



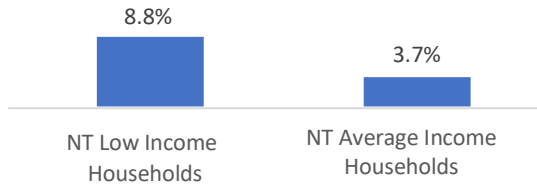
Fact Sheet

Northern Territory Council of Social Service

Cost of Living in the Northern Territory Higher Cost of Living Pressures in Remote and Regional Areas

Electricity costs unaffordable for many households

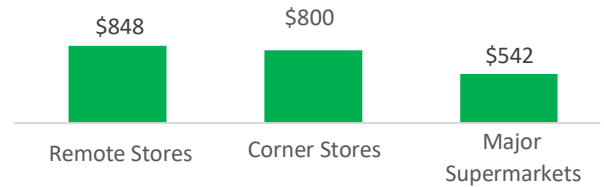
% of Income Required for Electricity Bills NT 2018/19



3.5% of residential customers using a standard meter experienced a disconnection in 2018-2019
62% of Urban Prepayment Meter users had at least one disconnection in 2018-2019

Food costs unaffordable in remote areas

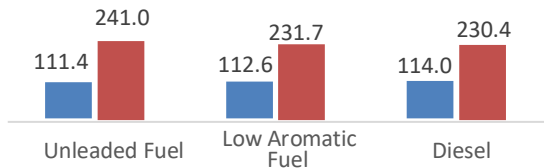
Average Fortnightly Cost of Healthy Food Basket 2019



Remote Store prices 56% higher major NT supermarkets

Fuel prices in some remote areas are double what motorists pay in Darwin

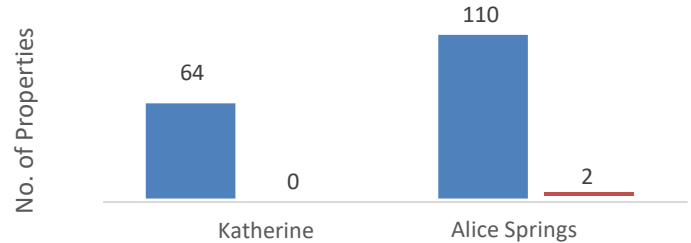
Darwin Fuel Prices vs Highest Remote Fuel Price cents per litre, June Average 2020



The price of Low Aromatic Fuel was as high as 273 cpl East Arnhem (4 July 2020)

“It is almost impossible for households on income support payments to obtain private rental in Alice Springs and Katherine” (Anglicare 2020)

Number of Properties Available and Affordable for Rent for Income Support Households 2020



Only 4% of rental properties in the NT were affordable and appropriate to at least some households living on income support

NTCOSS is calling for:

- Expand the eligibility criteria for the NT Concession Scheme to include people on JobSeeker and other people eligible for a Commonwealth Health Care Card
- Extend the NT Concession Scheme to provide subsidies for remote residents using remote private transport services and extend the MVR Concessions to all Commonwealth Health Care Card holders
- Conduct a review into regional and remote transport networks
- Establish a post-pandemic economic stimulus program focussed on energy efficiency upgrades for social housing

Sources: Utilities Commission of the NT 2020; Tangentyere Council 2019; NT Government 2020 (2019 Market Basket Survey); NT Government 2020 (MyFuel NT); Anglicare Australia 2020 (See www.ntcoss.org.au for full report)