



Homelessness in the Northern Territory



What we do

Advocating for Appropriate & Affordable Housing for all Territorians

Our Key Principles:

- Housing is a human right
- Work collaboratively with all stakeholders
- Focus on the urban centres, regional towns and remote communities
- Promote consumer rights
- Indigenous housing disadvantage must be addressed



What's Homelessness?

ABS definition

People are homeless if they are:

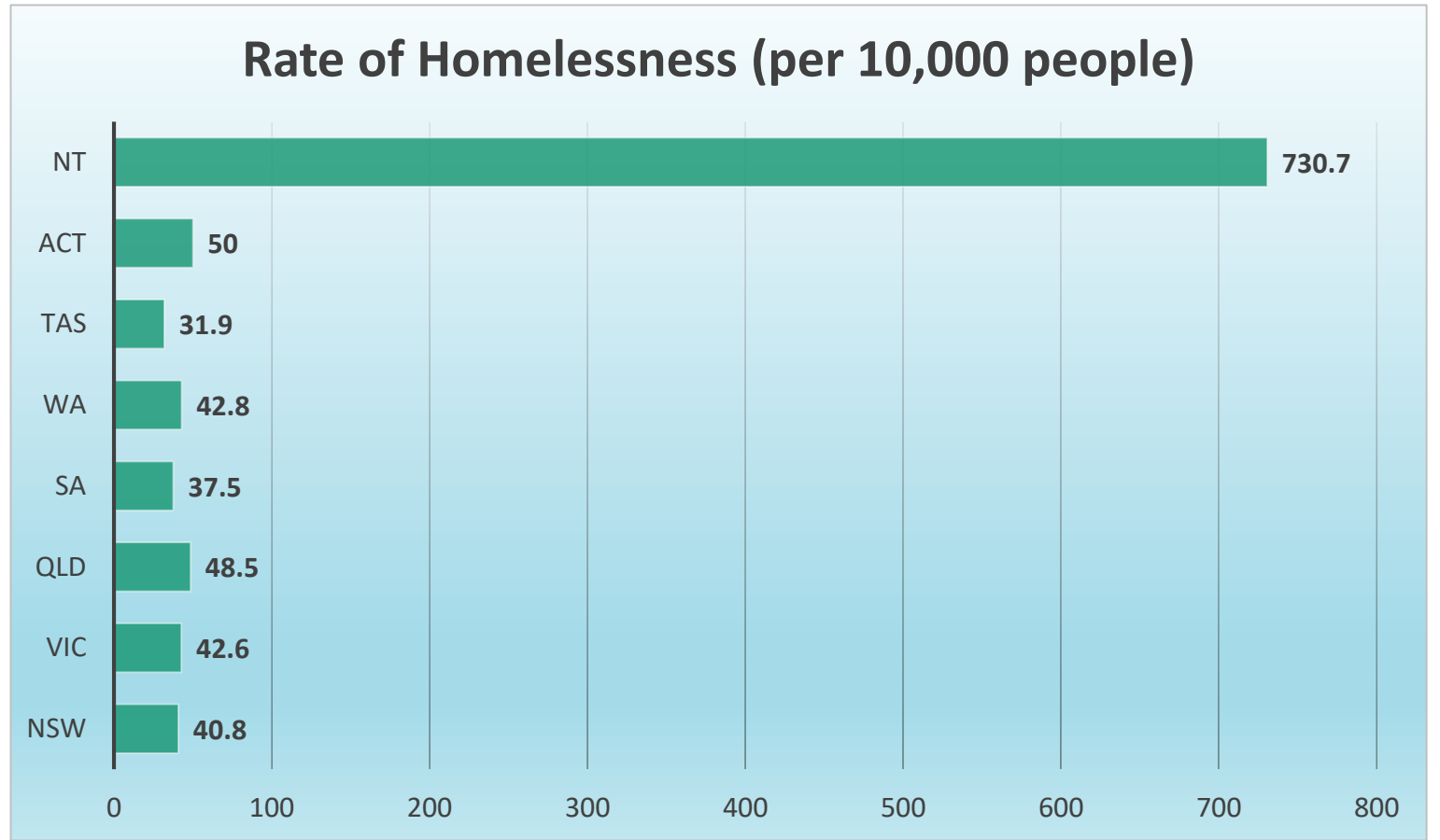
- in improvised dwellings or sleeping out
- in supported accommodation
- temporarily staying with other households
- in boarding houses or other temporary lodging
- in 'severely' crowded dwellings (when a dwelling requires 4 or more extra bedrooms to accommodate the people who usually live there)

People can experience homelessness as an isolated event, for long periods of time or in cycles which are difficult to break from.

Homelessness causes social exclusion and further disadvantage.



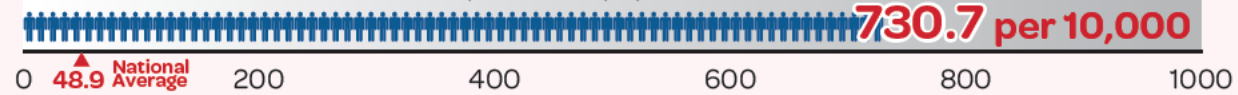
Let's figure...



15,479

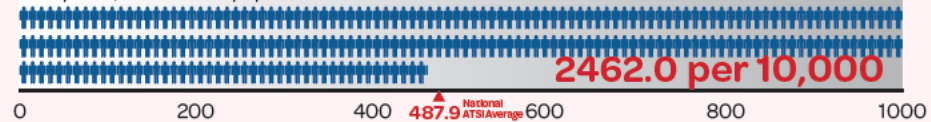
Most of the 15,479 homeless in the NT are of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent.

Homelessness in the NT - Rate per 10,000 population









Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander homelessness in the NT

Rate per 10,000 NT ATSI population



Where are they?

		National Average
 Rough sleeping	6	6
 Supported Accommodation for the homeless	4	20
 Boarding Houses	3	17
 Overcrowded dwellings	85	39
 Staying with other households	3	17
 Other temporary accommodation	0	1



Why are people homeless?

Financial difficulties housing stress, unemployment	16
Accommodation issues housing crisis, inadequate or inappropriate dwellings	20
Domestic violence and relationship issues time out from family, family breakdown, violence and assault	44
Health reasons mental health issues, substance abuse issues	4
Other transition from care/custody, lack of support, discrimination	16

Did you know?

 **HOMELESSNESS MYTHS**

IN JUST THREE STEPS - IT COULD BE YOU

1

LIFE PRESSURES

LOSS OF JOB, HEALTH ISSUES, SEPARATION

MYTH: Homelessness is caused by lack of planning or only happens to people with pre-existing "problems".
REALITY: Any number of life pressures and events can cause homelessness; such as being made redundant from a job, a relationship breakdown or a health crisis.

2

MONEY MATTERS

EVEN MILLIONAIRES CAN BECOME HOMELESS

MYTH: Homelessness is caused by lack of insurance, savings or financial planning.
REALITY: Homelessness is not limited to those without economic security. For example, not all financial products such as income or health insurance cover all conditions and savings and/or superannuation can be quickly depleted when income is rapidly reduced or lost altogether.


3

NOWHERE TO GO

AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPTIONS LIMITED

MYTH: People can always find somewhere to go, stay with family or in shelters.
REALITY: There often isn't enough shelter accommodation and it may not be appropriate to the needs of the person or family experiencing homelessness. Australia does not have enough affordable housing options and staying with family creates just another form of homelessness - known as secondary homelessness.


 NT Shelter works towards a just and fairer housing system in the Northern Territory.
NT Shelter operates the ShelterMe website for the latest information on accommodation providers in the NT; check it out at www.shelterme.org.au


 **HOMELESSNESS MYTHS PART 2**

COUCH-SURFING

MYTH: "But that's not really homelessness"

Yes it is! Homelessness is defined as:
When a person is "homeless" and not just "roofless".
A person is homeless if:

  When there is no security or safety in where you are living and/or you are moving from one place to another

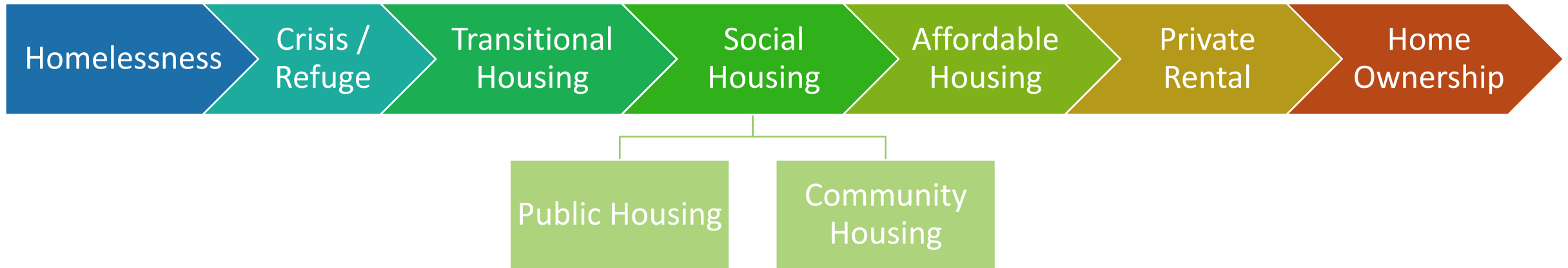
If the accommodation is not right for your needs or is make-shift (sleeping rough or in a car, tents, caravans etc.)  

  When there is no privacy, space for social relations and you have no control over who is around you

Share and spread the word;
Know someone who needs to find more stable accommodation than a couch?

 NT Shelter operates the ShelterMe website for the latest information on accommodation providers in the NT; check it out at www.shelterme.org.au
NT Shelter works towards a just and fairer housing system in the Northern Territory.

Housing Continuum



Public Housing

Department of
**Housing and Community
Development**

[Home](#) > [Our services](#)

Housing programs

[\\$5 million stimulus for urban public housing repairs](#)

[Asbestos inspections of urban public housing properties](#)

[Housing support services grant funding](#)

[National partnership agreement on remote indigenous housing](#)

[Public housing garden competition](#)

[Public housing safety strategy](#)

[Real Housing for Growth](#)

[Remote housing maintenance contracts](#)

[Room to Breathe early works program](#)

Public housing wait times

Estimated wait time as at 30 June 2017

Region	1 bedroom	2 bedroom	3 bedroom
Alice Springs	2-4 years	2-4 years	2-4 years
Darwin/Casuarina	6-8 years	2-4 years	4-6 years
Palmerston	6-8 years*	Less than 2 years	2-4 years*
Katherine	4-6 years*	Less than 2 years	2-4 years*
Nhulunbuy	2-4 years	2-4 years*	2-4 years*
Tennant Creek	4-6 years*	2-4 years*	4-6 years

*Due to limited stock and turnover, median value cannot be applied

Last updated: 21 July 2017



Social & affordable housing

- Venture Housing
- Yilli-Rreung Housing Aboriginal Corporation
- Central Australian Affordable Housing Company

TOWN CAMPS

If you are applying to live on a **town camp**, please drop in to pick up an application form or call us on 8952 1266. You can also get download the forms and get more information here <https://nt.gov.au/property/public-housing/apply-for-public-housing/how-to-apply>

AFFORDABLE HOUSING BLOOMFIELD ST AND ST MARY'S

CAAHC has leased the St.Mary's Precinct in Alice Springs – just south of the gap and own 12 units in Bloomfield St. As a requirement of the lease and funding we are providing these properties to aboriginal people who meet the eligibility criteria as listed at no more than 75% of market rent. Currently these properties are all leased but we do have a waiting list so if you are interested please complete an application and return to office. You can download and application here [APPLICATIONS-Application Form-2017](#) or come into the office and pick one up.

HOUSING FOR SENIORS

We also currently lease 10 x 2 bedroom houses in town for aged people (50 and over for Aboriginal people). You can download and application here [APPLICATIONS-Application Form-2017](#) or come into the office and pick one up.

Affordable Housing

Venture currently owns 160 Affordable Housing properties. These include a mix of units (i.e. apartments) and townhouses. Please see the map below for their locations. These dwellings are rented out under the **National Rental Affordability Scheme** (NRAS). An additional 8 units, currently in construction, will be available from September 2017.

Seniors Housing

Venture also head-leases an additional 10 units from the Department of Housing and Community Development (Territory Housing) specifically for Seniors.

Specialist Disability Accommodation - under construction

Four Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) units, currently under construction, will be available in August 2017. Venture will also be managing, on behalf of an independent owner, an additional four SDA units within the same complex.

- *Affordable Housing*
- *Community Housing*
- *Emergency Relief*



Social & affordable housing

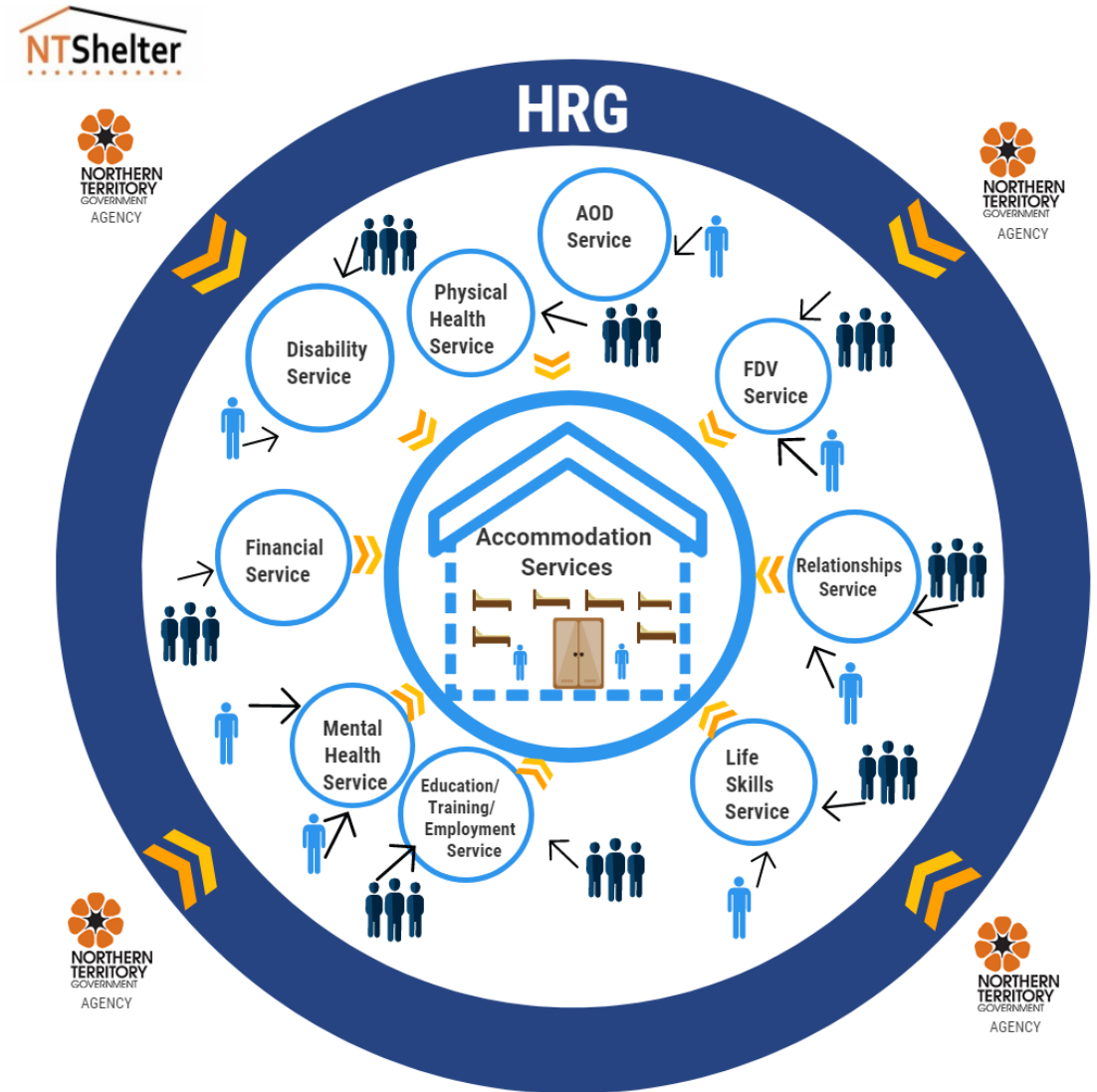
Undersupply due to :

- Distribution of small discreet communities (total NT population spread across a large geographic area of 1.421 million km²)
- Low yield returns to developers (High land cost and low availability, high construction and infrastructure costs)



What we do

- Accommodation Action Groups
- Homelessness Response Group
- Homelessness Services Directory
- Policy Development & Advocacy
- Statistics & Research
- Projects & Outreach



Homelessness Services Directory



HOME ABOUT US FIND A SERVICE REGISTER YOUR SERVICE

Select a region or service to begin your search

You selected:

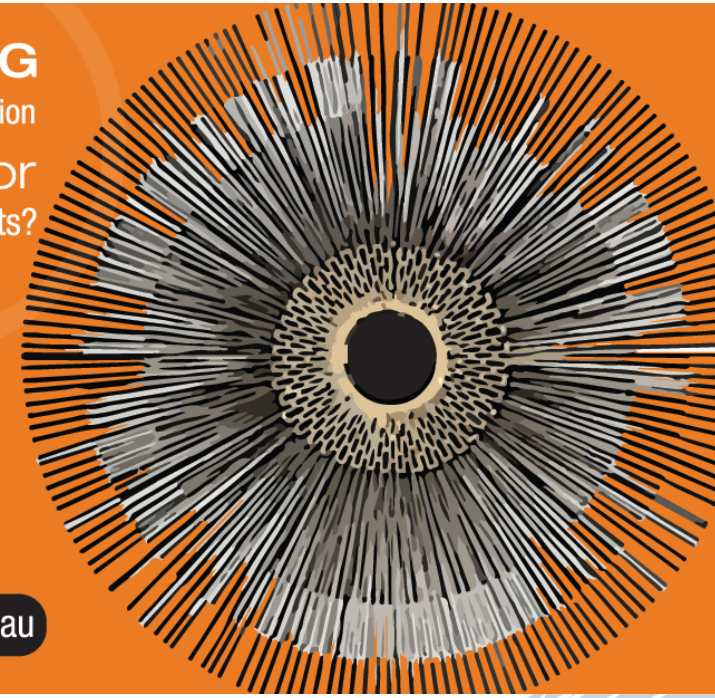
- Aboriginal Services
- Accommodation Government Services
- Accommodation Low Cost Commercial
- Accommodation Medium / Long Term
- Accommodation Short Term / Crisis
- Accommodation Support
- Accommodation Transition
- Aged Care Services
- Alcohol and Other Drugs
- Charity Shops

[find service >](#)

A directory of services for homeless Territorians

REGISTER YOUR SERVICE WITH SHELTER ME

LOOKING
for accommodation
& help for
homeless clients?



shelterme.org.au

ShelterMe is a web directory of services for homeless Territorians

ShelterMe has been designed to help people in the NT seeking accommodation and support services.

For those of us working in the sector it's an essential referral tool. With changing funding arrangements and organisational and staff turnover it's sometimes hard to know who can help our clients with what.

ShelterMe contains up to date information about accommodation and services throughout the NT, including crisis, transitional, short term, low cost and supported accommodation. It also provides details on other support services such as emergency relief funds, legal help, AOD and mental health services, food and meals and much more.

You can use the site to search by service required and by region to quickly find who can help.

shelterme.org.au



ShelterMe is managed by NT Shelter and funded by the Northern Territory Government. NT Shelter is the peak non-government housing and homelessness advocacy body in the Northern Territory. NT Shelter works towards a just and fair housing throughout the NT.

Changing the Homelessness Paradigm

Dept of Housing:

- 5-year Homelessness Strategy
- Community Housing Strategy
- Social Housing Head-Lease

Changing the homelessness paradigm – an integrated approach for the Northern Territory

Department of Housing and Community Development.
December 2016

PwC's Indigenous Consulting

pwc



Housing First Model



HOMELESSNESS IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

5 WAYS YOU CAN HELP 

CASH DONATION



Donate to support a range of programs run by community service organisations listed in ShelterMe.
OR
Give money directly to people on the street. While, this would buy them a meal or necessities for that day, it will not be a long-term solution to aid them out of homelessness

ITEM DONATION

Contact a service organisation listed in ShelterMe on items they need for distribution to their clients or people sleeping rough.
OR
Pack your own personal care kit and give them directly to people you meet on the street.



VOLUNTEERING



Find out about volunteer opportunities in the NT from the Volunteering SA&NT website
OR
Contact one of the service organisations in ShelterMe about their volunteer programs

AWARENESS

Know your facts
Homelessness and Housing Fact sheets are available on NT Shelter's and Homelessness Australia's website



Know what to do
If you come across someone experiencing homelessness, guide them to service organisations such as those listed in ShelterMe

EMPATHY



Give people who are homeless the same respect and courtesy you would to your family and friends.
Smile, make eye contact and be ready to have a chat.

How can you help?

Useful Resources

- www.ntshelter.org.au
- www.shelterme.org.au
- www.homelessnessaustralia.com.au
- www.ahuri.edu.au
- dhcd.nt.gov.au
- www.aihw.gov.au
- www.abs.gov.au