

# Eligibility Criteria for Public Housing

To be eligible for public housing, you must meet the criteria outlined in this fact sheet.

## Income and Assets

The income and asset limits listed in the table below only apply to urban public housing. Please speak to your local Housing office if you wish to apply for housing in a remote community or region.

| Maximum household income and asset limits |                                |   |   |
|---|--------------------------------|---|---|
| Household size                            | Gross income limit* (per week) | Household asset limit for all new applicants and existing tenants under 55 years* | Household asset limit for existing tenants over 55 years* |
| 1   | \$806                          | \$68,922  | \$247,855   |
| 2   | \$1,047                        | \$98,339  | \$247,855   |
| 3   | \$1,218                        | \$155,752   | \$348,724   |
| 4   | \$1,399                        | \$155,752   | \$348,724   |
| 5   | \$1,572                        | \$155,752   | \$348,724   |
| 6   | \$1,748                        | \$155,752   | \$348,724   |

\* Income and Asset limits last changed on 1 October 2018.

## Household income

Any person applying for public housing must supply proof of all income sources. This includes each household member aged 18 years and over.

More information on proof of income and when proof is required, can be found on the *Proof of income* fact sheet.

## Assets

Any person applying for public housing must supply proof of their assessable assets. This includes each household member aged 18 years and over.

| Assessable assets may include:   | Assets not included in assessing eligibility are:  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>savings or money held at a financial institution</li> <li>superannuation or compensation funds which can be accessed</li> <li>the value of any land or property</li> <li>the value of any hobby or trading collections</li> <li>recreation vehicles (for example caravans, mobile homes or boats).</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>personal effects</li> <li>general household furniture</li> <li>personal vehicles or other transport (e.g. car, motorbike, mobility scooter).</li> </ul> |

Full information about assets that are included and not included for eligibility assessment can be found within the department's *'Income and Assets'* policy.

## What if I do not provide proof of income or assets?

The department cannot assess your application if there is missing information. This will mean you are not eligible for public housing.

## Age

Applications will be accepted from clients aged 16 years and over. Applications from clients under 16 years of age may be accepted by the department with proof no other accommodation is available.

## Property ownership

You must not own or partly own a residential property anywhere in Australia. The department must approve any exemptions to this criteria.

## Residency

You must be an Australian Citizen or permanent resident of Australia. This includes if you are on a Special Category Visa (applicable to New Zealanders) or Temporary Protection Visa.

Other accepted categories include Sponsored Migrants and victims of domestic violence on an 820 or 309 Visa.

You must also prove you are a resident of the Northern Territory when you submit your form. You also need to continue to live in the Northern Territory while you wait for public housing. This does not include if you leave for brief holidays or medical treatment.

## Debt

You are still eligible if you have an outstanding debt with the department. If you have a debt with the department, you can speak to your local Housing office. You may be able to enter an agreement to repay this debt.

## Unsatisfactory former tenancy

You are not eligible to live in or apply for public housing for a period of two years if:

- You have had your tenancy agreement terminated by the department for a breach
- You voluntarily gave up your public housing due to a breach.

This does not apply if your termination was due to a debt that has now been repaid, or arranged to be repaid.

## Where can I get more information?

Contact your local Housing office:

|                |           |               |           |                   |  |
|----------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|-------------------|--|
| Greater Darwin | 8999 8814 | Tennant Creek | 8962 4497 | Alice Springs     | 8951 5344                                |
| Nhulunbuy      | 8987 0533 | Katherine     | 8973 8513 | Visit the website | <a href="http://nt.gov.au">nt.gov.au</a> |
| Arafura Region | 8995 5122 | Palmerston    | 8999 4767 |                   |  |