



Eligibility Criteria for Public Housing



To be eligible for public housing you must be able to meet the following criteria. Eligibility is assessed at the time of application and again prior to allocation of public housing.

Income and Assets Tests

The table over the page shows the current Income and Assets Eligibility Limits.

Household Income

Household income is determined as the gross income of all household members aged 18 years and over. Income includes gross household income from all sources excluding:

- assistance for Isolated Children Scheme
- Bursary and Scholarship Allowances for children
- Carer Allowance and Bonus
- Child Care Benefit
- Child maintenance payments paid by the applicant
- Crisis Payment
- Maternity Allowance
- Defence Force Reserve Payments
- Disability component of Overseas War Pension
- Disability component of Veterans Affairs Pension
- Double Orphan Pension
- Education Entry Payment
- Employment Entry Payment
- Family Tax Benefit B
- Foster Child Payment
- GST compensation on benefits and pensions
- income of household members under the age of 18 years (not including applicant, spouse or singles requesting shared accommodation)
- irregular overtime
- large Family Supplement

- Legacy Benefit
 - Maternity Immunisation Allowance
 - Mobility Allowance
 - Multiple Birth Allowance
 - Older Australian Bonus
 - Pensioner Education Supplement
 - Pharmaceutical Allowance
 - Rent Assistance
 - Salary Sacrifice
 - Telephone Allowance
 - 50 per cent of the Student Financial Supplement Scheme Loan
- NB. Income derived from the investment of the Prisoner of War Payment is included for the purpose of determining eligibility.

Assets

Applicants and household members, as previously defined, will need to provide documentary evidence of assessable assets.

Assessable assets include:

- cash holdings
- savings
- shares in estates
- stock market bonds and investments
- Superannuation funds which can be accessed
- the value of any interest or equity in land or property
- mobile homes
- recreation vehicles e.g. caravan, boats etc.

Assets not included in assessing eligibility are:

- personal belongings
- household furniture
- personal car
- assets that can't be accessed; e.g. superannuation, roll over funds which provide the applicant's primary source of income

- \$25 000 Lump sum payment for Service Personnel (or their surviving spouse) who were held prisoner of war during WWII, or the Korean War or the European War.

Applicants need to provide documentary proof that assets cannot be accessed.

Property Ownership

Applicants must not own or partly own a residential property anywhere in Australia. Exemptions can be made for applicants whose property is subject to settlement following a marital breakdown, providing that the property is not available to them and no income is received from the property.

Residency

- Australian Citizenship
- Permanent Residency status
- A Special Category Visa (applicable to New Zealanders)
- a Temporary Protection Visa

Applicants must reside in the Northern Territory while waiting to be allocated public housing. Exemptions are made for holidays, medical treatment etc, applicants need to keep Territory Housing informed.

Debt to Territory Housing

Applications may be accepted from applicants who have a debt to Territory Housing, if the applicant is making regular payments to repay the debt. Allocation of housing will not occur until the debt has been paid in full, however in cases of exceptional need or family violence, exemptions may be granted.

Age

Under the *Residential Tenancies Act*, people aged 16 and over can be legally bound by the terms and conditions of a Residential Lease Agreement.

Territory Housing will accept applications and house people 16 years and over.

Applications from people under 16 will only be accepted in exceptional circumstances.

Further Information

For further information please contact your local Territory Housing office.

Table 1 - Maximum household income and asset limits

Household size	Assessed gross income limit	Asset limit
1	\$619 per week	\$43 400
2	\$803 per week	\$62 100
3	\$937 per week	\$98 400
4	\$1 072 per week	\$98 400
5	\$1 206 per week	\$98 400
6	\$1 342 per week	\$98 400

www.nt.gov.au/territoryhousing

Casuarina - Ethos House, 270 Trower Rd Casuarina NT

p: 08 8922 5526

Darwin - Construction House, Cnr Mitchell and Briggs Sts Darwin NT

p: 08 8999 8814

Palmerston - Highway House, Cnr Broadland St and Palmerston Cct NT

p: 08 8999 4767

Alice Springs - Cnr Leichhardt and Gregory Tce, Alice Springs NT

p: 08 8951 5344

Tennant Creek - Government Building, Peko Rd Tennant Creek NT

p: 08 8962 4497

Katherine - NT Government Centre, First St Katherine NT

p: 08 8973 8536

Nhulunbuy - Shop 2 Arnhem House, Endeavour Square, Nhulunbuy NT

p: 08 8987 0533

Client Relations Officer

p: 1300 301 167

or 08 8999 8853