together from Aboriginal Nations across NSW, and across all ages, to battle it out and claim the ultimate prize – hosting the next KO on their country!

1. Looking after your house and rent

Training and preparation for the KO often starts months before the October long weekend. Planning ahead for your rent and home can help protect your tenancy if you're going to be away.

- Work out how long you'll be away and, if possible, pay rent in advance so you don't have to worry about it while travelling or when you return.
- If paying ahead isn't an option, consider setting up **Centrepay** (a service for people receiving Centrelink that automatically deducts money from your payment for essential bills) or a **direct debit**, so rent is paid automatically on a date that works for you.

This helps prevent getting behind in rent and reduces the risk of tenancy problems while you're away.

2. Saving tips

Unplug appliances, turn off power at the wall, and clear out your fridge if you'll be away for a while. Avoid leaving

rubbish or food that could attract pests and lead to cleaning costs. Lower bills mean more money left to keep your rent up to date.

Avoid unexpected expenses: Ask trusted family, friends or a neighbour to check on pets, plants, and mail so nothing at home causes problems while you're away. This helps keep your place safe and prevents any issues that could affect your tenancy.

Do a quick property check before you go: Check windows, taps, and appliances. Fixing small issues now (like a running toilet or a leaking tap) avoids bigger bills later that could impact your rent.

3. What are the rules if I have family or friends staying over for the KO season?

Most housing providers allow visitors, including family and friends, to stay from time to time. However issues sometimes arise when visitors stay for longer periods.

Because the rules differ between housing providers, it's important to check your tenancy agreement, housing policy or tenant handbook, before someone stays for an extended time.

General rules to be aware of:

- Your tenancy agreement usually sets a maximum number of people who can live in the property.
- If extra people stay longer than allowed, this may be seen as a breaking the rules of your tenancy agreement – this could put your tenancy at risk.
- Longer stays may also affect your rent, so housing providers often require notification.

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Examples of different provider rules:

Homes NSW and Aboriginal Housing Office (AHO):

- Visitors generally cannot stay longer than 4 weeks (28 days) without approval.
- Tenants must notify Homes NSW if visitors stay for an extended period.

Many Rivers Housing:

- If a visitor plans to stay longer than 2 weeks, you must notify your Tenancy Support Officer

You are responsible for your guests

It is also important to note that **you** are generally responsible for your visitors' behaviour. This includes any damage to property, repair costs or antisocial behaviour.

This does not apply where issues arise from domestic violence-related circumstances.

If your housing provider raises concerns about visitors or suggests you may be breaking your agreement, call your local Aboriginal Tenancy Advice & Advocacy Service for advice.

4. What to do if you have received a letter or any notices of termination?

Contact your local Aboriginal Tenants' Advice and Advocacy Service **as soon as possible**. They can tell you whether urgent action is needed, help you request more time, or support you to respond safely.

- Don't sign or agree to anything.
- Keep copies of all letters, texts, or emails you receive.
- If you come home to a notice, get advice before responding.

More info

For more info on your rights as a renter, check out the Koori Renters Kit. You can find it online at: tenants.org.au/resource/koori-renters-kit

Or, if you would like free printed copies, please get in touch with the Tenants' Union. Email contact@tenantsunion.org.au or call (02) 8117 3700.

This information resource was updated in August 2026.

The artwork featured on the front page of this resource and the Koori Renters Kit is **Everyone's journey moves differently, yet all paths are connected by a shared centre – home**, by Patricia Blackman and Steve Bassett (Wakka Wakka, Gooreng Gooreng). For more info on these artworks, see tenants.org.au/tu/aboriginal-artworks



Mullian, by Millmullian (Wailwaan, Ngiyampaa and Yuin)

Mullian is the Wedge Tailed Eagle. In this painting the circles represent communities of people. The outside wavy lines connecting the communities are the paths which the people travel between the communities. The smaller shorter lines connecting to the central wavy lines represent the knowledge gained from those communities coming together to create a stronger and more stable world. The Wedge Tailed Eagle in the centre represents the strength of unity in people coming together through fair and just law. The orange lines on the outside represent the wing feathers of the Wedge Tailed Eagle flying over the communities to oversee and protect the people.



For free advice, call your local Tenants Advice & Advocacy Service:

SYDNEY:

• Eastern	9386 9147
• Inner	9698 5975
• Inner West	9559 2899
• Northern	9559 2899
• Southern	9787 4679
• South West	4628 1678
• Western	8833 0933

REGIONAL:

• Blue Mountains	4704 0201
• Central Coast	4353 5515
• Hunter	4969 7666
• Illawarra Sth Coast	4276 1939
• Mid Coast	6583 9866
• Northern Rivers	6621 1022
• Northwest NSW	1800 836 268
• Southwest NSW	1300 483 786

ABORIGINAL:

• Sydney	9833 3314
• West NSW	6881 5700
• South NSW	1800 672 185
• North NSW	1800 248 913

WEB: tenants.org.au

NSW FAIR TRADING: 13 32 20

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