Housing and Homelessness Services – Alice Springs

Homelessness is often symptomatic of a range of other issues. Whilst challenges in overcoming homelessness in Alice Springs at times seem insurmountable, Housing and Homelessness services in Alice Springs demonstrate strong collaborative relationships in together addressing and reducing homelessness.

When seeking options for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in Alice Springs, a first step would be www.shelterme.org.au the website for homeless Territorians developed by NT Shelter, the peak body for homelessness in NT.

Housing Support

A range of services in Alice Springs provide support for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Their primary focus has traditionally been in early intervention and prevention. Until recently referrals to support services were mainly from Dept Housing and Community Development to assist people at risk of eviction to achieve sustainable tenancies. New tenants in public housing are also encouraged to accept support from services to assist in establishing stable tenancies. This model has now been expanded to include private rental and other housing tenants.

Specialist Homeless Services include:

- Anglicare NT
- Mission Australia
- Tangentyere (mostly in Town Camps)

Other services also include Salvation Army TIPAS (Towards Independence Program Alice Springs), ASYASS (Alice Springs Youth Accommodation Support Services) and MHACA (Mental Health Association in Central Australia). Prison release programs include Anglicare NT’s OutCare and Kungka’s (Stop the Violence) program.

Housing Options

Crisis Accommodation

Options for people in primary homelessness seeking crisis accommodation are fairly limited in Alice Springs. Specialist and general crisis accommodation would include:

**Alice Springs Women’s Shelter** provides shelter for women and children escaping domestic violence. If at immediate risk, call **000**. Otherwise call **89526075**.

**Salvation Army Men’s Hostel**, for young men over 18, catering particularly for those with mental health issues. Call **8952 1434**.

**Apmere Mweree (Visitors Park)** provides short term accommodation for visitors or people requiring immediate accommodation. Managed by Aboriginal Hostels Ltd accommodation includes camping, tent sites, self-contained or standard cabins.
**Stuart Lodge.** Managed by Mission Australia, Stuart Lodge provides short-term accommodation, particularly for people requiring medical assistance. Call **8959 6080.**

**Aboriginal Hostels Ltd** provide short to medium term hostel accommodation. Tariffs include meals. Hostels include:

- **Akangkentje,** 34 South Terrace, phone **8952 1713**
- **Ayiparinja,** Lot 8139 Larapinta Drive, phone **79058730**

**Transitional or Medium Term Accommodation:**

- **Anglicare NT’s Housing Support Services** provide transitional accommodation for singles, couples and families. Case management support is available to address identified issues and life skills training and tenancy skills development. Applicants must be on public housing wait list. Phone **8959 4400.**

- **Mission Australia’s Percy Court** or **Aherlkeme Development Centre** provides medium term accommodation. Referrals are received through Territory Housing.

- **Salvation Army Towards Independence Program** provides transitional housing and outreach support. Phone **8951 0200**

- **ASYASS** (Alice Springs Youth Accommodation Support Services) provides accommodation and support for young people from 16-21 for up to 12 months. Phone **8953 4706**

- **MHACA** (Mental Health Association Central Australia) has some accommodation and support for with mental health issues experiencing homelessness. Phone **8959 4600**

**Long Term Accommodation**

Due to prohibitive rents and low vacancy rates in the **private rental market** in Central Australia people experiencing homelessness are generally excluded from this option.

- **Public housing** is usually affordable and the most appropriate option for people on lower incomes but long wait-lists apply.

- **Social or Community Housing** may offer an alternative for those seeking accommodation on low to moderate incomes. These include:

- **Central Australian Affordable Housing Company (CAAHC)**

  CAAHC provides a mixture of housing options for low income earners, working people and seniors. It also manages the My Place Program, which can help people enter the private rental market.

- **Anglicare NT**

  22 x2 bedroom units are soon to be available in Bloomfield Street for employed people on low to moderate incomes who have difficulty accessing alternate housing options.