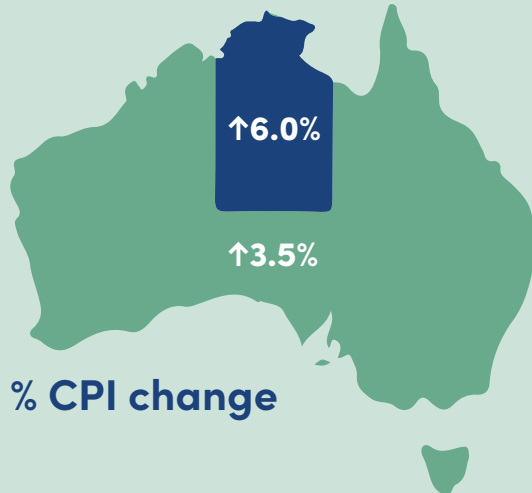


Cost of Living Report: General Update, May 2022

Rising cost of living creating pressure for urban, regional and remote NT



Prices for goods and services rose in almost every category in Darwin (Consumer Price Index)

For December 2020 – December 2021, Darwin had the highest increase in price movement for goods and services, or Consumer Price Index (CPI), out of all Australian capital cities.

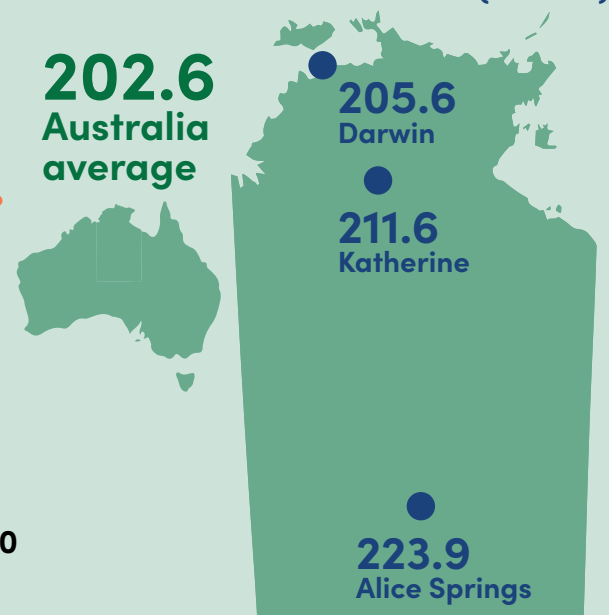
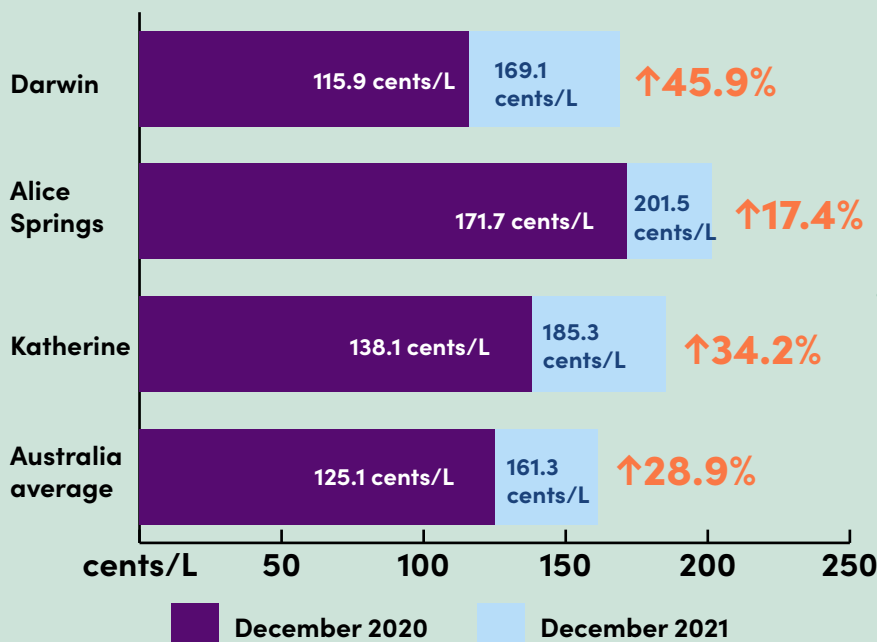
Most major CPI categories in Darwin increased from December 2020 – December 2021:

Major CPI Group	Darwin CPI change	National CPI change
Housing (including utilities)	↑ 15.9%	↑ 4.0%
Health	↑ 4.2%	↑ 3.3%
Transport	↑ 16.0%	↑ 12.5%
Education	↑ 4.0%	↑ 0.6%

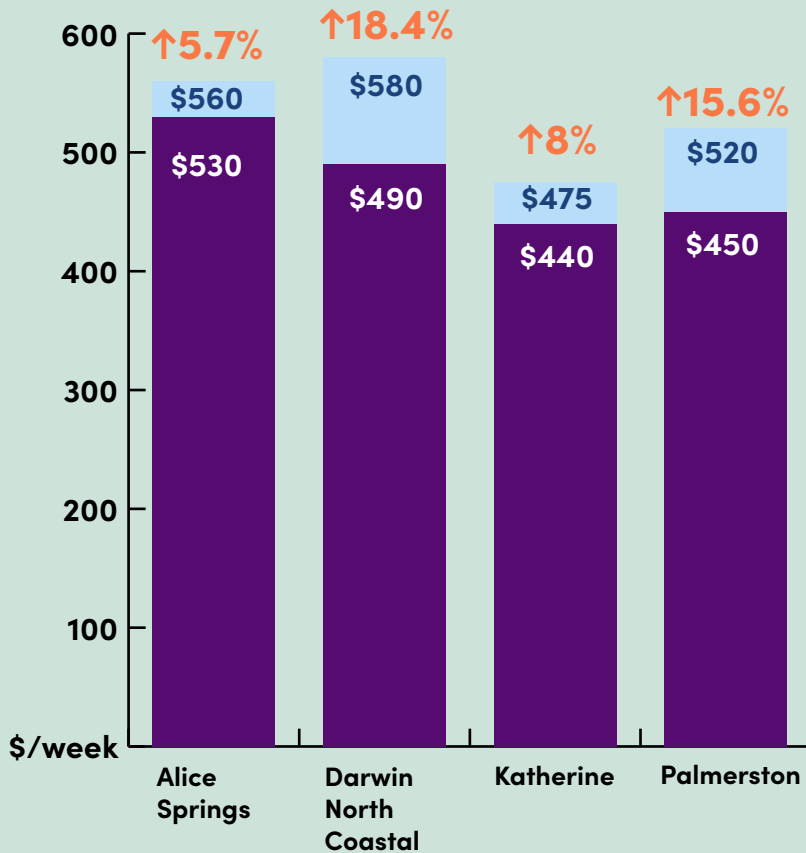
CPI sub-category	Darwin CPI change	National CPI change
Vegetables	↑ 5.6%	↑ 6.1%
Fruit	↓ 9.2%	↓ 6.6%
Rents	↑ 8.0%	↑ 0.4%
Automotive fuel	↑ 41.4%	↑ 32.3%

Fuel costs unaffordable, particularly in remote areas

Avg. unleaded retail price March 2022 (cents/L)



Housing affordability: rent on the rise in most parts of the NT



Snapshot of weekly median rent prices for 3-bedroom houses

December 2020 (dark purple) December 2021 (light blue)

Recommendations

For the Commonwealth Government

The Commonwealth Government should increase the social security safety net and index payments twice a year, including:

- Jobseeker and related payments;
- the Remote Area Allowance; and
- Commonwealth Rent Assistance.

For the NT Government

Expand the NT Concession Scheme to extend concessions for electricity, driver's licences, spectacles and Motor Vehicle Registrations for Commonwealth Health Care Card holders.

Establish yearly indexation of the Motor Vehicle Registration concession.

Establish Aged Pension/Commonwealth Health Care Card concession rates for users of remote bus services and ensure consistency of bus fare structures across different services.

For Commonwealth & NT Governments

Commit to sustained investment in affordable housing, including subsidised rental housing and targeted affordable home ownership programs.