Supporting Territory Families with $539 million investment for housing

The Northern Territory Government is helping families to get ahead with more affordable housing with a $539 million investment in Budget 2011 for more housing and accommodation across the Territory.

Minister for Public and Affordable Housing, Dr Chris Burns said the Government is committed to supporting Territory families by providing more housing and accommodation options.

“All Territory families need the stability of long term housing, that’s why we are investing in more housing options for low and middle income earners,” said Dr Burns.

The public housing construction budget for 2011 includes significant investment in urban initiatives including:

- The continuation of the $49 million commitment to build 150 new public housing homes over three years including seniors villages at Larapinta and Johnston.
- Continued funding for construction of the $11.6 million 40 seniors units at Bellamack
- $14.4 million for social housing as part of the four-year, $60 million Nation Building and Jobs Plan initiative
- $15.1 million for repairs and refurbishments to existing public housing dwellings
- $9.4 million to commence a targeted upgrade program on urban public housing dwellings across the Territory;
- $1 million to redevelop old public housing unit complexes.

The Territory and Commonwealth Governments are also investing $6.8 million to address homelessness across the Territory by providing operational funding, tenancy support programs and referral services for supported accommodation facilities across the Territory.

In addition to a construction budget in urban areas we will continue to ensure that 15% of all government land release is set aside for affordable and social housing.

In 2011-12 this commitment will deliver the release of affordable house and land packages across Darwin and Alice Springs.
In remote areas across the Territory, our commitment to improving the living conditions for Indigenous Territorians continues in Budget 2011 with:

- $172 million investment in the Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program (SIHIP) to construct new, and upgrade existing housing; and
- $118 million to provide land servicing and essential services infrastructure in Territory Growth Towns.

“We are on track to meet our target of 750 new, 230 rebuilt and 2500 refurbishments under SIHIP.

“Already 228 new homes and 1322 rebuilds and refurbishments have been completed, benefiting 1500 families with new and significantly improved housing.

“Another 157 new homes and 74 refurbishments and rebuilds are currently under way.

We also want to recruit the best teachers, nurses, police and other government staff to our remote regions so we are spending $42 million building, replacing and upgrading government employee housing in remote areas.

This investment by the Territory Government in Budget 2011 for public and affordable housing will deliver more housing options for Territory families.

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