

Business Recovery

Home owners

A new \$30 million home improvement scheme will help protect the Territory from the deep economic impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and keep shops and businesses open, cash flowing and Territorians working.

It's part of the Territory Government's Rescue and Recovery plan in response to coronavirus (COVID-19).

The scheme will help fast-track around 5,000 screwdriver-ready projects in Territory homes.

This means that projects are physical improvements to land and / or buildings, and repairs and maintenance services.

The scheme operates on a voucher system, with home owners receiving either:

- a voucher worth \$4,000 if they contribute at least \$1,000 of their own money, or
- a voucher worth \$6,000 if they contribute at least \$2,000 of their own money.

Important notice

The Home Improvement Scheme will close to new applications on Friday 17 April 2020 at 5pm.

All applications submitted before this time will be assessed and, if approved, they will be honoured.

Applications will be assessed and approved in stages so that the work is spread over the next 12 months.

Reminder: works cannot start until your application has been approved and a voucher issued.

Physical distancing

You must practise physical distancing during the planning and delivery of any renovation works.

If either you or your client are unwell, in self-isolation or self-quarantine, stay in touch by phone until it is safe to meet in person.

Your voucher and registration can be cancelled at any time if you fail to follow the safety guidelines. You may also be referred to the police.

For more information on staying safe, go to the [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) website](https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/stay-safe) (<https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/stay-safe>).

Who can apply

You are eligible to apply if you are a registered owner of a residential property in the Northern Territory (NT).

The property can be owner-occupied or used as investment, but there can only be one application per property and per home owner.

If you are eligible, you can submit two quotes, by up to two businesses, as part of your one application for the home improvement scheme.

The total value of the vouchers issued will be for no more than the maximum grant amount.

If you are the owner of multiple properties, you can carry out improvement works to one home only.

If a property has more than one owner, only one person can apply under the scheme.

Who can't apply

Incorporated legal entities are not eligible to apply such as:

- companies

- trust structures with a corporate trustee
- associations that are the sole registered proprietor of a property.

What you can use the voucher for

You can use the voucher for physical improvements, repairs or maintenance services that are intended to stay in the property permanently.

You must not use a voucher with any other voucher or other benefit granted under any other program (whether an Australian Government or NT Government program) to pay for the same works.

Eligible works include:

- installing or repairing an air-conditioning unit
- painting your house
- pool repairs
- fencing repairs
- installing or repairing a reticulation system
- upgrading ceiling fans or lighting
- installing a solar hot water system
- other electrical work that support energy efficiency.

Eligible works must:

- include a labour component and
- be carried out by an eligible business that is not related to the grant recipient.

Works that are excluded

Excluded works include:

- buying solar photovoltaic (PV) panels or installing solar panels - eg rooftop solar, and any related solar works (except solar hot water)

- works that are to be carried out by the grant recipient on a 'do-it-yourself' basis or
- works carried out by a business related to the grant recipient.

When work can start

Eligible works can start after an application has been approved by the Department of Trade, Business and Innovation.

How to apply

You must read, understand and agree to the scheme's [terms and conditions](https://businessrecovery.nt.gov.au/terms-and-conditions) (<https://businessrecovery.nt.gov.au/terms-and-conditions>) before you apply.

When you are ready to apply, follow these steps:

Step 1. Decide what type of improvements you want done on your property.

Step 2. [Check the list of registered tradies and businesses](https://businessrecovery.nt.gov.au/tradie-contractor/registered-tradies-and-contractors) (<https://businessrecovery.nt.gov.au/tradie-contractor/registered-tradies-and-contractors>) taking part in the scheme.

Step 3. Contact one or more tradespeople from the list for a quote. Once you receive your quote, you can use the [estimator](https://businessrecovery.nt.gov.au/home-owners/estimator) (<https://businessrecovery.nt.gov.au/home-owners/estimator>) to calculate the value of your voucher.

Step 4. After selecting a preferred quote, apply online to receive a unique voucher on the [Smartygrants website](https://businessnt.smartygrants.com.au/homeimprovement2020) (<https://businessnt.smartygrants.com.au/homeimprovement2020>).

Step 5. Once the work is completed, you must pay the tradesperson for the work using the voucher as part payment. You must give your voucher to the tradesperson so that they can be paid by the Department of Trade, Business and Innovation.

Application process

Applications are assessed in the order they are received. If your application is incomplete, it will take longer.

If a tradie or contractor has accurately answered all questions on the application form, and they are eligible, they will be registered for the scheme.

While you wait for a tradie or contractor to be added to the list of eligible businesses, you can continue to work with them to seek quotes.

You can submit an application with a quote if the tradie or contractor hasn't been approved yet.

For further enquiries please email the relevant email address (<https://businessrecovery.nt.gov.au/contacts>) and we will respond within two business days.

After you apply

All work must be completed within three months of the date the voucher was issued, or 28 February 2021 - whichever is sooner.

Contact

For more information, contact the Business Recovery team (<https://businessrecovery.nt.gov.au/contacts>).

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