



Tuesday 28th July 2026

### **YiSSA transition begins as new referrals cease, with families needing certainty**

Yilli Housing Aboriginal Corporation, Mission Australia, Aboriginal Housing NT and NT Shelter are warning that the impacts of the proposed closure of YiSSA are already being felt, with residents, families and frontline workers experiencing growing uncertainty as the closure process begins.

Following a 90-day lease termination notice issued to Ausco on 20 July 2026, the Northern Territory Department of Children and Families has directed Yilli Housing to stop accepting new check-ins to YiSSA's 14-day and 28-day accommodation programs from Monday, 27 July 2026.

The decision means more than 300 people currently waiting for support, including 89 children, will need alternative pathways as the Territory's largest homelessness accommodation service closes.

Under the Department's direction, people currently staying in the 28-day accommodation program will be required to leave by 25 August, with all remaining residents expected to vacate the site by 11 October.

The organisations say the uncertainty surrounding the future of the service is already taking a significant toll on residents.

*"The transition has begun. People are facing uncertainty about where they will go next. Families with children are feeling the impact, and staff are working hard to support residents through a difficult transition."* Yvette Park, CEO, Yilli Housing Aboriginal Corporation

YiSSA has 200 rooms accommodating between 350-400 people each week and currently there 223 adults and 136 children on site. Some residents have already begun leaving the service, with limited housing options available.

People supported by YiSSA are among the Territory's most vulnerable, including people experiencing homelessness, domestic and family violence, mental ill-health, alcohol and other drug dependency, disability and complex health needs.

The organisations reiterated that the Northern Territory is experiencing an extreme housing shortage, with social housing wait times exceeding ten years, the private rental market effectively full and homelessness services already operating at capacity.

*"When housing and accommodation options are limited, pressure is felt across families, communities and already stretched services."* Annie Taylor, CEO, NT Shelter

The organisations acknowledged the Northern Territory Government's commitment to working with the service providers and said more detail is needed on how residents will access safe and appropriate housing or accommodation within the proposed timeframe.

*"We share Minister Cahill's objective that nobody will be on the street as a result of YiSSA's closure. A clear transition plan with clear accommodation or housing pathways will be critical to achieving that outcome."* Sue Budalich, Mission Australia.

Around 88 per cent of current residents are Aboriginal, reflecting the disproportionate burden of homelessness experienced by Aboriginal Territorians and the critical role Aboriginal community-controlled organisations play in responding to it.

*"For many families from remote communities, YiSSA provides a safe place to stay while accessing medical care, escaping violence, connecting with services or taking steps towards stable housing. Aboriginal community-controlled organisations must be genuine partners in planning the next steps for families."* Leeanne Caton, CEO of Aboriginal Housing NT.

The organisations continue to call on the Northern Territory Government to ensure the transition timetable is guided by safe housing outcomes and developed in partnership with Yilli Housing and Mission Australia.

*"A strong transition plan should identify safe and appropriate housing pathways for every resident, contingency arrangements where housing is unavailable, and tailored support for families with children and people with complex needs. Alternative options must also be scaled up to support the thousands of people assisted each year and replace YiSSA's 200 rooms. We remain committed to working constructively with Government to protect vulnerable Territorians and develop a workable solution."* Yvette Park, CEO, Yilli Housing Aboriginal Corporation.

**Joint statement from Yilli Housing Aboriginal Corporation, Mission Australia, Aboriginal Housing NT and NT Shelter**

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