

# 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. Contact your local Housing office if you wish to apply for housing in a remote community.

### Maximum household income asset limits:

Household size	Gross income limit per week* (before tax)	Household asset limit* (new public housing applicants, current tenants under 55 years)	Household asset limit* (current tenants over 55 years)
1	\$899	\$72,076	\$259,043
2	\$1,168	\$102,838	\$259,043
3	\$1,359	\$162,879	\$364,465
4	\$1,560	\$162,879	\$364,465
5	\$1,753	\$162,879	\$364,465
6	\$1,950	\$162,879	\$364,465

\* Income and asset limits last changed on 19 October 2021.

## 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 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.

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

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>

## 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 that no other accommodation is available.

## Property ownership

You must not own or partly own a residential property anywhere in Australia. Some exemptions may apply, for example:

- Marital separation/settlement;
- Situations of domestic or family violence; or
- Severe medical or social issues which render the property owned as being unsuitable.

## 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 can still apply for public housing if you have an outstanding debt with the Department.

You may be able to repay a debt through affordable instalments to the Department. Contact your local Housing office for more information on repaying a 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; or
- You voluntarily gave up your public housing due to a breach.

This does not apply if your tenancy agreement ended due to a debt that you have repaid or are repaying.

## Where can I get more information?

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

Greater Darwin	(08) 8999 8814
Nhulunbuy	(08) 8987 0533
Arafura Region	(08) 8995 5122
Tennant Creek	(08) 8962 4497
Katherine	(08) 8973 8513
Palmerston	(08) 8999 4767
Alice Springs	(08) 8951 5344