

Body Worn Video (BWV) cameras

June 2018

Body worn video cameras will become a standard part of the Public Housing Safety Officer's equipment by the end of March.

The cameras have been introduced to foster greater relations between our PHSOs, our public housing tenants and the public.

Who will be using the Body Worn Video (BWV) cameras?

Some Public Housing Safety Officers (PHSOs) in Darwin and Alice Springs will be conducting a six week trial of the BWV cameras. All PHSOs will then be issued with BWV cameras as part of their standard equipment by the end of March.

The cameras are not being used for covert recording, and you will be notified when the camera is on.

Why is this necessary?

BWV cameras help with safety concerns and allow for more accurate recording of incidents and interactions between PHSOs, tenants and the public.

The cameras will foster better community relations through accountability and transparency of interactions between PHSOs, tenants and the public.

I'm a good tenant. Will I be recorded?

The cameras are running whenever a Public Housing Safety Officer attends a public housing premises or complex. You will be told when you are being recorded.

Will you record me in my home?

Recording within a home will only happen if the Public Housing Safety Officer has consent, from the tenant, to enter the premises. PHSOs will advise you when they are recording in your home. If you do not want to be recorded in your home, you can request the cameras to be turned off.

When will Public Housing Safety Officers start recording?

The cameras may be running when a PHSO attends a public housing premises. They may begin recording when a PHSO uses a statutory power under the *Housing Act*, such as giving a direction to leave premises or disposing of alcohol or seize a dangerous item. Outside of this, a PHSO can record when they feel an interaction is, or is likely to present a risk to the safety of the PHSO or the people present, when a PHSO may be required to use force against a person in order to protect themselves.

Can I ask you to stop recording?

Yes, you can ask PHSOs to stop recording. PHSOs may choose to continue recording if they are capturing evidential material of an incident, and they should give you their reason for doing so.

How will I know if I am being recorded?

Public Housing Safety Officers will tell you when you are being recorded. Private conversations that PHSOs are not a part of, will not be recorded.

Will my visitors be recorded?

PHSOs will notify a tenant, visitor or any other person that they are being recorded.

What will the recordings be used for?

Footage will be used to assist in substantiating complaints of antisocial behaviour as well as providing an accurate record of events.

Can I have access to the footage?

You can apply for the footage taken by the PHSOs, under the *Information Act*, however any third parties captured on the footage will be blurred out.

Your privacy and personal information is protected at all times, unless it is required by law. If legal action is taken, footage can be subject to summons or subpoena by a court.

What happens to the footage?

Footage will be uploaded to a secure evidence system. It can only be accessed by authorised users.

How long is the footage kept for?

All footage is categorised according to its content and is kept for a minimum of 3 months on average. As this is a trial period, storage times may change.

Can anyone access the footage under FOI, or only persons involved in the incident?

All material recorded by BWV cameras is restricted and will only be disclosed to a third party in accordance with the law.

A person must have a vested interest in the footage that has been collected. The footage can then be subpoenaed for legal purposes.

How can I be assured my privacy is protected?

Only certain senior staff are authorised to access footage for investigation purposes if a complaint is made, after seeking the permission of the person who is the subject of the recording (tenant, visitor or other person). If permission is not obtained, then all personal information will be obscured to protect identity.

All footage is subject to the same privacy principles and legislation as any other personal information collected by the Northern Territory Government.

For more information, visit dhcd.nt.gov.au or call 8999 8543, Monday to Friday, 8am – 4pm.