

## Eligibility criteria for public housing

From applying to leaving public housing, all applicants and public housing tenants must meet a range of eligibility criteria throughout various stages. These eligibility criteria are detailed within this fact sheet.

### Income and assets

Maximum household income and asset limits			
Household size	Gross income limit* (per week)	Household asset limit for all new applicants and existing tenants under 55 years**	Household asset limit for existing tenants over 55 years**
1	\$774	\$54,057	\$194,396
2	\$1006	\$77,129	\$194,396
3	\$1170	\$122,158	\$273,509
4	\$1343	\$122,158	\$273,509
5	\$1509	\$122,158	\$273,509
6	\$1679	\$122,158	\$273,509

\* Income limits last changed on 3 October 2016.

\*\* Asset limits last changed on 17 November 2014.

Note: These limits only apply to urban public housing. Please speak to a staff member if you are applying for a remote community or region.

### Household income

Proof of income, from all income sources, must be supplied from all household members 18 years and over. More information on proof of income, assessable income and when proof is required can be found on the Proof of Income fact sheet.

### Assets

As with household income, all household members 18 years and over will need to provide proof of their assessable assets.

Assessable assets include but are not limited to:

- savings or money held at any financial institution
- superannuation or compensation funds which can be accessed
- the value of any land or property
- the value of any hobby or trading collections
- recreation vehicles (for example caravan, mobile homes or boats).

Assets not included in assessing eligibility are:

- personal effects
- general household furniture
- personal vehicles or other transport (for example motorbike).

Full information regarding included and non-assessable assets can be found within the Department of Housing and Community Development's Income and Assets policy.

### Property ownership

You must not own or partly own a residential property anywhere in Australia. Exemptions can be made when a property is subject to settlement, upon approval by the department.

### Residency

Your residency status must be one of the following:

- Australian citizen
- Permanent resident of Australia
- Special Category Visa (applicable to New Zealand residents)
- A satisfactory residential visa outlined within the Eligibility for Public Housing policy.

It is also a requirement that you reside and continue to remain in the Northern Territory while waiting to be housed, excluding brief holidays or travel required for medical treatment approved by the Department.

### Debt

If you already owe money to the Department, your application may still be accepted if you have been making regular repayments over the last three (3) months.

### Age

Under the *Residential Tenancies Act*, people aged 16 and over can be legally bound by the terms and conditions of a Tenancy Agreement.

Applications will be accepted to house people 16 years and over. Applications from people under 16 will only be accepted in exceptional circumstances.

### Unsatisfactory former tenancy

You are ineligible to live in or apply for public housing for two (2) years if you have been a former public housing tenant in the Northern Territory and either:

- had your tenancy agreement terminated
- voluntarily gave up your public housing dwelling due to a breach.

This does not apply if your termination was due to you owing money to the Department and you have repaid or arranged to repay the debt as outlined above.

### Where can I get more information?

For further information about eligibility criteria talk to a department staff member or contact your local Housing office:

Greater Darwin	8999 8814
Arnhem (Nhulunbuy)	8987 0533
Arafura Region	8995 5122
Barkly (Tennant Creek)	8962 4497
Big Rivers (Katherine)	8973 8513
Palmerston	8999 4767
Central Australia	8951 5344

Or visit the [nt.gov.au](http://nt.gov.au) website.