



Fact Sheet

Northern Territory Council of Social Service

NTCOSS Cost of Living Report No. 29 Fact Sheet

Short-term cost of living improvement, but not for regional and remote areas

Price Movement (CPI) for Goods and Services in Darwin between June 2019 – June 2020

Change in all groups CPI Darwin vs National Figures June Quarter 2020

June Quarter 2020	Darwin	↓ 2.5 %	vs	↓ 1.9 %
			Australia	
Year ending June 2020	Darwin	↓ 1.8 %	vs	↓ 0.3 %
			Australia	

Of all the capital cities in Australia, Darwin recorded the greatest drop in CPI in the June Quarter 2020. This is only the fourth time since records for CPI have been maintained (since September 1981) that there has been negative movement in the CPI over a year.

More than half of the major CPI categories in Darwin decreased over the past year



CPI Category	2019-20 % change
Furnishings, household equipment	↓ 10.7%
Housing, including utilities	↓ 6.9%
Transport	↓ 5.5%
Communication	↓ 3.6%

Darwin CPI for Maintenance and repair of the dwelling decreased ↓ 50% over the June 2020 quarter:

- as a result NT Government's Home Improvement Scheme
- thousands of homeowners have benefited BUT low-income households have missed out

Housing Affordability Weekly Median Rent Prices: Snapshot of 4 Bedroom Houses

Location	Rent Price June 2020	Price Change June 2019 – June 2020
Alice Springs	\$675	↑ \$45 (7.1%)
Inner Darwin	\$650	↓ \$147.50 (18.5%)
Katherine	\$450	↓ \$245 (35.3%)

Even with the full Coronavirus Supplement, only 12% of most private rental properties in the NT are affordable for people receiving an income support payment



Fuel Price Changes for the year ending August 2020



Location	Current price Unleaded Fuel	Price Change
Darwin	117.9 cents/L	↓ 21.3 cents/L (15.3%)
Alice Springs	172.0 cents/L	↓ 16.1 cents/L (8.6%)
Australia	121.6 cents/L	↓ 18.6 cents/L (13.2%)

However regional fuel can still be expensive: Region with Highest Price for Main Fuel Types at 1 September 2020

Fuel Type	Highest Price(s)	Region
Unleaded Fuel	250 cents/L	Central Australia
Diesel	260 cents/L	East Arnhem

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 focused on energy efficiency upgrades for social housing