

# Rental rebate

A rental rebate is a subsidy given to eligible public housing tenants. The CEO (Housing) calculates rebated rent as a percentage of the household income. The rental rebate is the difference between the rent you pay and the full rent of the property.

## Am I eligible for a rental rebate?

The CEO (Housing) will assess whether you are eligible for social housing. If you are eligible for urban social housing or Alice Springs Town Camps, you are eligible for a rental rebate.

In urban areas and Alice Springs Town Camps, tenants must apply for a rebate every 6 or 12 months depending on their circumstance, to establish their continued eligibility for public housing. This type of rebate is called a Rental Rebate.

In Remote Communities and Tennant Creek community living areas, a rebate is calculated differently. The fixed amount of rent a tenant will pay includes a rebate. This type of rebate is called the Remote Rent Safety Net.

## How do I get a rental rebate?

You must complete the Rental Rebate and Continued Eligibility Application. This form allows you to apply for a rental rebate.

You will also need to provide supporting documents with your completed application. This applies to all household members who are aged 18 years and over.

Supporting documents can include proof of all:

- sources of income such as an Income Statement from Centrelink or payslips; and
- assessable assets such as official statements or summary from a reputable institution of an asset's value.

An asset is any property or item of value owned by any household resident aged 18 years and over, including those held outside Australia and include;

- Any cash or money at a bank or accessible superannuation funds;
- The value of any boats, caravans or other recreational vehicles owned (such as quad bikes or jet skis);
- Compensation payments; and
- The value of any real estate or farms fully owned/partly owned.

For a detailed list of assessable asset types, please refer to the CEO (Housing)'s Income and Assets policy.

If you're a tenant in a Remote Community or Tennant Creek community living area, a rebate (Remote Rent Safety Net) is included in the rent you pay, and you're exempt from establishing continued eligibility under the Income and Assets policy.

## What if I don't provide supporting documents?

Without supporting documentation, the CEO (Housing) cannot calculate the rental rebate you are entitled to.

If the CEO (Housing) cannot calculate your rental rebate or determine your continued eligibility for public housing, the CEO (Housing) may charge you full rent and may ask you to leave public housing.

Providing the documentation requested will prevent you from being disadvantaged.

## How is rebated rent calculated?

In urban public housing and Alice Springs town camps, the CEO (Housing) calculates rebated rent (the rent you pay) as 25% of your assessable household income.

For a full list of the income types used to calculate a rental rebate, please refer to the CEO (Housing)'s Income and Assets policy.

In Remote Communities and Tennant Creek community living areas, the CEO (Housing) calculates rebated rent differently. A fixed rebate (Remote Rent Safety Net) is applied to full rent. The rent a tenant pays is the rebated rent.

Contact your local Housing office to find out more about your rent.

## How long does my rental rebate last?

Your rental rebate will apply when you begin your tenancy. The CEO (Housing) will review your rental rebate if there are changes to your household income or the people living in your household.

Your rental rebate can last either 6 or 12 months. A shorter period may apply if your income varies from week to week. This is to ensure your household is not disadvantaged.

The CEO (Housing) will let you know your rental rebate is due for a review, 3 weeks before it expires. You will need to provide up to date supporting documents of your income and any household changes.

## What if there are changes before my rental rebate expires?

You must inform the CEO (Housing) within 28 days if:

- anyone moves in or out of your household;
- anyone's income increases or decreases;
- a household member's pension type changes.

## I report my employment to Centrelink. Do I need to tell the Department too?

Yes, the Department will need to know how much you are paid if you are working so that the CEO (Housing) can work out your rental rebate.

If you have completed an Income Confirmation Scheme consent form, Centrelink can provide us with your concession details, such as status, type, and amount you are paid. Centrelink will not provide us with your employment details, such as the name of your employer or payslip information.

You must inform the Department of any employment and income changes to ensure you are not disadvantaged when the CEO (Housing) determines your rental rebate.

## Where can I get more information?

To find out more, visit the website [nt.gov.au](https://nt.gov.au) or contact your local Housing office:

Greater Darwin (08) 8999 8814

Palmerston (08) 8999 8814

Nhulunbuy (08) 8987 0533

Arafura Region (08) 8995 5122

Katherine (08) 8973 8513

Tennant Creek (08) 8962 4497

Alice Springs (08) 8951 5344