



A Working Future is the Territory Government's plan for making our largest remote communities become proper towns to deliver better services for Indigenous Territorians.

It is also about providing better transport, better infrastructure, better planning, more economic development, long-term funding, proper education, and real jobs.

A Working Future is also about providing better access to services for smaller communities and outstations.

However, some outstation residents have raised questions about how the policy will affect them.

To help clear things up we have picked the ten most asked questions and provided some answers.

Question 1:

Are you going to keep funding the outstations and homelands?

Occupied homelands and outstations will keep getting funds.

Outstations and homelands currently get funding for municipal and infrastructure support and they will keep getting that money. On top of this they will continue to receive education, health and other key Government services.

Question 2:

Pat Dodson did a report on outstations and homelands. Have you listened to that report?

Yes. We read and listened to Pat Dodson's report. Many of his recommendations are in the new policy.

Question 3:

Do people have to leave homelands and outstations?

Absolutely not. If you want to live on a homeland you can. In fact, with proper transport systems in place and better roads, there will be a greater ability for people to stay on homelands and outstations while accessing the services they need in the nearby towns.

Question 4:

You say you are going to grow 20 remote communities into proper towns, but will you take money away from small communities and outstations to do it?

No. There is room for both. The Government wants to build 20 strong towns across the Territory which can provide good services to people living in those areas.

Question 5:

Did you talk with people before announcing this policy?

Yes and we will talk with people further. We undertook more than 12 months of policy development and consultation before announcing the outstations and homelands policy.

We are now going back to talk with people about a new way of distributing outstations and homelands funding. As part of these consultations, the Territory Government wants to directly engage with every occupied outstation and homeland in the Northern Territory.

Question 6:

Does the Government agree that outstations and homelands can be healthy places?

We do agree. What we all know is that having an active, working lifestyle makes people healthier. Our aim is to encourage better health decisions by all Aboriginal people – whether they live in cities, towns, homelands or outstations.

Question 7:

Will ranger programs keep going?

Yes. In fact, the Territory Government has worked hard to expand these programs and will continue to do so.

Question 8:

Is the new policy different from the way the Australian Government used to fund outstations and homelands?

The Australian Government had a policy of 'no new' outstations and homelands and they were not providing new housing. Before the Australian Government, ATSIC implemented the same 'no funding for new outstations' policy. The Northern Territory has made the decision to continue this approach. People who are willing to self-fund can establish new outstations and homelands.

Question 9:

Can people still build houses on outstations and homelands?

If people wish to build houses they can do so. This is a decision for the traditional owners to make. At larger outstations there remains the option for Government to lease land to build and manage new public housing. Further, at outstations and homelands where houses remain in private hands, the Government will continue to offer a special annual grant to assist residents maintain their assets.

Question 10:

Does the Government support the ongoing practice of traditional culture and language?

Yes we do. In fact, we want people to maintain their culture and their language. We believe that culture and language makes people strong. Aboriginal people can and should continue their cultural practices and languages whether they live in outstations, small communities, hub towns, major centres or capital cities. We encourage this to continue.