

**JOHN AH KIT
MINISTER FOR HOUSING**

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HOUSING SPEND MEANS MORE WORK FOR TERRITORY BUSINESS, MORE LOCAL JOBS

Small Territory business will be better backed with a \$72 million allocation for housing in Budget 2005, Minister for Housing John Ah Kit announced today.

Mr Ah Kit said the Martin Government's strong investment in community and Government employee housing would give smaller construction businesses more work and provide jobs for Territorians.

"We are also backing more Territorians to invest in their own homes through the highly successful HomeNorth scheme," he said.

HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE HIGHLIGHTS

Housing construction throughout the Territory creates local jobs and provides work for smaller construction businesses, with benefits flowing to retail and other small local businesses.

Budget 2005 housing infrastructure highlights include:

- \$10.4 million for Government employee housing across the Territory, including more housing for teachers and nurses
- \$1.8 million to upgrade housing throughout the Territory
- \$24.2 million for Indigenous housing
- \$20 million for repairs and maintenance to public housing and Government employee housing

"This \$72 million spend on housing infrastructure means more work for local business and more local jobs," Mr Ah Kit said.

GETTING MORE TERRITORY FAMILIES INTO THEIR OWN HOME

Budget 2005 continues the Martin Government's efforts to make the home ownership dream a reality for more Territory families through the revamped HomeNorth scheme.

"More than 500 Territory households have already benefited from the revamped scheme with a total \$87 million in loans funded, approved and approved in principle. The vast majority have been provided to first homebuyers, including \$4 million in new unit and housing construction.

"Budget 2005 backs the Territory's building, construction and real estate industries and ensures more jobs for Territorians," Mr Ah Kit said.

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