

MEDIA RELEASE

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Peak Body Warns Apartment & Unit Owners to Adopt Zero Tolerance for Schoolies Onslaught

OWNERS SHOULD NOT HAVE TO PAY FOR PARTY HOUSE DAMAGES

The peak body for apartment and unit owners says strata owners and Owners Corporations should adopt a zero tolerance policy for unruly schoolies to avoid being left with damages bills of thousands of dollars.

It says the parents of unruly schoolies should be held accountable and made to pay for any damages.

The Owners Corporation Network (OCN) says a small minority of schoolies have left a trail of destruction at previous years' celebrations through apartment overcrowding and partying.

"With the high cost of travel and the possibility of a new COVID variant on the horizon, we are expecting that many more schoolies will stay in NSW this year and not venture to traditional schoolies venues like the Gold Coast and Bali," Karen Stiles, OCN Executive Director, said today.

"Apartment overcrowding is a major problem during schoolies. This often leads to apartments being turned into a party house with too much alcohol and drugs, fighting, vandalism and irresponsible behaviour.

"In the past, Owners Corporations have had problems with planking, drones, balcony hopping and damages to public areas like lifts and swimming pools, and it has been the owners who have been left to pay for the damages.

"Apartment owners and Owners Corporations are urged to provide the necessary paperwork and safeguards to ensure that, if there is a problem, the parents are held accountable for the actions of their children. Owners Corporations need to ensure their security devices and in house CCTV are in good working order.

"Schoolies in the main are very responsible but, like everything else, the minority can tarnish this event.

"We want Owners Corporations to learn from previous years and to engage a zero tolerance policy with unruly schoolies so that owners do not end up paying."

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Media Comment:

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About OCN

The Owners Corporation Network of Australia Limited (OCN) is the peak consumer body representing residential strata and community title owners and residents. Strata is the fastest growing form of residential property ownership in Australia, and the growth of this sector raises increasingly important questions over property ownership and governance.

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