

RESTORING OUR LIFESTYLE

Fact sheet

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A stronger economy means greater capacity to invest in the Territory lifestyle that attracts and retains Territorians and reduces cost of living pressures.

The 2025 Budget supports the Territory lifestyle through investing in frontline services and delivering subsidies and incentives to reduce cost of living pressures.



Cost of living support

The 2025 Budget includes a range of concessions, subsidies and incentives aimed at reducing the cost of living for Territorians. This includes:

- \$8.7 million to continue to deliver the \$200 back to school vouchers
- \$6.9 million to continue to deliver the two \$100 sports vouchers each year
- \$5.7 million to continue the early childhood services subsidy
- \$3 million per annum to support free swimming lessons for all primary school students
- \$1.36 million for the learn to swim program for children aged 0 to 5
- free meningococcal B vaccination program
- free driver's licence for 12 months
- no increase to car registration costs for 12 months
- HomeGrown Territory and FreshStart housing incentives.

The 2025 Budget also provides \$30.7 million to recognise the important contribution of seniors, support carers and concession holders through concession and recognition schemes.

The Territory Government will secure the Territory's energy future by progressing vital reforms to improve grid reliability, keeping prices affordable, and ensure a stable and well-managed energy transition. To protect households and businesses, retail electricity price increases for most customers have been capped at 3% in 2025-26, benefiting around 85,000 households and businesses.

The 2025 Budget provides funding of \$206 million in community service obligation (CSO) funding to the Power and Water Corporation and electricity retailers to subsidise utility costs. This includes:

- \$191.7 million to maintain electricity supply to households and small business customers at uniform prices across the Territory, at below cost of supply
- \$14.4 million for various pensioner and carer concessions
- \$0.4 million to subsidise water and sewerage services for a number of religious and charitable organisations.

In 2025-26, the increased investment in the CSO means an average electricity subsidy of around \$1,700 per household. Average small businesses will save around \$2,900, and large businesses will save around \$27,900, compared to if no CSO was provided.

Major events

The 2025 Budget includes \$36.5 million to support major events in the Territory, including:

- Triple Crown Supercars
- BASSINTHEGRASS
- Parrtjima – A Festival in Light
- Million Dollar Fish
- Red CentreNATS
- Territory Day
- Alice Springs Masters Games
- FIM Motocross World Championship
- the first ever T20 international men's cricket competition in Darwin
- Australian Football League women's Dreamtime in Darwin.

Aboriginal participation in sport

The 2025 Budget includes \$2 million over four years to support Aboriginal participation in sport programs across the Territory. Funding will be allocated to NT Cricket to support Aboriginal cricket development officers to increase Indigenous and female participation in sport and make cricket more accessible in regional and remote communities.

Recreational fishing

The Territory Government is delivering more support for recreational fishing through the 2025 Northern Territory Recreational Fishing Grants Scheme.

Fishing is a huge part of the Territory's lifestyle, creating thousands of jobs for Territorians and generating millions of dollars for the local economy every year.

The grants scheme is part of the RecFishing Futures program and will help deliver a variety of activities, including fishing education programs, infrastructure projects, and recreational fishing events that engage and benefit local communities.

The second round of funding will open in August 2025, providing grants of up to \$75,000 for larger infrastructure projects aimed at expanding recreational fishing opportunities across the Territory.

Health investment

The 2025 Budget provides \$2.5 billion for health services across the Territory, including an ongoing \$100 million boost from 2025-26 to the Department of Health budget to deliver safe and high quality health services for Territorians.

Key health investments in 2025-26 include:

- \$1.5 billion for hospital services
- \$313.4 million for primary health care
- \$135 million for mental health
- \$60.3 million for alcohol and other drugs services.

The 2025 Budget includes an additional \$16 million per year ongoing for operating costs of the new mental health in-patient ward at Royal Darwin Hospital. A further \$0.5 million is provided in 2025-26 to purchase the medical equipment required to operate the new ward once construction is completed, anticipated to be early 2026.

The 2025 Budget also includes \$6 million per annum in 2025-26 and 2026-27 to continue implementing the Acacia digital health solution. When fully implemented, the Acacia digital health solution will enable the Department of Health to deliver improved health outcomes for all Territorians and particularly will benefit the most disadvantaged members of the community with the poorest health outcomes.

Empowering the bush

The Territory Government has signed a landmark partnership agreement with the Commonwealth and Aboriginal peak organisations to strengthen service delivery in remote Aboriginal communities in the Territory.

The Commonwealth will commit \$842.6 million over six years to deliver the Northern Territory Remote Aboriginal Investment agreement to drive priority reforms and improve socioeconomic outcomes under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

The 2025 Budget also includes funding of \$25.1 million over four years for the Remote Community Water Security and Water Quality program, which aims to improve drinking water infrastructure in remote Aboriginal communities.

Photograph courtesy of Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet