Home Improvement Scheme key tool for small businesses

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Territory home owners, tradies and small businesses alike are excited about the Northern Territory Government’s new, $20 million Home Improvement Scheme.

Under the initiative Territory home owner-occupiers will receive vouchers of up to $2,000 to go towards minor home improvements, repairs or maintenance works on the condition they use local, small businesses or tradies and contribute at least the same amount.

Chief Minister Adam Giles said tradies and businesses began signing up for the initiative almost immediately after it was announced as part of yesterday’s Budget.

“The Home Improvement Scheme is one of our key Budget 2016 initiatives and the Territory community is excited about the benefits it will bring,” Mr Giles said.

“This will be a catalyst for an increase in small-scale home improvement and maintenance activity right across the Territory.

“It will keep the work flowing for construction-related small businesses, including sole traders while also assisting Territorians to upgrade their homes and properties.

“We all have those improvements around the home we’ve been meaning to get done, a dodgy air-conditioner or fans in need of replacement or a plan to spruce up our home or yard with some paint or landscaping, the Home Improvement Scheme will help Territorians achieve that.

“We’re matching you dollar for dollar – giving you up to $2000 towards your home improvements – so long as you get the job done locally.”

The scheme will run from 1 July 2016 through to 30 June 2017 or until the $20 million grant pool is used.

Minister for Business Peter Styles said the Department of Business would ensure the initiative is implemented and monitored throughout the coming 12 months.

“This is an innovative initiative and a first for the Territory,” Mr Styles said.

“I encourage all Territory home owner-occupiers to do their due diligence, source quotes and treat it as you would any other project.

“I also encourage all small businesses and tradies to register and ensure they make the most of the work that will flow through this program.
“The Country Liberals Government understands small business is the backbone of our economy and we are committed to supporting local businesses and ensuring the Territorians they employ continue to have jobs.

“The Home Improvement Scheme goes hand-in-hand with the sweeping reforms we have implemented in favour of local businesses as part of our Buy Local Plan.”

To register or find out more visit homeimprovement.nt.gov.au

How it works

Territory small businesses and tradies can register now online at homeimprovement.nt.gov.au, the list of registered participants will be accessible on the website and updated daily.

NT home owner-occupiers (must be living in their home in the Territory) can begin seeking quotes now.

From 1 July 2016 home owners will be able to select a preferred quote and submit their project to government including proof you occupy the home.

Once approved the homeowner is issued a job-specific voucher of up to $2000 towards the project.

When the work is completed the homeowner uses the voucher as part of the payment to the tradie or small business.

The tradie or small business will then redeem the voucher from the NT government.

Conditions include:

- Businesses must employ 20 or less employees to be eligible and must have been registered and operating as a Territory Enterprise at the time of yesterday’s budget announcement;
- Projects must be small-scale (less than $20,000);
- Voucher value depends on the size of the project and will be between $250 and $2,000.
- 30% of the voucher value can be used towards goods and materials – the remainder is utilised for labour costs;
- **One voucher** will be issued per household.

Full terms and conditions can be found [here](#).

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