



**MISSION
AUSTRALIA**



1 September 2026

Yilli Housing and partners call for continued talks towards a future for YiSSA

Yilli Rreung Housing Aboriginal Corporation, Mission Australia, Aboriginal Housing NT and NT Shelter recognise the work that has taken place between governments to explore options for YiSSA. We encourage the Northern Territory Government and Australian Government to build on that work and continue discussions to address the imminent closure of YiSSA to ensure the needs of the most vulnerable Territorians are met.

Since opening in 2020, YiSSA has provided safe accommodation and intensive support to thousands of Territorians experiencing homelessness. Each week, YiSSA normally accommodates between 350-400 people, with a high proportion of children across our 200 room homelessness services. In 2025 - 2026 alone, the service supported more than 2,370 adults and 1,200 children.

Following the end of client intake on 27 July the number of people accommodated is reducing. Currently, there are 233 people including 85 children still staying at YiSSA, with a further 300 people including 89 children on our waitlist unable to access accommodation. This highlights the ongoing and significant need for homeless accommodation across Greater Darwin.

"People still at YiSSA 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 very uncertain time."

Yvette Park, CEO, Yilli Housing Aboriginal Corporation

People supported by YiSSA are among the Territory's most vulnerable, experiencing homelessness, domestic and family violence, mental ill-health, alcohol and other drug dependency, disability and complex health needs. For many, YiSSA has provided not only safe accommodation, but the support needed to rebuild their lives.

Any future model will need to respond to the significant level of demand currently being met by YiSSA. A substantial loss of accommodation capacity would place additional pressure on social housing, hospitals, the child protection system, police and other frontline community services, while increasing the risk of overcrowding in urban and remote communities, and rough sleeping in Darwin.

In addition to homelessness services, YiSSA provides a vital wet weather surge response with up to 100 additional rooms available to meet the needs of Territorians during flooding or evacuation events. In 2026, YiSSA accommodated 200 people from Numbulwar, Palumpa and Daly River to 30 June 2026 while housing and vital services were restored to their communities.

"With the end of the dry and onset of the wet – wet weather responses for people in Darwin and across the Top End are vital. YiSSA provides a critical and cost-effective surge response to ensure the health risk of melioidosis is reduced for people in Darwin and the needs of people impacted by

flooding are met. YiSSA provides this vital service to people across Greater Darwin and the Top End that will soon be needed again." Leeanne Caton, AHNT.

We are deeply committed to the ongoing support and safety of people at YiSSA and people experiencing homelessness across Greater Darwin. Our shared objective is to ensure people experiencing homelessness have access to accommodation and support, while retaining the capacity the Territory needs to respond emergency events.

We welcome the funding commitment from the Australian Government and recognise the work undertaken by the Northern Territory Government. We hope these discussions can continue, with all parties working together towards an agreed model that meets the needs of the thousands of vulnerable Territorians who rely on this service each year.

"We remain committed to working constructively with the Northern Territory Government and the Australian Government to ensure an outcome is agreed that meets the significant demand for homelessness accommodation across Greater Darwin." 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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