

## **Accommodation Issues**

### *Going Flatting:*

Many students go flatting while they study at university. For many it is either their first time away from home, or they aren't that familiar with being a tenant and what rights you have. VUWSA provides support and advice for students who are flatting. Flatting in Wellington is quite expensive and there are a number of things students should look out for advice on issues like bond payments, fixed or periodic tenancies, rent issues, and generally resolving disputes visit the Tenancy Services website:

<http://www.dbh.govt.nz/tenants-index>

Power and phone accounts are usually the responsibility of the Tenants not the landlord. If you set up a phone or power account make sure you have the names of all your flatmates on the account. Otherwise you could end up paying a dept that isn't yours. When setting up a flat it pays to look for cheap deals, and always read the fine print of any contract before you sign it.

Making sure that you set up systems such as recording all toll calls made from you flat can solve a lot of problems; one method for this is each flat member having a pin they enter to make toll calls. It's also a good idea to set up a flat account to pay rent and bills from, all of the can help keep infighting down as money issues often lead to fights amongst flatmates.

Flatting can be fun, and is an important part of becoming an independent adult. But sometimes things don't go as planned so it's important to know your rights. If you have any problems come see us at VUWSA

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