



# Fact Sheet

Northern Territory Council of Social Service

## Regional and Remote Areas Doing it Toughest?

### Cost of Living Pressures: The Regional Picture

#### High Median Rental Prices in Regional Areas



3 BR House \$535 (Alice Springs) \$450 (Katherine)  
4 BR House \$650 (Alice Springs) \$550 (Katherine)  
1 BR Unit \$325 (Alice Springs) \$250 (Katherine)  
2 BR Unit \$400 (Alice Springs) \$330 (Katherine)  
3 BR Unit \$535 (Alice Springs) \$520 (Katherine)



*Continually High Rental Prices in Alice Springs and Katherine compared with Darwin suburbs and Palmerston*

### Fuel Prices Across the NT: 3 Highest Fuel Prices at 2 March 2020

Diesel	Low Aromatic Fuel	Unleaded
295 cpl (East Arnhem Land)	295 cpl (East Arnhem Land)	250 cpl (East Arnhem Land)
270 cpl (Top End Rural)	278 cpl (Top End Rural)	241 cpl (Tiwi Islands)
260 cpl (Cent. Aust. Region)	260 cpl (Cent. Aust. Region)	205.6 cpl (Cent. Aust. Region)

### Rising Transport Costs in Alice Springs

Alice Springs transport costs up \$244 in 2019. ◇ Alice Springs is the “third least affordable region for transport” (in a comparison with other like towns nationally).

◇ Darwin transport costs rose \$153 in 2019.

### Federal stimulus to bring 6 months relief to a large number of NT households

- Recipients of payments including Newstart, Youth Allowance, Abstudy, Austudy, Parenting Payment, will receive a \$550 per fortnight Coronavirus Supplement for 6 months from 27 April 2020, in addition to their regular payment
- This will lift payments for these recipients above the poverty line, for this 6-month period
- The additional \$550 per fortnight seems recognition that you can't live on \$40 per day

**Over the longer term NTCOSS will continue to advocate for measures that will reduce cost of living pressures for low income Teritorian Households.**

**Beyond the Coronavirus crisis NTCOSS is calling for:**

1. Increase access to renewable energy & energy efficient appliances for low-income households
2. Extend Motor Vehicle Registration concession to all low-income households
3. Extend Electricity concessions to all low-income households
4. Increase in Newstart Allowance of \$95 per week
5. Increase in rent assistance of \$30 per week
6. Strengthen and increase employment services

*Sources: Centrelink 2020, ACOSS/UNISW; REINT 2020*

**Fact sheet based on the NTCOSS Cost of Living Report March 2020**