Homelands - a shared responsibility

The Northern Territory Government acknowledges the importance of Aboriginal people’s cultural connections to their traditional lands, and the contribution that homelands and outstations make to the economic, social and cultural life of the Northern Territory.

The government is committed to improving services and living conditions on homelands. This will require the joint efforts of governments, landholders and residents. We all share responsibility for the future of homelands, and need to work together to achieve the best possible results for homelands.

Policy

The Homelands Policy objectives are to:

• Provide clarity and transparency and to provide clear direction on a new funding model that will empower local residents.

• Allow support for all eligible homelands, no matter when they were established.

• Highlight the primary responsibility of residents to independently manage, maintain and develop their homeland infrastructure. The contributions of residents via service fees will be made transparent in new reporting arrangements.

• Include stronger governance arrangements and minimum service standards for service providers.

• Acknowledge the importance of collecting and utilising accurate information about homelands to inform governments, service providers and residents, about the best way to access services.

• Provide additional funding of up to $5,200 per annum to service providers for each eligible homelands dwelling to carry out repairs and maintenance work, through the Homelands Extra Allowance.

The new funding arrangements are:

• Municipal and Essential Services (MES) grants totaling $15 million per annum.

• Capital Infrastructure Grants (CIG) totaling $5 million per annum.

• Housing Maintenance Program (HMP) grants totaling $7.3 million per annum.

• Homelands Extra Allowance, $14 million over four years.

Where can I get more information?

To find out more, speak to your local service provider or phone the Homelands Unit on 1800 031 648.

Read more about the Homelands Policy, by visiting www.homelands.nt.gov.au