

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Lambley to the Treasurer:

First Home Owners Grant

1. Could you provide statistics for the First Home Owners Grant applied for and paid out during the 12 month Calendar year of 2015?
2. Could you only include the payment of applications for the First Home Owners Grant that were applied for in 2015 and paid in 2015 – therefore excluding application lodged before 1st January 2015 and excluding applications that were lodged in 2015 but not paid out in 2015.
3. Please provided a breakdown for these statistics in the following geographical areas:

Alice Springs
Katherine
Tennant Creek
Nhulunbuy
Darwin
4. Could you provide statistics for First Home Owners Grant that were applied for and paid out during the calendar year of 2014 for the following geographical areas:

Alice Springs
Katherine
Tennant Creek
Nhulunbuy
Darwin
5. Could you also separate the figures into two groups:

First Home Owners Grants that were paid for new homes.

First Home Owners Grants paid to existing homes.

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1. A total of 437 first home owner grants were applied for and paid out during 2015.
 2. The total above of 437 first home owner grants applied for and paid out during 2015 does not include applications lodged before 1 January 2015, nor applications that were lodged in 2015 but paid in 2016.

3. A geographical breakdown of the 437 first home owner grants that were applied for and paid out during 2015 is contained in the table below:

	New Homes	Existing Homes	Total
Alice Springs	13	48	61
Katherine	3	12	15
Tennant Creek	0	2	2
Nhulunbuy	0	0	0
Darwin	307	52	359
Total	323	114	437

4. A geographical breakdown of the 983 first home owner grants that were applied for and paid out during 2014 is contained in the table below:

	New Homes	Existing Homes	Total
Alice Springs	3	230	233
Katherine	5	53	58
Tennant Creek	1	11	12
Nhulunbuy	0	0	0
Darwin	252	428	680
Total	261	722	983

5. The figures above have been separated into grants paid for new and existing homes.

Additional information

An application for the grant would usually be lodged with the applicant's financial institution or the Territory Revenue Office about the time the purchase of the home is settled, i.e. when legal ownership of the home changes. Payment would be made at settlement or within five business days of an application being lodged. For a contract to build a new home, an application usually follows the laying of the home's foundations and the making of a progress payment.

Accordingly, some grants applied for and paid out during 2015 relate to contracts to purchase a home or building contracts that were signed in 2014. This includes 114 grants for existing homes. There were also 44 grants applied for in 2014 that were paid out during 2015.

The first home owner grant number for "Darwin" is for the Greater Darwin region, including Palmerston and a significant number of grants relate to the land release at Zuccoli.

The retargeting of the grant towards new homes means that fewer grants are paid in total. However, the number of grants paid in 2015 does not reflect the total number of first home buyers in the Northern Territory. Home financing commitments data provided by banks and other financial institutions to the Australian Bureau of Statistics show that first home buyers continue to comprise over 20 per cent of the market since the changes commenced on 1 January 2015.