

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Yan to the Minister for Housing and Homelands:

Remote Rent Framework

The Northern Territory Government is set to implement a new Remote Rent Framework, effective 5 September 2022, abolishing income-based rent settings in public housing in remote Aboriginal communities and town camps.

1. When was the remote rent framework published?

Advisory letters and fact sheets were distributed to sector peak bodies, housing organisations and legal advocates on 6 January 2022, with material also made available on the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities' public facing web page.

On 29 April 2022, the then Minister for Territory Families and Urban Housing, published Government Gazette No S21, establishing the new remote rent rates that form the new framework.

As the rollout of information continues across communities, town camps and community living areas, the implementation of the Remote Rent Framework has been deferred from 5 September 2022, and is now set for implementation on 6 February 2023

2. Where is this framework document available publicly?

The changes to the remote public housing model that form the new framework are reflected in Government Gazette No S21.

The Department has developed a suite of communication materials to promote the new framework, with community visits commencing in January 2022. Staff focusing engagement towards affected clients and stakeholder groups during implementation. Updated messaging was added to the Department's public facing web page in March 2022 to publicise the upcoming changes.

The changes were subsequently incorporated into the Department's published Rent Policy, which is available on the public facing web page.

3. Why is the framework document not available for the public to see on the Department web page?

The Department's internet page was updated on 11 March 2022, to reflect the new rent model for remote housing. This was followed by updates to the published Rent Policy, which is available on the same page.

Both can be found at the following address: <https://tfhc.nt.gov.au/housing-and-homelessness/changes-to-remote-rent>

4. Who was consulted in formulating this framework?

The Framework was developed in 2018 with key external stakeholders, including Aboriginal housing providers, peak bodies and legal advocates. A Stakeholder Advisory Group worked with government, reviewing different rent models across Australia and internationally.

5. Who did you consult with before finalising the framework and publishing the determination of rent payable for dwellings in Government Gazette No S21 dated 21 April 2022?

Prior to publication of Government Gazette No S21 on 29 April 2022, development of the new framework was guided by a stakeholder advisory group to determine the most suitable model for the Northern Territory.

The Stakeholder Advisory Group included representatives from a range of organisations including:

- North Australia Aboriginal Justice Agency;
- Aboriginal Housing Northern Territory;
- NT Shelter;
- Northern Land Council;
- Central Land Council;
- Yilli Rreung Aboriginal Housing Corporation;
- Kalano Community Association;
- Tangentyere Council Aboriginal Corporation;
- Community Housing Central Australia; and
- Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation.

Consultation with community members, stakeholder groups and individual tenants is ongoing to support the framework implementation.

6. Will the new remote rent framework apply to all remote housing tenants and all remote housing communities?

The new framework will be implemented in all remote communities, Alice Springs town camps and community living areas.