

Eligibility criteria for social housing

To be considered for social housing, you must meet specific income and asset criteria, as listed below.

Income and assets

The income and asset limits listed in the table below only apply to urban social housing. For remote communities, town camps and community living areas, speak with your local Housing office for more information.

Maximum household income asset limits:

Household size	Weekly gross household income limit*	Household asset limit* (new social housing applicants, current tenants under 55 years)	Household asset limit * (current tenants over 55 years)
1	\$1,088	\$83,747	\$300,992
2	\$1,414	\$119,491	\$300,992
3	\$1,645	\$189,256	\$423,485
4	\$1,888	\$189,256	\$423,485
5	\$2,121	\$189,256	\$423,485
6	\$2,361	\$189,256	\$423,485

* Income and asset limits last changed on 25 November 2024.

Household income

Urban social housing applicants must provide proof of all income sources for themselves, and other household members aged 18 and over. This includes the signatories on the application (tenants).

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 social housing must supply proof of their assessable assets. This includes each household occupant aged 18 years and over.

For information on assessable assets, refer to the CEO (Housing)'s Income and Assets policy.

Assessable assets may include:	Assets not included in assessing eligibility are:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • savings or money in financial institutions; • accessible superannuation or compensation funds; • the value of any land; • the value of any residential property; • the value of any hobby or trading collections; and • the value of recreation vehicles such as a; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ caravans; ➤ mobile home; ➤ jet ski; or ➤ boat. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • personal effects; • the value of general household furniture; • the value of personal vehicles or other transport such as a; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ car; ➤ motorbike; or ➤ mobility scooter.

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

The CEO (Housing) cannot assess your application if there is missing information. This will mean you are not eligible for social housing until you can provide the information or documentation required.

Age

Applications are accepted from individuals aged 15 years and above.

A tenancy agreement cannot be signed by a person under the age of 16 years.

Property ownership

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

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

Additional documentation may be requested by the Delegate for exemption assessment.

Remote communities and Town camps are exempt from the assessment of property ownership.

Residency

You must be;

- an Australian Citizen; or

- Permanent resident of Australia;
- on a Special Category Visa (applicable to New Zealanders);
- a Temporary Protection Visa; or
- Sponsored Migrants; and
- A victim of domestic violence on an 820 or 309 Visa.

You must 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 housing. This does not include if you leave for brief holidays or medical treatment.

Debt owed to CEO (Housing)

You can still apply for social housing if you have an outstanding debt with the CEO (Housing).

Whilst on the social housing wait list you may be able to repay a debt owed to the CEO (Housing) through affordable instalments. Speak to your local Housing office for more information on repaying a debt.

Unsatisfactory former tenancy

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

- You have had your tenancy agreement terminated by the CEO (Housing), or another social housing provider for a breach; or
- You voluntarily gave up your social housing premises 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 tfhc.nt.gov.au or contact your local Housing office:

Greater Darwin	(08) 8999 4789	Nhulunbuy	(08) 8987 0533
Arafura Region	(08) 8995 5122	Alice Springs	(08) 8951 5344
Katherine	(08) 8973 8513	Tennant Creek	(08) 8962 4497