

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN ANSWER

Minister for Public and Affordable Housing to Ms Purick

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**Defence Personnel Housing Arrangements**

- 1 Public housing services are not distinguished by employer association or income source. Any individual or family who applies for a public housing service or approaches the department for assistance will receive equal service.
- 2 It is not possible to identify if any members of the Australian Defence Force or their families have been provided with services through this department. In accordance with the Information Privacy Principles of the Northern Territory *Information Act*, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Regional Services (DHLGRS) only collects information that is necessary to perform its functions or activities. Client income details are provided for calculation of rental purposes, and retained on the Tenancy Management System (TMS) database. Employer association is not a relevant factor in determining eligibility for; or the provision of, public housing services so DHLGRS does not retain information about a client's employer.
- 3 There are no formal agreements between the Commonwealth and Northern Territory Governments related to the provision of emergency or public housing to Australian Defence personnel or their families.

DHLGRS does not currently provide crisis or emergency accommodation. Clients who are in need of emergency, crisis or short term accommodation, will be provided with an appropriate referral to alternative non government organisations which may be able to provide assistance.

DHLGRS main objective is to provide housing for Territorians who are most in need. Therefore, applicants for housing services are subject to eligibility criteria such as income, assets and property ownership. Territorians seeking housing services or referral to emergency accommodation providers will be assisted by Client Services staff of Territory Housing offices in each regional centre. Detailed fact sheets outlining eligibility criteria for specific services are published on the department website and are available for collection from any Territory Housing office.