

Being a good neighbour

You have the right to enjoy public housing in reasonable peace, comfort and privacy. Your neighbours also have this right, so it is important you are mindful of this and are respectful of them.

Living near others can be challenging. Territory Families, Housing and Communities recognises that not everyone lives the same way or makes the same choices. Your neighbours may choose to live a different way, which you may find annoying.

Tolerance of others is important. A friendly chat to let your neighbours know how you feel can often solve problems before they get worse.

Tips for public housing properties

- Care and respect areas that you and your neighbours use together. Everyone has equal rights to use these areas and any equipment in them.
- Keep shared areas clean and tidy. This includes keeping walkways, stairs and bin bays clear to enter and exit.
- Hang clothes and personal items to dry on clotheslines. Keep shared balconies and areas or fences free from hanging personal items.
- Use the bins correctly, store them with the lids closed and ensure you place your rubbish bags inside the bins. You should contact the Department for rubbish removal or if the bin requires cleaning.
- Be courteous when parking your vehicle in complex car parks and park only within the carpark. There are no designated parking spots.
- Respect the people who live around you. Everyone is different and has their own way of doing things.
- Do not create a nuisance or trespass onto any neighbours' property.
- Be aware of the noise coming from your house. Social gathering, loud music and noise from the television, guests, children and pets can disturb your neighbours. Try to keep noise low late at night and early in the morning. Excessive noise at any time can be a breach of your tenancy agreement.
- Take responsibility for your visitors and ensure they do not create disturbances.
- Fire extinguishers and fire hoses are there for a reason. Do not touch them or use them unless there is a fire.

You and your neighbours have the right to enjoy public housing in reasonable peace, comfort and privacy.

What do I do if I am having problems with my neighbour?

When you have a problem with your neighbour it is important to speak to them first. They might not know they are causing a problem.

Be clear about what the problem is and how it is affecting you. Listen to each other and try to settle any problems before getting others involved.

If you need more help to resolve a problem, you can contact the Community Justice Centre (CJC) who can provide independent mediators to help resolve a dispute. This service is free and confidential.

What can the Department do?

Staff can provide information on support services that help with mediation and can provide referrals to these services on your behalf. The Department does not get involved in minor disputes between neighbours. You need to take responsible steps to resolve issues with your neighbours.

The Department and its representatives will only intervene if a dispute between neighbours is about antisocial behaviour or there is a breach of the tenancy agreement. For further information about antisocial behaviour, refer to the antisocial behaviour fact sheet.

Where can I get more information?

To find out more, visit the website nt.gov.au or contact your local Housing office:

Greater Darwin	(08) 8999 8814
Arnhem	(08) 8987 0533
Central Australia	(08) 8951 5344
Big Rivers	(08) 8973 8513
Barkly	(08) 8962 4497
Top End	(08) 8995 5122