



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

No. 269

WRITTEN QUESTION

J Davis to the Minister for Children and Families, Hon Robyn Cahill OAM
MLA:

Homelessness Services

1. How many people are currently homeless in the Northern Territory?
 - a. Please provide a breakdown by gender and age — under 18, then by decade.
 - b. Is this more or fewer than last year, and what is contributing to the change?
 - c. If the Department does not maintain a count of people who are homeless, please provide the number of people who presented to Territory-funded specialist homelessness services in 2025–26, and the number recorded as turned away for want of a place.
2. Are people in overcrowded housing counted as homeless in the Territory, as they are in other jurisdictions and by homelessness organisations?
 - a. If not, why not?
 - b. If not, how many people would be counted as homeless if they were?
3. What is the current wait time for people supported by homelessness services to enter public housing?
4. How many people experiencing homelessness are currently waiting for public housing?
 - a. If homelessness status is not recorded against the public housing waiting list, please state which system holds each record, whether the two can be linked, and what would be required to link them.
5. Budget Paper No. 3 for 2026–27 reports the measure “homelessness service presentations where clients were housed at the end of their

support period” at 8 per cent for 2025–26 against a target of at least 10 per cent, attributing the variation to “external market factors and housing supply”, and retains a target of at least 10 per cent for 2026–27. It separately reports that at least 85 per cent of presentations where a client was at risk of homelessness received assistance and avoided homelessness, at 90 per cent.

- a. How many presentations did the 8 per cent represent, and how many people were not housed at the end of their support period?
 - b. On what basis is a target of 10 per cent set — that is, on what basis is it accepted that nine in ten people supported will not be housed at the end of that support?
 - c. When was that target last reviewed, and by whom?
 - d. What is recorded as the destination of clients not housed at the end of their support period, and in which system?
 - e. How do the two measures relate — is a client counted in both, and can a presentation be recorded as having avoided homelessness while the client is not housed at the end of the support period?
6. For 2026–27, please identify by name each service funded by the Northern Territory Government to deliver homelessness services, and for each: the amount appropriated, the term of the funding agreement, the location or locations served, and the output group or cost centre against which it is recorded.
 - a. How does the total compare with each of the two preceding years, in nominal terms?
 - b. Which of those agreements expire before 30 June 2027, and what is the status of each?
 - c. If homelessness services expenditure is not separately identified by service, at what level is it disaggregated, and under which output is it reported?
7. What advice has the Department received from funded homelessness service providers about the adequacy of funding to meet demand, and in what form was it received?
 - a. On what dates was that advice received, and from which providers?
 - b. Do funding agreements require providers to report unmet demand or turn-aways? If so, what did providers report for 2025–26?

- c. Have any providers made a submission seeking additional funding since 1 July 2025? If so, how many, and what was the outcome of each?
 - d. Please provide that advice separately for Darwin and for the balance of the Territory, and state for each whether providers advised that funding was sufficient to meet demand.
- 8. What referral options do homelessness services have for long-term housing other than public and community housing?
 - a. If none exist, what interim support is available to people experiencing homelessness while waiting for public housing?
 - b. Where options exist, how does the Government support those services?
- 9. How many families are being supported to remain housed through case management by the Department of Children and Families?
- 10. The Northern Territory Homelessness Strategy 2025–2030 establishes a Strategic Advisory Group.
 - a. Has the membership of this group been finalised?
 - b. What are the group's immediate priorities for this budget cycle?