



safe, secure and affordable housing

Priority Public Housing

The Department of Local Government and Housing offers housing to applicants on a 'first in, first housed' basis with applicants placed in a queue called the 'waiting list'. However, housing may be offered 'out of turn' to people who cannot gain or maintain private sector housing or if private sector housing cannot meet their needs.

Applications for 'out of turn' or priority housing can be made if the applicant is homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless or has serious medical or social problems including family violence, sexual assault and disability that affect their ability to gain housing in the private sector.

Applications for priority housing are carefully assessed as housing offered to an applicant ahead of others on the waiting list means that those other applicants have to wait longer.

Everyone on the waiting list has a need for public housing so it is unfair to house people out of turn unless their need for housing is serious and urgent.

Priority housing is a long term solution to housing needs. If you are in need of crisis accommodation on a short term basis, the department can refer you to other organisations who may be able to help you.

To apply for priority housing

To be eligible to apply for priority housing, you must be eligible for public housing, however the eligibility criteria may be waived in cases of exceptional need.

This means you will have to lodge a public housing tenancy application form either before, or at the time of, lodging an application for priority housing.

The application form for priority housing gives you the opportunity to tell us why you need priority housing. It is important that you answer all the questions. There is a section on the form for your doctor, social worker or referral agency to give their support of your application. Letters and other documentation that support your need for priority housing should be attached to the application form. Other documentation may include restraining orders or evidence of a medical condition.

The assessment process

An interview will be arranged with a housing officer for you to provide information so that your application can be assessed. You can bring a friend, relative or advocate with you to the interview. If you need an interpreter, please let us know when you arrange an appointment for your interview.

Details of this interview will be included in a report and presented to the priority housing committee together with your application and attached documents.

The committee will decide whether your need is serious and urgent enough for you to be granted priority housing. You will be advised of the committee's decision in writing.

If your application is approved

You will be offered a dwelling as soon as an appropriate property is available. You will need to pay rent and bond at this time. The bond is equal to four weeks rent. If you are eligible to receive a rebate on your rent due to low income, your bond will be equal to two weeks rent at the rebated rate and two weeks at the full rent. If you are an aged pensioner your bond will be equal to four weeks rent at the rebated rate. At least half of the bond amount must be paid before you move into the property. You will be required to pay the rest of the bond by regular repayments over six months. This can be arranged at an interview with Housing Services prior to an offer of housing being made.

Your rent must always be paid one week in advance so when you sign the lease for the property you will need to pay at least one week. If you are in receipt of a Centrelink benefit your rent and bond repayments can be deducted directly from these payments.

If your application is not approved

Housing Services may be able to help you by providing an interest free loan for a bond on private rental accommodation.

If you feel that the wrong decision has been made in not approving your priority housing application, you have a right to appeal the decision. Contact Northern Territory Housing Complaints and Appeals on 1300 301 167 for further details.

Further information

For further information, please contact your local housing office.

Για βοήθεια στη γλώσσα σας τηλεφωνήστε στις Υπηρεσίες Στέγασης (Housing Services) στο 1300 301 167.

"Để được sự giúp đỡ về ngôn ngữ, xin gọi Dịch vụ Gia Cư (Housing Services) qua số 1300 301 167"

للمساعدة اللغوية يرجى الاتصال بخدمات الإسكان على الرقم 1300 301 167

Untuk bantuan bahasa hubungilah Dinas Perumahan (Housing Services) di nomor telp 1300 301 167

សម្រាប់ជំនួយភាសា សូមទូរស័ព្ទទៅសេវាលំនៅឋានតាមរយៈលេខ៖ 1300 301 167

အင်္ဂလိပ်စကားနားလည်ဖို့အကူအညီအတွက် အိမ်ယာဝန်ဆောင်မှုများဌာန ၁၃၀၀ ၃၀၀ ၁၆၇ ကို ခေါ်ပါ။

若需語言協助請撥1300 301 167 与房屋服務聯絡

Para a assistência da língua ligue para os Serviços de Habitação no 1300 301 167.

Wegen Hilfe in deutscher Sprache wenden Sie sich bitte an den Wohnungsdienst, Telefonnummer 1300 301 167.

For language assistance please call Housing Services on 1300 301 167.

Housing Services offices

Casuarina - Ethos House, 270 Trower Rd	p: 08 8922 5526
Darwin - Construction House, Cnr Mitchell and Briggs Sts	p: 08 8999 8814
Palmerston - Highway House, Cnr Broadland St and Palmerston Cct	p: 08 8999 4767
Alice Springs - Cnr Leichhardt and Gregory Tce	p: 08 8951 5344
Tennant Creek - Government Building, Peko Rd	p: 08 8962 4497
Katherine - NT Government Centre, First St	p: 08 8973 8536
Nhulunbuy - Shop 2 Arnhem House, Endeavour Square	p: 08 8987 0533
Client Relations Officer	p: 1300 301 167 or 08 8999 8853