Lands and Planning Minister Dr Chris Burns today announced the grant of a Crown lease perpetual to the Legacy Club of the Northern Territory Incorporated.

NT Legacy has occupied the 1680m sq site at 11 Nemarluk Drive in Ludmilla since 1991, paying a peppercorn rent.

The organisation cares for Territory war widows and their children, relying on voluntary contributions for the majority of its funds.

“NT Legacy approached the Government two years ago to discuss the possibility of providing a more secure tenure over the site,” Dr Burns said.

“I am delighted to be able to approve this grant.”

The value of the land being granted to NT Legacy is estimated to be $87,500. Dr Burns exercised his powers under the Crown Lands Act to determine the purchase price to be nil.

Legacy was established in 1923 by Australian ex-servicemen to care for the widows and dependants of deceased comrades, whether they died on active service or later in civilian life.

Today, the organisation cares for about 130,000 widows Australia-wide. NT Legacy has one of the smallest memberships of all clubs, caring for about 200 widows of whom about 150 live in Darwin.

NT Legacy also cares for two of Australia’s 1,800 Junior Legatees - the children of Legacy widows.

Former Legacy children include football legend Ron Barassi whose father was killed at Tobruk in 1942, media personality John Laws, and actress Maggie Kirkpatrick.

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