

The Employee Housing Program

Benefits, Your Choice and Alternatives

The employee housing program is designed to assist government employees taking up positions in regional locations to obtain housing in the required area.

What are the benefits of the Employee Housing Program? Using Government Employee Housing guarantees:

- Concessional rent (15-50% below market)
- Rental can be deducted direct from payroll
- No bond is payable
- Prompt, friendly service
- Pets are allowed
- Responsive maintenance service
- Allowance of 136kl per year of water free
- Periodic (no fixed term) lease allowing flexibility in rental period
- Long-term tenure

What limits the choice of Housing I have?

The major factor affecting the choice of housing is the limited amount of stock available. Housing stock retained by Government is designed to supplement local markets when sufficient housing is not available to allow employees to make their own accommodation arrangements. The stock is generally sufficient to satisfy the historical needs of each specific area and there are limited vacant homes available for letting at any particular time.

Housing is allocated to applicants according to need, usually assessed on the basis of number of dependants or number of people to be accommodated. The criterion is clearly defined in the allocation policy. Government Employee Housing makes every effort to ensure individual requirements of employees are taken into account, however due to the limited amount of Housing stock, no guarantee can be provided that all needs will be met. **It is for these reasons that CHOICE is not a feature of this program.**

What other options do I have?

Remember, the Employee Housing Program is not the only option available to you. If available housing does not meet your expectation, then the private rental market may be a more acceptable alternative. There are a range of options available to employees taking up employment in country locations, including:

- Private Sector Rental (consult local real estate agents)
- Purchase of housing (consult local real estate agents)
- Boarding or sharing with other property owners or tenants in the area
- Temporary accommodation (i.e. a caravan or hotel)

Each of these options may provide varying degrees of choice however the concessional benefits to rent are not available.