

WELCOME TO

# Darwin



Aussie  
Orientation  
Services

people • passion • personal touch





people ● passion ● personal touch

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## ABOUT AUSSIE ORIENTATION SERVICES

Aussie Orientation Services officially welcomes you to Darwin, your soon to be or already new home.

Our team specialises in tailor made one-on-one orientation programs to ensure you and your family settle into Australia from the start.

Relocating to a different country or state can be a very stressful time - there are so many questions.....

**How will I find a home for my family? Where will we live?**

**Where are the best facilities to suit our family?**

**What about schools and day care?**

**Do I need a car? How do I find one?**

At Aussie Orientation Services we understand that this can be overwhelming especially when there are families involved. This is why we work with you every step of the way to ease the stress of organising a new life for you by collecting detailed information with regards to family dynamics, schooling and sporting needs and religion, just to name a few.

Aussie Orientation Services have forged strong relationships with many real estate agents around Darwin ensuring our clients are looked after. With our knowledge and expertise we can ensure you quickly become comfortable in this new city, leaving you free to concentrate on your new job ASAP.

As part of our on-going support to our clients Aussie Orientation Services hold events such as tennis games, book clubs, scrapbooking and 'The Fun Bus' to help our clients meet new friends in similar situations.

These events are run every 4 - 6 weeks and they are a great opportunity for you and your family to meet new friends that are working for a wide range of employers in Darwin.

Not only are they fun but they are a great networking opportunity! We look forward to welcoming you at the next event and orientating you around the wonderful experiences Darwin has to offer.

## OUR CLIENTS INCLUDE

GE Oil and Gas  
Leighton Contractors

APC for Schneider Electric

HWE Mining

Saipem Leighton Consortium

CSIRO

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia

TSG Consulting

INPEX

Whelans Surveying, Mapping and Town Planning

Mouchel

Downer

Bechtel

## CORPORATE MEMBERSHIPS



# Sue Pember

## DIRECTOR

Prior to starting Aussie Orientation Services, Sue worked in business development, public relations and client liaison for the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) WA for more than 4 years. During this time Sue looked after many of the Chamber's members in the oil and gas, mining, manufacturing and construction sectors. During her time at the Chamber Sue had the opportunity to travel throughout the country visiting many of its mining and oil and gas operations and has continued to build strong relationships with the key players in these industries.



Before Sue's time at CCIWA she worked for 4 years in the real estate industry as a sales representative for a prestigious WA Real Estate agency and prior to real estate, Sue worked for ABC Television.

Sue is married and has two children Charlotte 4 years and Leo born in Sept 2011. Sue and her husband have a strong interest in Perth's real estate market having bought and sold many homes.

Sue's many years of experience in looking after people and intimate knowledge of the real estate market is at your service to help you make a positive move to Australia.

Sue is very active in the Western Australian business community and currently sits on the Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Small Enterprise Network (SEN) Advisory Panel - SEN is a big voice for small business ([www.cciwa.com/sen/](http://www.cciwa.com/sen/))

# ABOUT DARWIN

Welcome to Darwin - a vibrant, tropical city offering magical markets, unique wilderness and a non-stop night life. With all the charm of a big country town, everything that happens in a big city, happens in Darwin. This is a guide to help you settle into Darwin whether as a temporary or permanent resident. We have provided some general information and contacts to allow you to settle in quickly and comfortably. If you have any queries about this information or anything else you can think of please feel free to contact us.



## PARLIAMENT HOUSE

Also called the Wedding Cake, and when you lay eyes on NT's Parliament House I think you'll understand why. After passing through security, make your way to the end of the cavernous entrance hall where you'll find a small café on the left hand side that wouldn't look out of place in Alice's Garden. Overlooking the blue waters of Darwin Harbour, the garden is a masterpiece of manicured lawns and clipped shrubs set against the building's dazzling white exterior.



## INTERESTING FACTS

- We are a **Territory** not a State.
- Leader of the Territory is not a Premier but **The Chief Minister**.
- We have an **Administrator** rather than a Governor.

## Getting to Darwin

Capital of the Northern Territory, Darwin is easily accessible by air from around Australia. Darwin Airport is the only airport serving Darwin and is the tenth busiest airport in Australia. As the international and regional gateway to the Northern Territory, Darwin Airport is located only 13 kilometres from the CBD in the northern suburb of Marrara. It shares runways with the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). This impacts with restricted air travel during the day so many flights are scheduled in the early morning or late afternoon to free the air space.

## City Taxis

Taxi ranks are located outside the main entrance to the airport. There are two main taxi companies in Darwin with call centres also located near to the Airport.

**Darwin Radio Taxis**    131 008  
**City Radio Taxis**     138 294

Both offer a good service however it pays to book in advance to avoid delays. There are also reasonably-priced limousine services available.

Car Hire is available at the airport with most of the major companies providing a desk 24 hours a day. Vehicles are located on airport land, a short walking distance from the airport.

## The Journey

**The other way to travel to Darwin is via the Ghan.**

This transcontinental adventure offers an unsurpassed view of Australia - North to South over three unforgettable days.

Travel by rail between Adelaide, Alice Springs and Darwin and you are embarking on one of the great train journeys of the world. Named after the Afghan cameleers who once traversed this route, The Ghan will take you from one edge of this continent to the other, through the very centre of Australia. The Ghan runs twice weekly from Adelaide to Darwin. See [www.greatsouthernrail.com.au](http://www.greatsouthernrail.com.au) for more details.

## Climate

Darwin has a unique climate separated into three distinct periods - 'The Build Up', 'The Wet' and 'The Dry', none of which correlate to the traditional summer/winter of their southern counterparts.

'The Build Up' traditionally starts around October/November when the temperature builds up hot and steamy during the day and then is released in the late afternoon or evening with warm rain and world famous lightning shows. This occurs for several months "building up" to the monsoonal or cyclone season around December. It is perhaps the most uncomfortable time of the year but most of Darwin live and work in air conditioning which makes it bearable.



Next is 'The Wet' which is when the rain begins and cyclones potentially form. The temperatures eases as the rain fall increases. If there has been a good build up, 'The Wet' will start around December/January for about three months. The rain is very necessary in the Territory because many tourism operators such as fishing charters, need the rains to fill the rivers for the following year's 'Run Off'. When the rivers are full, the fishing is good and everyone is happy.

After the Wet comes 'The Dry' which traditionally begins around the 1st of May, when the "dragonflies appear in their droves" and you note a subtle drop in temperature to a very pleasant 17 degrees. This is a time of clear blue skies, balmy nights and warm days. Once 'The Dry' arrives Darwin comes alive as there is generally no rain for about six months, allowing for festivals, race carnivals, V8 races, fireworks and cultural experiences every week. Swimming is now possible on the beaches as the stingers also disappear (but warnings still exist for crocodiles).

## Darwin Temperature Averages

This table shows you the monthly temperature averages: the daily maximum, and the minimum for the night. The data was collected at Darwin airport between 1941 and 2004.

You are looking at long term averages, and averages can be deceiving. The temperatures at any given day or night can be well below or above that.

But more importantly, the humidity during the wet season is a lot higher, which makes the same temperatures just so much more uncomfortable... (To get an idea what the Darwin weather feels like during the wet season add about 7 - 10°C to the actual temperature.)

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
AVERAGE DAILY MAX	31.8	31.4	31.9	32.7	32.0	30.6	30.5	31.3	32.5	33.1	33.2	32.5
AVERAGE NIGHT MIN	24.8	24.7	24.5	24.0	22.1	20.0	19.3	20.5	23.1	25.0	25.3	25.3

## Darwin Weather - Australia's North And Rainfall

This table shows rainfall amounts in mm: the average per month, the highest/lowest monthly rainfall that has been recorded, and the highest ever recorded daily rainfall amount for every month.

It shows very well the extreme variations, the unpredictability, and also how our rain often falls in a matter of a few hours or days. It's very impressive when it happens. Several hundred mm in one day is a HUGE amount of water to fall out of the sky...

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
AVERAGE MONTHLY	423	361	319	98.9	21.3	2.0	1.4	5.7	15.4	70.7	142	248
HIGHEST MONTHLY	940	815	1014	357	299	50.6	26.6	83.8	130	339	371	665
LOWEST MONTHLY	136	103	88.0	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17.2	18.8
HIGHEST DAILY	311	250	241	143	89.6	46.8	19.2	80.0	70.6	95.5	96.8	277





## Time Zones

Darwin is ahead of most other international destinations. Time difference between Darwin and the following cities are:

<b>New York:</b>	-13.30 hours
<b>London:</b>	-8.30 hours
<b>Paris:</b>	-7.30 hours
<b>Moscow:</b>	-5.30 hours
<b>Bangkok:</b>	-2.30 hours
<b>Hong Kong:</b>	-1.30 hours
<b>Tokyo:</b>	-0.30 hours

Darwin is located within Central Standard Time (CST), one of three time zones in Australia.

- Eastern Standard Time (EST) operates in NSW, Victoria, Australian Capital Territory and Queensland.
- Central Standard Time (CST) operates in South Australia and Northern Territory.
- Western Standard Time (WST) operates in Western Australia.

## Sight Seeing

Darwin is renowned for a kaleidoscope of experiences ranging from the lush tropical environment and include botanical gardens, wetlands, crocodile parks and fish-feeding venues. There are other attractions that are interesting due to the roles they have played in Darwin's history such as the Fanny Bay Gaol and Lyons Cottage. We have compiled a list of Darwins major attractions that might make you feel more at home in the Territory. The best bit is these activities are completely free.

**MINDIL BEACH SUNSET MARKETS:** more than 60 food stalls from more than 30 different countries and 200 art and craft stalls. Shop for local souvenirs, get a massage, have your palm read, get a Tarot reading, watch the buskers and performing artists, listen to the live bands or just sip a glass of wine on the beach and watch the sunset. April until October on Thursday and Sunday nights at Mindil Beach. [www.mindil.com.au](http://www.mindil.com.au)

**MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY:** focusing on South-East Asia and Australasia it includes an excellent exhibition of Aboriginal bark paintings, a collection of stone axes (some of which are estimated to be 22,000 years old) and the Melville Island Pukamani Burial Poles. A highlight is the Cyclone Tracy display featuring a small, dark room where you can listen to a tape recording of the cyclone's screeching winds. Conacher Street, Fannie Bay. Open Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm; weekends and public holidays 10am-5pm. [www.magnt.nt.gov.au](http://www.magnt.nt.gov.au)

**GEORGE BROWN BOTANICAL GARDENS:** 42-hectare garden just two kilometres from the Darwin city centre includes a rainforest gully with hundreds of palms, a wetland, a coastal zone and a mangrove boardwalk. Open daily, 7am-7pm.

**DARWIN SUNSETS:** the fiery tropical sun of the north puts on a dramatic finale each evening over Darwin Harbour. Often magnified and coloured a rusty red by the dry season haze, the spectacular Darwin sunsets draw large numbers of visitors and locals alike to witness them. Some of the most popular places to drink them in are at the seaside clubs in Fannie Bay as well as the coastal reserves at East Point, Nightcliff and Casuarina.

**FANNIE BAY GAOL:** opened in 1883, the notorious gaol was home to criminals and their like for almost 100 years until 1979. East Point Road, Fannie Bay. Open daily, 10am-4.30pm.

**LYONS COTTAGE:** also known as BAT (British Australian Telegraph) House, Lyons Cottage



is the only remaining example of colonial bungalow style architecture to be found in Darwin. Built of 'hammered stone' it was the first stone building constructed in Darwin for 30 years. It is now a local history museum. Corner of Knuckey Street and the Esplanade, City. Open daily 10am-4.30pm.

**EAST POINT RESERVE:** you can swim and windsurf without fear of jellyfish or crocodiles at the artificial lake, Lake Alexander, East Point Reserve. Towards evening wallabies come out to graze. There is also an easy 1.5 km boardwalk through coastal monsoon and mangrove forests, with wheelchair access. Fannie Bay.

**STATE SQUARE AND PARLIAMENT HOUSE:** there are free tours of Parliament House on Wednesday at 10.30am from the first

Wednesday in June to the end of September as well as Saturdays at 9am and 11am. Tours leave from the foyer of Parliament House, Mitchell Street, City.

**DROP A LINE:** you don't have to buy a ticket or charter a boat to go fishing in Darwin. Grab the family and drop a line over Darwin's Stokes Hill Wharf where there's a dedicated fishing platform and shaded seating areas. It's close to the Wharf's al fresco eateries and walking distance from the CBD.

**MYILLY POINT HERITAGE PRECINCT:** take a walk around Myilly Point Heritage Precinct, a collection of older style homes. It includes the last remaining four pre-WWII houses built in the 1930s. Bullet holes can still be seen in the fence and walls. 4 Burnett Place Myilly Point, Larrakeyah

## Beyond Darwin

The major connecting road in the Northern Territory is The Stuart Highway running from Darwin to Adelaide. As you head south from Darwin, along the Stuart Highway, the next major city is Palmerston, a satellite city created in 1982 and now boasting a population of almost 36,000.

**PALMERSTON:** Palmerston is one of the fastest growing cities in Australia and the fastest in the Territory, the City of Palmerston located just 21kms from the heart of Darwin is a young, vibrant city attracting a number of young families, defence personal and businesses to our door.

With 2 shopping centres, all your services such as Medicare, Power and Water, Motor Vehicles Registry, all major banks and a large, newly opened health precinct that is home to a GP Super Clinic, dentists, pathology, medical imaging, other related services and is soon to be home to Palmerston Hospital earmarked for arrival mid 2015. Recently opened is the brand new water slide park. Another free attraction opened most days of the year.

As you leave Palmerston and are heading south on the Stuart Highway, you will see the turn off to Humpty Doo, a small rural township. This is also the turn off to the Arnhem Highway, or the road to Kakadu. Covering nearly 20,000 square kilometres of exceptional natural beauty and unique biodiversity, Kakadu is one of very few places World Heritage listed for both its cultural and its natural values. Kakadu National Park is managed jointly by its Aboriginal traditional owners and the Director of National Parks. Many options are available to visit Kakadu although they say “The only way to see Kakadu is to fly Kakadu”.

However, sticking to the Stuart Highway, from Palmerston, Katherine is the next major town, the fourth largest settlement with a population of almost 6,000. Many businesses and govt bodies, universities etc have a second presence in Katherine. It is quite a drive, often dogged by kangaroos and the famous NT road trains carrying goods to Darwin.

On the way to Katherine, you can either stop at Batchelor or Adelaide River for food, petrol or tourism value.

Just before the Batchelor turnoff, there are several turnoffs to different tourism locations including Berry Springs Nature Park which is a popular swimming and picnic area with several pools and a small waterfall fed by crystal clear spring water and surrounded by natural bush. On the Cox Peninsula Rd, this is probably the most popular of the bush swimming pools close to Darwin. If you want to visit it, best to avoid the long weekends or go early to avoid missing out on a car park.

A little further down the Stuart Highway is Lake Bennett, a small artificial freshwater lake set in 4.45 square kilometres of tropical wilderness offering visitors a tranquil setting canoe hire, spa treatments, a 9 hole golf course, restaurant and conference facilities. It is a peaceful getaway and stocked with barramundi for the families to try fishing and hundreds of different birdlife and wild life.

**BACHELOR:** Batchelor requires a turn off from the main road and is a pretty little tourist village which is the entry to the Litchfield National Park. Litchfield is a must see for all tourists, a favourite for families to travel to on hot days to enjoy the refreshing cool waters of the waterfalls.

**ADELAIDE RIVER:** A trip to Katherine can be broken up by stopping at Adelaide River - one hour from Darwin which offers a roadhouse and petrol stop. **But petrol can be much more expensive here than Darwin or Katherine so compare petrol station prices.**

A gateway to the fishing hot spots such as the Daly River which hosts the Barra Nationals; Adelaide River also hosts the Adelaide River Races when a lot of the Darwin people travel down for the weekend.

One local residing at the Bar who is not so talkative is “Charlie” the Buffalo. Charlie, made famous by Mick Dundee (Paul Hogan) whilst being hypnotised to the ground on the

movie Crocodile Dundee, passed away in 2000 and now stands proudly on the bar. “Charlie” is available every day for your perfect photo.

Pine Creek is a small town of around 850 people and is a fascinating historic town full of unusual buildings and memories of the old railway and telegraph line. Pull in if you are needing petrol between Adelaide River and Katherine.



## Entertainment, Arts & Culture

**THEATRES:** Darwin Theatre Company operates a lively locally and nationally funded organisation with a reputation for producing high quality theatre productions. The company has established a tradition of making innovative use of a range of venues such as Fannie Bay Gaol, the Old Town Hall Ruins, the East Point gun turret, the Powerhouse Arena and the Botanic Gardens Amphitheatre, as well as the more traditional theatre spaces including Browns Mart Community Theatre and the Darwin Entertainment Centre.

**KATHERINE:** Set in promising grazing and future agricultural country, the town’s main economic source has often been gold, but this has lessened after the closing of the mine at Mount Todd. There is increasing tourism and the RAAF Base Tindal 17 km southeast of town which is also contributing to the economy. The town has several churches, sporting clubs, parks, a well-kept golf course and a showground.

The well known and spectacular Katherine Gorge, in the Nitmiluk National Park near the town, has many ancient rock paintings. These often become flooded during “the wet season” as the river can rise 18m in the narrow passage. In a particularly wet season, the paintings higher up can become flooded, damaging these ancient treasures.

To find out more destinations to explore in NT. Visit [www.tourismtropical.com.au](http://www.tourismtropical.com.au)

**MUSEUMS & GALLERIES:** Set in a tropical garden on Darwin Harbour at Bullocky Point is the Northern Territory’s premier cultural institution - the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory. Its collections encompass Aboriginal art and material culture, visual arts, craft, Southeast Asian and Oceanic art and material culture, maritime archaeology, Northern Territory history and natural sciences.

**DARWIN ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE:** Opened in 1986, the premier entertainment and convention venue in the Top End of Australia. Located in the heart of the city in the Mitchell Street entertainment district, the Centre is close to all amenities and easy to access.

The Centre can accommodate almost any kind of performance or event, large or small, and has played host to major national and international acts as well as Darwin-based

artists, local Eisteddfod competitions, and school concerts.

The Darwin Convention Centre spans a total floor area of 22,900 square metres offering a wide selection of conference, exhibition and function facilities for 10 to 4,000 delegates.

**CINEMAS:** Darwin has 2 Birch Carroll and Coyle Event Cinemas located in Darwin City and at Casuarina Shopping Centre. There is also CMAX Cinema at Palmerston and during the Dry Season, The Deck Chair Cinemas offer a unique under the stars experience near the Waterfront.

## OTHER EVENTS

### May

Bass in the Grass Music Festival - around 3rd weekend in May.

### June

The Glenti - a two day (weekend) Greek festival on the Esplanade attracts thousands.

India on Mindil - Indian society host a Saturday festival celebrating their culture.

V8 Supercars - a three day race car festival held at Hidden Valley - supported by Major Events.

### July

Lions Beer Can regatta - a Territory icon for over 30 years - where people make boats out of beer cans and sail them in a race to win treasure. Money raised goes to charity. Thousands turn out for this beach-like festival with foot races, competitions and the like which has attracted world wide competition. Check it on the web: [www.beercanregatta.org.au](http://www.beercanregatta.org.au)

### Races

The Darwin Cup Carnival runs for four weeks in July with a major race every weekend starting with the Chief Ministers Cup on the first Saturday in July.



Other races include:

- HOT 100 Race Day on the second Saturday.
- Ladies Day in mid week on the third week.
- Colemans Cup on the third Saturday.
- Palmerston Cup on the last Saturday.

The races are hugely significant to the Darwin lifestyle. People love to get dressed up and fully support all the races. The Darwin Cup Ball is the major event on the calendar with over 3,500 people paying over \$350 per ticket to attend an outdoor ball within the grounds of the Casino. This event has attracted major names like Delta Goodrem and Jimmy Barnes to entertain the crowds.

### July 1

Territory Day - this is the one day of the year when anyone can buy fireworks and let them off. The city goes crazy buying thousands of dollars worth of fireworks that linger on for weeks afterwards. Lock up your dogs or sedate them as the night is electric. The Territory government also puts on a huge display on Mindil Beach for the public to join in the celebrations.

### July 24

Royal Darwin Show - and the Long weekend. Run by the Royal Agricultural Society of the Northern Territory. A fun-filled exciting weekend for all the family to enjoy.

A must-grab source of vital information is the Darwin-Life Magazine. Published every month, this magazine advises you of everything happening in Darwin. To view an online version go to [www.darwinlifemag.com](http://www.darwinlifemag.com)



## Parks, Play & Picnics

City of Darwin provides over 110 local playgrounds and 3 regional playground areas in the Darwin metropolitan area. These include Anula Oval, Lake Alexander and Jingili Water Gardens. Regional playgrounds provide shaded seating, BBQs, toilets and a large, shaded playground with all-abilities access.

Local parks provide some seating, a small playground and open space for informal games etc.

See the Council's services and facilities map to find a park near you.

## Variety Liberty Swing

The Variety Liberty Swing is located adjacent to a large inclusive playground in the Water Gardens, Freshwater Road, Jingili. Its supply and installation was a joint initiative of Variety NT and City of Darwin.

The swing is designed for use by people of all ages and has room for a wheelchair to be strapped into it as well as a pop-up internal seat with a seat belt attached.

Keys to access the swing are available free of charge. If you are interested in obtaining a key to access the swing or would like information regarding its location, please contact the Community Services Officer on 8930 0645 or email [darwin@darwin.nt.gov.au](mailto:darwin@darwin.nt.gov.au) or visit Customer Service at the Civic Centre.

## Water Gardens Skate Park

Officially opened in July 1999, the Jingili Water Gardens Skate Park was built in consultation with the skating community to provide Darwin's young people with a much-needed local skating facility.



Situated in Trower Road, Jingili, the Skate Park is open during the daytime. Use of the area is free of charge. It is well suited to those learning to skate.

You can also find skate parks attached to the two water slide parks situated at Leanyer and Palmerston.

## Children's Entertainment

**AQUASCENE FISH FEEDING:** Delightful, kid-friendly activity. Ever thought of feeding fish in the ocean? At Doctors Gully, right in the heart of Darwin, is Aquascene where hundreds of fish come to shore at high tide to be fed by hand. However please note you will need to check the tide times and plan your visit around the tide.

**CROCOSAURUS COVE:** Located in the middle of Darwin CBD in Mitchell Street, Croc Cove (as the locals call it) was opened in 2009. It has a huge display of the largest saltwater crocodiles in Australia as well as the World's largest display of Australian Reptiles. This \$29 million venue is tourism-focused offering visitors the chance to 'swim with the crocs' or dare to go in the 'cage of death' beside the crocs.

**CROCODYLUS PARK:** the brainchild of world-renowned crocodile biologist Professor Grahame Webb, Crocodylus Park was officially opened on 29 August 1994. It includes a unique, comprehensive crocodile museum where the results of over three decades of crocodile research are extended to the public. There is no other museum like it!



Outside, there are saltwater and freshwater crocodiles of all ages and sizes along with American Alligators. Crocodiles range from small hatchlings (30cm) to giant 4-5m long specimens, caught in the wild and relocated into sophisticated, unitised breeding pens. The breeding pens constitute 5-star accommodation for 20 pairs of crocodiles and are used for research, production and tourism. The diverse array of other wildlife including tigers, lions, primates, birds and other reptiles, ensure the crocodiles don't steal all the limelight.

**DARWIN TOY LIBRARY:** Located at Abala Road, with a huge range of toys for all ages plus also offering a mobile service. The Darwin Toy Library aims to provide services to children who are disadvantaged in the community. This includes those with intellectual, physical, emotional and social disabilities; also those who are economically disadvantaged, children from families for whom English is a second language, and also children who are isolated. Specialised services and adapted materials are available to children with disabilities and special needs.

**FLIGHT PATH MINI GOLF AND RECREATION CENTRE:** is Darwin's only public golf driving range. Also offers 18 course mini golf, clay shooting and the largest archery range. Set on Vandelin Drive, Berrimah, it's a great family or group outing.

**LEANYER WATER PARK:** A favourite "Free Venue" the park consists of dry and wet recreational areas. There are 3 massive water slides where you can ride the water, a water park with swimming areas and a water playground - just the place to get wet and splash around in. There is also a dry playground, a skate park, a half basketball court, BBQ's, a Kiosk / Cafe and lots of shaded areas.

**PALMERSTON WATER PARK:** Another "Free Venue" this newly opened water park consists of a 14m high, 100m long, six lane water slide, play pads for families and kids, splash pads with kiddie slides, café, and newly upgraded skate park.

We love the "Bucket" - just the thing to drench off in on a hot Darwin afternoon.



**OZ JET BOAT RIDING:** Located at Stokes Hill Wharf. Oz Jet Boating NT will have you experiencing Darwin at high speed with massive sideways slides, fish tails, spins and awesome power break stops. It's extreme and loads of fun - probably not for little kids!

**THE LAKES RESORT WATER SLIDE:** More than just a great caravan park, The Lakes provides everything the aquatic adventurer could wish for. Go Water-skiing, jet skiing or wakeboarding, take out a paddleboat or canoe, zip down the 30m waterslide or just have a swim! All activities are available to day visitors as well as to guests.

**THE PLANET:** Darwin's only indoor bowling and entertainment centre, situated in Nightcliff just 7km from the Central Business District. The centre contains the following: Planet Tenpin - a 16 lane bowling centre, Planet Putt Putt - a 13 hole indoor mini golf centre, Kids Planet - a colourful children's playgym, and a separate poolroom and games area as well as an attractive licensed café all in a relaxed, airconditioned environment.

**THE ROCK CENTER:** Darwin's only rockclimbing gym, also located at Doctors Gully. Open Tuesday to Fridays 12-3 and weekends 12-6, set in tropical grounds next to Aquascene, offers parties for all ages.

**ZONE THREE:** For the older kids - Zone 3 Darwin is the ultimate laser adventure in their ever changing indoor maze. Zone 3 is for anyone over the age of 7.

## Gyms

Darwin hosts numerous gyms. The average age in Darwin is 29 (due to huge military base) and people are very active and into their sports in the city and suburb areas. There are also plenty of boot camps available and outdoor kick boxing classes. To add to the variety 24 hour gyms have recently opened in the city.

## Shopping

From the magical Mindil Markets to Darwin City and Casuarina, Darwin offers a cross section of shopping experiences.

Fashion lovers can find their favourite labels in a range of boutiques in the City shops however if you're looking for the major shops, head to Casuarina Shopping Centre boasting over 200 shops including Coles, Woolworths, Big W and plenty of specialty stores.

### CASUARINA SQUARE OPENING HOURS

<b>Monday</b>	9.00am - 5.30pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	9.00am - 5.30pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	9.00am - 5.30pm
<b>Thursday</b>	9.00am - 5.30pm
<b>Friday</b>	9.00am - 9.00pm
<b>Saturday</b>	9.00am - 5.00pm
<b>Sunday</b>	10.00am - 3.00pm
<b>Public Holidays</b>	10.00am - 3.00pm

The opening hours are different for Christmas trading and Public Holidays and also the majors like Coles and Woolies open earlier and stay open longer so check the web site for details.

Opening hours for the City and suburbs tend to be 9-5 with Sunday trading in the city very quiet, but many shops extend their hours in the tourist season.

Please note that the NT has different trading hours for liquor stores eg neither Woolworths or Coles sell alcohol on Sundays but other outlets like bottleshops can.

Banned Drinking Register Laws came into place in 2011 to try and curb alcohol related domestic violence so now whenever ANYONE buys alcohol (of any description) they must first produce their licence to see they are not on the register. The licence is scanned and then the alcohol can be sold.

Also there is a ban on plastic bags in the Northern territory since September 2011. So you need to either bring your own bags or purchase them at the counter - generally around 15 or 20 cents each.

## ACCOMMODATION

### Cost of Living

Many prospective migrants want to know about the cost of living in Australia and whether they will have a better standard of living if they make the move.

This is not an easy question to answer and everyone's situation is different, the following website can provide some helpful evaluation tools: [www.aussiemove.com/aus/costlive.asp](http://www.aussiemove.com/aus/costlive.asp)

### Where to live

Darwin offers 4 main geographical lifestyle choices: Inner city, Northern suburbs, Palmerston and Rural. There are many factors to consider apart from location: quality of housing, standard of schools, number of parks and open spaces. Naturally, the medium house price is a good indicator of how desirable the suburb is, taking into account all of these attributions.



## Renting Property

Properties in Australia are usually let through real estate agents or directly through private landlords. Available properties to rent, share and buy are listed in newspapers and on property websites. The main website is: [www.realestate.com.au](http://www.realestate.com.au).

To enter a lease, most real estate agents will require reference letters from your employer, bank and a previous landlord or real estate agent. Upon signing the lease you will be required to pay two weeks rent. An additional 4 weeks rent is kept as bond and is refundable when you leave the property, providing it is clean and undamaged with no rent owing. Please note that unlike the UK, most rental properties are leased unfurnished.

Aussie Orientation Services will provide you a detailed list of potential suitable suburbs based on your criteria provided to us through the questionnaire and correspondence.

## Electricity and Water

As PAWA (Power and Water Authority) look after all water and electricity you only need to contact the one agency to have everything connected.

Phone 1800 245 092 or online [www.powerwater.com.au](http://www.powerwater.com.au)

## Gas

A bottle of gas will be supplied at your property before you move in. Gas is not piped directly to your home but the bottle is large enough to last you months. As gas is mainly used for your stove top (hot water is generally supplied by solar hart system due to amount of sun supplied all year round), it will last a lot longer than in other states of Australia. To refill your bottle you can contact Origin Energy or Kleenheat.

## Insurance

It is recommended you take out a home and contents insurance policy to protect you from fire and theft. Some commonly used insurance companies are:

**HBF:** [www.hbf.com.au](http://www.hbf.com.au)  
**RAC:** [www.rac.com.au](http://www.rac.com.au)  
**QBE:** [www.qbe.com.au](http://www.qbe.com.au)

## Darwin Warnings or Danger

### EMERGENCY SERVICES NT

For all emergency situations dial 000 for assistance.

For information on all you need to know about your public safety follow this link: [www.pfes.nt.gov.au](http://www.pfes.nt.gov.au)

### CYCLONES

The Top End of the Northern Territory is naturally prone to tropical cyclone events with some two to three cyclones affecting the region between November and April each year.

The cyclone season officially commences on 1 November and ceases on 30 April, but cyclonic events have been known to occur outside this period. Cyclones usually affect coastal areas up to 50km inland from the sea, so whether you live in the city or the rural area, learning to protect yourself, your family and your property from cyclones can assist in minimising the potential losses and trauma that you might suffer.

*How do I prepare for the cyclone season?*

NOW is the time to act, BEFORE a cyclone is on the doorstep and you've been left without enough time to prepare yourself, your family or your home. Checking to see if your own home is safe in a cyclone is a great place to start.

Once you have decided to shelter at home here is some preparations you and your family can make:

- Trim tree tops and branches well clear of your home (obtain council permission first).
- Clear your property of loose material that could blow about and possibly cause injury or damage during extreme winds, including furniture.
- In the case of a storm surge/tidal warning, or other flooding, know your nearest safe high ground and the safest access route to it.
- Prepare an emergency kit that can sustain every member of the household for at least 72 hours. Go to <http://www.pfes.nt.gov.au/Emergency-Service/Public-safety-advice/Household-emergency-planning.aspx> to find out more.

Community safety within the Northern Territory environment is everyone's responsibility and can only be achieved through a partnership between the NT Government and the community. To reduce the risks posed by emergencies and disasters, the Northern Territory Government provides a general level of community safety in a number of ways, including the provision of Emergency Services, emergency planning coordinated by the Counter Disaster Council, infrastructure such as hospitals and emergency shelters and land use planning.

YOUR role in that partnership is to ensure the protection of your family, your home and your possessions.

Once you have established which disasters or emergency situations could affect you, the next thing you should do is sit down with your family and discuss what you will do in an emergency or disaster.

## **CROCODILE SAFETY**

### **Only swim in safe designated areas**

All fatal crocodile attacks in the NT in the past 20 years have occurred when people have entered the water outside of designated swimming areas.

## **Always Be Aware of Crocodiles in the Top End**

- Crocodiles are common in our waterways.
- Crocodiles are dangerous and attacks can be fatal.
- People live and participate in recreational activities in or near waterways where crocodiles live, bringing people and crocodiles closer together.
- Crocodiles move around throughout the year.

### **Enjoy the waterways in safety**

- Only swim in safe designated areas - if there is no safe swimming sign, do not swim.
- Always obey warning signs, they are there for your protection.
- Don't feed, harass or encourage crocodiles.
- Avoid the water's edge wherever possible.
- Don't paddle, clean fish, prepare food or wash at the water's edge.
- Stand at least 5 metres back from the water's edge when fishing.
- Don't hang arms or legs out of a boat when on the water.
- Don't dispose of food scraps and fish offal in the water, use bins or bury at least 2 metres from the water's edge.
- Stay away from crocodile slide marks and nest mounds.
- Be extra vigilant at night.

Be aware and act with caution. Do not place yourself at risk of a crocodile attack. Know the risks and make informed, sensible choices.

## **BOX JELLYFISH**

### **October to May: Stinger Season**

Avoid getting stung. Do not enter the sea and most importantly do not let children enter the sea during stinger season. Beware of shallow water in creeks and near boat ramps, and wear protective clothing when fishing or boating. Even in surf conditions Box Jellyfish may be present.

## June to September

Take care if you go swimming and consider protective clothing (long sleeved tops with shorts or a sunsuit) as stings have occurred in all months of the year. Small children are at greatest risk, so always cover them up and keep a close watch.

Please follow the link for more information. [www.health.nt.gov.au/library/scripts/objectifyMedia.aspx?file=pdf/26/02.pdf&siteID=1&str\\_title=Box%20Jellyfish.pdf](http://www.health.nt.gov.au/library/scripts/objectifyMedia.aspx?file=pdf/26/02.pdf&siteID=1&str_title=Box%20Jellyfish.pdf)

### BUSH FIRES

Many visitors to the Northern Territory often see fires burning along roadsides or in bushland that appear unattended. Usually that's because they are lit to manage land. Many fires are lit to prevent destructive wildfires occurring later in the season (August to November). If you encounter a bushfire while driving and if there is a lot of smoke:

- Turn on your headlights
- Slow down and be aware that there could be people, vehicles, large trucks and livestock on the road
- Follow directions of police and fire fighters if present; and
- If you cannot see clearly, pull over to the side of the road, stop your vehicle, and wait until the smoke clears.

### FLOODS

For certain parts of the NT, flooding is a very real possibility, and if you live in one of those areas, you need to know how to be prepared and what to do in the event of flooding.

Katherine and Alice Springs are two of the largest populated areas that are often affected by floods, and then there are smaller, less populated surrounding and remote communities that are often cut off and/or suffer flooded conditions as well.

## To prepare for a flood you must:

- Know your local flood history and community plans.
- Prepare an Emergency Kit that can sustain your family for at least 72 hours.
- Decide where you will shelter.
- Make a Household Emergency Plan.
- Store important documents in a portable wallet and place in an accessible spot in your home.
- Always consider the potential for flooding when storing items around the house and identify high points for stacking and storing possessions and furniture.
- Find out how to make the home more flood resistant.
- Check insurance policy.
- Keep outside drains free of debris.

### HEATWAVES

Heatwaves are perhaps our most under-rated and least studied natural hazard.

During the 20th century, heatwaves have probably caused more deaths in Australia than any other natural hazard. A single heatwave in southern Australia once resulted in 437 deaths and seriously affected many thousands.

Every summer, people suffer from heat stress when the body absorbs more heat than it can dispel. Prompt action will avoid the serious and often fatal consequences of full developed heat stroke.

For more information on heatwaves visit: <http://www.pfes.nt.gov.au/Emergency-Service/Public-safety-advice/Heatwaves.aspx>

### MIDGES/SANDFLIES

Biting midges or culicoides are the tiny inconspicuous blood sucking flies often (incorrectly) called "sandflies", which plague visitors and newcomers to Darwin and many other coastal towns in northern Australia. Their bites often go unnoticed until hours or days later, when they may cause severe itching and inflammation which can lead to infected sores.

Reactions are caused by the allergens in the female midge saliva when she bites to get a blood meal for her eggs. It is a myth that midges wee on you! Rather the saliva is injected through the midge's proboscis to help increase the flow of blood.

There is just one species of midges in Darwin which bite humans. These live in mangrove and estuarine areas. They do not normally fly more than 2 km from their breeding sites.

Mostly they feed at dawn or dusk, but occasionally midges can bite all day in enclosed, shaded, still and humid conditions.

In Darwin, midge counts have shown that numbers are greatest in the late dry season, peaking at Spring tides in August and September.

Biting midges have their greatest impact on newcomers. We have seen many cases of severe distress, with skin covered in red sores. Most locals build up an immunity, so their only reaction may simply be an immediate small pink swelling, which may not even be noticed and which quickly disappears. However, this immunity may not extend to different midges living in other places.

Unlike mosquitoes, biting midges do not carry diseases between people.

### Useful Tips

Many pharmacists suggest a good build up of B1 will stop the attraction to you. We suggest taking Vitamin B1 (Thiamine) for 2 weeks prior to arriving in Darwin.

When going outside -

- Avoid outdoor activity near mangrove areas in early morning or late afternoon and evening when midge activity is greatest, particularly during the big spring tides which peak 2 days after the full and new moons.
- Wear loose clothing covering as much skin as possible and keep sleeves and collars buttoned and pants tucked in socks. Light

coloured clothing seems less attractive to midges than dark. Head nets and clothes treated with repellent or low toxicity surface sprays can be useful.

- Use personal insect repellents.
- Vitamin B1 (thiamine), when taken for several months, is said to reduce allergic reactions, allowing the body to develop its own immunity to midge bites (not scientifically proven).
- Avoid taking babies to midge infested areas. Use loose weave muslin wraps and in an emergency, try a thick layer of mineral oil (baby oil) with a drop of two of lavender (no more than .5%) on exposed skin - although not normally recommended, this oil sits on the skin and may prevent insects gaining purchase.
- If you're really desperate, shelter downwind near a smoky fire. Try burning dung or aromatic foliage from local plants such as Hyptis (horehound), Vitex (black plum), Calytrix (Turkey bush), Melaleuca species (paperbarks) and/or Eucalyptus species (gum trees). The small plant Pterocaulon serrulatum is burnt or the leaves rubbed on skin by Aborigines in the Katherine area to repel mosquitos. Cover the skin with mud or oil (the latter stops midges being able to land), bury yourself in sand, or just keep running!

Inside

- Use mozzie coils, citronella lamps, insect repelling candles and essential oils (eg. lemon scented eucalyptus, citronella and spike lavender).
- Use fans if available as midge activity is reduced by moderate breezes. Shut doors and windows on the still side of the building. Position tent openings toward the prevailing breezes.
- Use insect screens with small mesh size and treat them with low irritancy surface sprays. Most ordinary mozzie nets allow midges in.



## Getting Around

### PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Darwin is a relatively small city and therefore quite easy to traverse. Its bus service runs 7 days a week and routes include most shopping centres, schools and the hospital.

See the link below for more information.

[www.transport.nt.gov.au/public-transport/bus/darwin](http://www.transport.nt.gov.au/public-transport/bus/darwin)

### DRIVERS LICENCE

To be permitted to drive on Northern Territory (NT) roads with your drivers licence from your home country (and International Driving Permit if applicable), you must:

- Have a current licence that is not suspended or cancelled, or be disqualified from driving;
- Carry your licence (and International Driving Permit if applicable) with you at all

times while driving and show it to a police officer if asked to do so;

- Drive only those vehicles that you are authorised to drive;
- Comply with any other conditions of your licence.

When you take up permanent residence in NT you are no longer considered to be a visitor. You must apply for a NT driver's licence within three months of your arrival.

Countries exempt from knowledge and driving test include: Austria, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the USA.

You must also change over your vehicle registration within three (3) months of taking up permanent residence in the Northern Territory.

To transfer your interstate licence you will need to provide:

- completed form L1 - Application for a Northern Territory Driver/Rider Licence.
- Evidence of Identity and Residency.

## TRANSFER OVERSEAS LICENCE

You must change over your driver licence and vehicle registration within three (3) months of residing in the Northern Territory.

To transfer your overseas licence you will need to :

- provide a valid and current overseas driver licence;
- provide an international driving permit (issued in country of origin) or:
  - an official translation of the overseas licence into English by an Authorised Translator; or
  - an original letter from the licensing authority in the country of origin or the relevant consul or diplomatic corps confirming the licence details and status.
- pass an eyesight test;
- provide completed form L1- Application for a Northern Territory Driver/Rider Licence;
- provide Evidence of Identity and Residency.

If you are not from a recognised country you will also need to pass a theory and practical (driving test).

Other conditions may apply, for further information refer to Information Bulletins:

- G7 - Information for Interstate and Overseas Visitors to the Northern Territory.
- G6 - Information for New Residents to the Northern Territory.
- L15 - Transfer of Overseas Licences.
- G8 - Evidence of Identity and Evidence of Residency for Individuals.

## Car hire

Most of the main car hire companies are present in Darwin and have locations for pick up and drop off at both the airport and the city.

### Budget

[www.budget.com.au](http://www.budget.com.au)

### Avis

[www.avis.com.au](http://www.avis.com.au)

### Europcar

[www.europcar.com.au](http://www.europcar.com.au)

### Hertz

[www.hertz.com.au](http://www.hertz.com.au)

### Thrifty

[www.thrifty.com.au](http://www.thrifty.com.au)

## CAR SAFETY FOR CHILDREN

On 1 February 2013 new laws are to be introduced in the Northern Territory which will help protect children in the event of a crash. These laws will require drivers to ensure children under the age of seven years are safely and “appropriately” restrained. See below for a brief summary.

- Children up to 6 months must be in rear facing restraint.
- Children up to 4 years must be in a restraint with an inbuilt harness.
- Children aged 4 years to under 7 years must be in booster seat.
- Children under 4 are not permitted in the front seat unless all rear seats are occupied by other children under 7 years of age in a vehicle that has a back row or rows of seats.

There will be exemptions for children outside weight / size guidelines for existing restraints.

For further information visit [www.transport.nt.gov.au/safety/road-safety/for-parents/child-restraints](http://www.transport.nt.gov.au/safety/road-safety/for-parents/child-restraints)

## Staying in Contact

### Mobile Phones

Most mobile phone companies will not allow you to enter into a contract unless you are a permanent resident of Australia.

The following mobile companies offer pre-paid mobiles:

**Telstra**  
[www.telstra.com.au](http://www.telstra.com.au)

**Optus**  
[www.optus.com.au](http://www.optus.com.au)

**Vodafone**  
[www.vodafone.com.au](http://www.vodafone.com.au)

**Three**  
[www.three.com.au](http://www.three.com.au)

**Virgin**  
[www.virginmobile.com.au](http://www.virginmobile.com.au)

It is advisable to shop around before deciding on your mobile service provider as the costs vary between providers.

### Landline/Home Phones and Internet

Australia has 2 major telecommunications companies that provide landline/home telephone services. Both companies provide mobile and internet services, bundling your communications will give some discounts.

**Telstra**  
[www.telstra.com.au](http://www.telstra.com.au)

**Optus**  
[www.optus.com.au](http://www.optus.com.au)

There are many internet service providers and it is recommended to research for the best deal for your internet needs.

## Family and Education Childcare

There are many types of full and part-time childcare services available for children too young to attend school, and for outside school hours. They include: preschools and kindergartens which prepare children for school; child care and day care centres which look after younger children during the day and school age children before and after school; and family day care where children are looked after by another parent along with their own family. The National Childcare Accreditation

Council ([www.acecqa.gov.au](http://www.acecqa.gov.au)) can assist you with a search for suitable care.

The Australian Government has established the Child Care Access Hotline - a telephone service that provides you with information to help you choose a child care service that meets your needs.

When calling the Hotline on 1800 670 305, a professionally trained operator will provide you with information about child care services in your area including the following information:

- Types of child care available;
- Quality issues; and
- Government financial assistance with the cost of childcare.

Valid child care options such as long day care, family day care, in-home care, outside school hours care and occasional care will be explained so that you can make an informed choice.

Your local council will also provide you with information on centres close to your home.

## Schools

For a listing of all primary and secondary schools and colleges please go to [www.det.nt.gov.au](http://www.det.nt.gov.au) and click on the list schools icon.

There are many “independent” or private schools available within Darwin. For a comprehensive list of schools available and their associated links for specific information, visit the Association of Independent Schools web page and follow the links at [www.aisnet.asn.au](http://www.aisnet.asn.au).

The link below is also useful for employees coming from overseas as it outlines the Northern Territory Education Requirements and also gives information on the Universities that are available in NT.

[www.gooduniguide.com.au/](http://www.gooduniguide.com.au/)  
[www.myschool.edu.au/](http://www.myschool.edu.au/)  
[www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au/](http://www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au/)



There are roughly equal numbers of state and private (independent) schools in Darwin. The majority of the private schools are affiliated to churches, mainly Catholic, Anglican, Baptist or Uniting Church. There are also a number of Montessori and Steiner schools.

In government-run schools, there are no fees, although you may be asked to make a voluntary annual contribution of around \$60 per child. At the senior level, you also have to pay fees for book hire.

Fees for private schools vary from around \$1,000 per year to more than \$6,000 per year for the more exclusive private schools.

Each year the NT Curriculum Council publishes an information package representing a summary of Year 12 student achievement data for schools with year 12 students in any given year.

## Enrolment

To enrol your child in a school contact the school by telephone or in person. If you are from overseas you will need to take your visa and entry to Australia documents. Everyone must also provide proof of their date of birth (birth certificate) and any papers relating to their previous education, immunisation record and proof of address.

### School Term Dates

2012	
<b>Semester One</b>	
<b>Term 1</b>	Monday 30 January - Thursday 5 April (Students resume Tuesday 31 January)
<b>Easter Break</b>	Friday 6 April - Monday 9 April
<b>Term break</b>	Monday 9 April - Friday 13 April
<b>Term 2</b>	Monday 16 April - Friday 22 June
<b>Semester break</b>	Monday 25 June - Friday 20 July
<b>Semester Two</b>	
<b>Term 3</b>	Monday 23 July - Friday 28 September (Students resume Tuesday 24 July)
<b>Term break</b>	Monday 1 October - Friday 5 October
<b>Term 4</b>	Monday 8 October - Thursday 13 December

2013	
<b>Semester One</b>	
<b>Term 1</b>	Friday 25 January - Friday 5 April (Students resume Tuesday 29 January)
<b>Term break</b>	Monday 8 April - Friday 12 April
<b>Term 2</b>	Monday 15 April - Friday 21 June
<b>Semester break</b>	Monday 24 June - Friday 19 July Semester Two
<b>Semester Two</b>	
<b>Term 3</b>	Monday 22 July - Friday 27 September
<b>Term break</b>	Monday 30 September - Friday 4 October
<b>Term 4</b>	Monday 7 October - Thursday 12 December

Students in the NT have 2 small breaks and 2 large breaks, allowing families to get away in the wet season and enjoy the dry season for camping.

For updated dates please visit:

[www.det.nt.gov.au/students/at-school/term-dates](http://www.det.nt.gov.au/students/at-school/term-dates)

## Tertiary Education

The provider of university education and TAFE training in Darwin is Charles Darwin University. Earlier in the decade Charles Darwin University came into existence by the merger of Northern Territory University and the Northern Territory TAFE.

University and TAFE students in Darwin have the choice of studying a range of accredited courses. The courses range from TAFE certificates to diplomas to university degrees at the bachelor, master and doctoral level.

## Community Groups

### FIFO FAMILIES

If you have a partner that works on a fly in fly out basis (FIFO) or drive in drive out (DIDO), FIFO Families provides the opportunity to connect and make friends with other families. FIFO Families provide community events and support.

[www.fifofamilies.com.au](http://www.fifofamilies.com.au)  
[www.fifocounselling.com.au](http://www.fifocounselling.com.au)



## BABYSITTING SERVICES

There are 2 main babysitting services in Darwin. Both we have found to be very reliable. You need to book online, pay a booking fee and then you pay the babysitter direct on the night. Go to:

[www.alltakenareof.com.au](http://www.alltakenareof.com.au)

[www.ntbabysitting.com.au](http://www.ntbabysitting.com.au)

## Banking, Tax & Superannuation

### Setting up a Bank Account

Opening a bank account in Australia is quite straightforward. With just your passport and one other form of ID (credit/bank card, photo driver's license or student card) it is simple and easy to set up a bank account. If you wish to open a joint bank account both parties need to be in Darwin to activate it.

Australia has a number of banks that can be used to open a variety of accounts. It is advisable to shop around before opening your account. Bank charges are applicable to all accounts and you should compare all banking fees and interest rates before deciding on a banking institution.

Most banks and ATMs (Automatic Teller Machines) will allow you to withdraw from international bank accounts, provided your bankcard has an international symbol such as Cirrus or Maestro.

Some commonly used banks are:

#### **Commonwealth Bank**

[www.commbank.com.au](http://www.commbank.com.au)

#### **National Australia Bank**

[www.nab.com.au](http://www.nab.com.au)

#### **Westpac**

[www.westpac.com.au](http://www.westpac.com.au)

#### **ANZ**

[www.anz.com.au](http://www.anz.com.au)

#### **St George**

[www.stgeorge.com.au](http://www.stgeorge.com.au)

#### **Tio**

[www.Tiofi.com.au](http://www.Tiofi.com.au)

## Tax in Australia

We strongly advise you to obtain a tax file number (TFN) if you are planning to work in Australia.

Although it is not compulsory it is to your advantage to avoid paying more tax than necessary. You should supply your tax file number to your bank so that any interest paid to you is not taxed before you receive it.

You can apply for your TFN at any main taxation office. This will take approximately four weeks to process and you will be issued with a registration notice in the meantime that allows you to work.

You can apply for a TFN online if you are currently in Australia and you have:

- a valid permanent migrant visa; or
- a valid visa with work rights; or
- a valid overseas student visa; or
- a valid visa allowing you to stay in Australia indefinitely.

Only one TFN will ever be issued to you. Once you have a TFN you don't need to reapply for one if your circumstances change, for example if you change your name, have investments, or claim government benefits.

If you already have a TFN but do not know what it is, go through this application process and indicate that you already have a TFN. A notice with your TFN will be forwarded to you.

If you know your TFN but wish to advise the Tax Office of changes to your details, go through this application process and enter your updated details.

To find out more about the Australian taxation system phone 13 28 61 or visit their website at [www.ato.gov.au](http://www.ato.gov.au). Tax in Australia is paid on a sliding scale and the ATO website has current income tax bracket information as well as a handy tax calculator.

It is important to determine if you are a resident or non-resident for taxation purposes.

Non-residents pay tax differently from residents. Fact sheets which outline how to determine if you are a resident for tax purposes are available at the ATO website.

## Superannuation

Superannuation is best explained as a compulsory pension contribution. Superannuation contributions are compulsory, even for temporary residents. The current contribution is 9% of salary and your employer will automatically pay this on your behalf to a Superannuation Fund.

Generally, employee superannuation must be held in a complying superannuation fund or RSA until retirement age, currently 65 for men and between 60 and 65 for women. Eligible temporary residents can access their superannuation upon permanent departure from Australia, subject to a withholding tax.

While employed in Australia it is important that temporary residents;

- Are aware of the superannuation fund that their employer is contributing to on their behalf;
- Keep a record of the amount of superannuation that they have; and
- Contact their superannuation fund before leaving Australia to find out if they are eligible to access their superannuation contributions.

For more information on superannuation and accessing superannuation when departing Australia call the Tax Office Superannuation information line on 13 10 20 (This number is only available in Australia) or visit the Tax Office website [www.ato.gov.au/super](http://www.ato.gov.au/super)

## Health and Medical

### Medicare

The Australian Government has signed Reciprocal Health Care Agreements (RHCA) with the governments of the United Kingdom, Sweden, the Netherlands, Finland, Norway, Malta and Italy which entitles you to limited subsidised health services for immediately necessary treatment while visiting Australia.

If you are a resident of the United Kingdom, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Netherlands, Republic of Ireland or New Zealand you are covered for the duration of your approved visit to Australia.

As a resident of Malta or Italy you are covered for a period of six months from the date you arrive in Australia.

As a resident of one of these countries you are entitled to the following for any ill-health or injury requiring immediate treatment while in Australia:

- Free treatment as a public in-patient or out-patient in a public hospital;
- Subsidised medicines under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme;
- Medicare benefits for out-of-hospital medical treatment provided by doctors through private surgeries and community health centres.

If you will be receiving treatment you can enrol at Medicare offices throughout Australia. If you receive treatment before you enrol, Medicare benefits will be back-paid for eligible visitors.

To enrol in Medicare you will need:

- Your passport with a valid visa;
- To provide, in some cases, identification showing you are enrolled in your country's national health scheme (for example, a National Health Service card or similar certificate);
- If your application to enrol in Medicare is approved, you will receive an Australian reciprocal health care card in the mail.



## **BUPA**

[www.bupa.com.au](http://www.bupa.com.au)

## **Medibank Private**

[www.medibank.com.au](http://www.medibank.com.au)

Medicare will not cover:

- Medical or hospital treatment that is not immediately necessary;
- Medicines not subsidised under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme;
- Dental work and chiropractic services.
- Treatment arranged before your visit to Australia;
- Accommodation and medical treatment in a private hospital;
- Accommodation and medical treatment as a private patient in a public hospital.

For further information see  
[www.medicare.gov.au](http://www.medicare.gov.au)

## Private Health Insurance

A number of private health funds provide health cover for overseas visitors. Benefits available, membership costs and eligibility can vary between funds. Private health funds cover you for treatment in private or public hospitals and include some services Medicare does not cover, such as dental, optical, chiropractic services. Please note, there is a waiting period with some health funds and you are unable to claim for some services during this time.

It is advisable to shop around before deciding on your health cover provider as the costs and benefits vary between providers.

Some commonly used Private Health Insurers offering overseas visitors health cover are:

### **HBF**

[www.hbf.com.au](http://www.hbf.com.au)

### **AHM**

[www.ahm.com.au](http://www.ahm.com.au)

### **HCF**

[www.hcf.com.au](http://www.hcf.com.au)

## Emergencies

In an Emergency dial **000** for Police, Ambulance or Fire Brigade.

Dial 112 from your mobile phone in an emergency.

### **Police**

For non-urgent matters call 131 444.

### **Ambulance**

If you need an ambulance, call 000. The use of ambulances will incur a charge. This charge can be claimed back if you are part of a Private Health Fund, but you will need to check your individual policy.

## Medical Assistance

The Royal Darwin Hospital

Rocklands Drive, Tiwi

ph: (08) 8922 8888

fax: (08) 8922 8286

The **Royal Darwin Hospital** underwent a \$43 million redevelopment in 2003 which included a new Emergency Department, new and expanded Intensive Care, Coronary Care and High Dependency Units, Operating Theatre suite, Same Day Procedure Unit, Central Sterilising Department and a new Imaging Department.

### **After-hours medical care in Darwin and Palmerston**

Stuart Park Surgery &

Darwin Afterhours Medical Service

8981 2907 or 8981 7197

1/5 Westralia Street, Stuart Park

Northlakes Medical Centre

8927 9911

Shop 1/1 Links Road, Mararra

Nakara Medical Centre  
8927 1873  
35 Macredie Street, Nakara

Arafura Medical Clinics -  
8945 6911  
Casuarina Shopping Village

Casuarina Night & Day Medical  
& Dental Surgery  
8927 1899  
Casuarina Shopping Square

Nightcliff Medical Centre  
8948 4333  
Nightcliff Shopping Centre

Dr Ramdoss Surgery  
8985 3377 or 8985 3754  
Aralia Street, Nightcliff

Arafura Medical Clinics - Freds Pass  
8988 4888  
Humpty Doo Shopping Village  
Arafura Medical Clinics -

Oasis Medical Centre  
8932 4333  
Palm City Oasis Shopping Village

Palmerston Medical Clinic  
8932 5100  
3/6 Maluka Street, Palmerston

NT general practice details are available on the General Practice Network NT (GPNNT) website at [www.gpnnt.org.au](http://www.gpnnt.org.au).

For non-emergency treatment, you should first go to a GP or a medical centre. It is recommended to call first, as some GPs and medical centres require you to make an appointment. GP's and medical centres can be found in the Yellow Pages Directory ([www.yellowpages.com.au](http://www.yellowpages.com.au)) under 'Medical Practitioners'.

Some GPs and medical centres bulk bill with Medicare and do not require you to make a payment up front. If your doctor does not bulk bill you will be required to pay up front and can then claim the cost back from Medicare (if eligible).

If you are unsure whether your complaint is an emergency and are uncertain how to proceed, Healthdirect Australia 1800 022 222 is a toll free 24 hour, seven day a week health advice line to all people calling from within Australia. Healthdirect's experienced nurses provide immediate professional advice on how urgent a health concern is and what to do about it. Healthdirect will be able to locate a locum doctor to come around late at night.

## Dental Services

Should you require a dentist you will need to pay for treatment. Private Health Funds will help to cover the cost of your treatment. Please note, there is a waiting period with some health funds and you are unable to claim for some services during this time. The Dental Association can provide you with a list of dentists in your area at [www.dentist.com.au](http://www.dentist.com.au), however we suggest the best way to find a dentist is to ask for a recommendation.

## Useful Links

### AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT SITES

#### Taxation

[www.ato.gov.au](http://www.ato.gov.au)

#### Immigration and Customs

[www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au)

#### Medical and Health

[www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au)

#### Childcare

[www.echildcare.com.au/](http://www.echildcare.com.au/)

#### Schools

[www.myschool.edu.au/](http://www.myschool.edu.au/)

[www.det.nt.gov.au](http://www.det.nt.gov.au)

#### Apprenticeships

[www.chambernt.com.au](http://www.chambernt.com.au)

#### Universities

[www.cdu.edu.au](http://www.cdu.edu.au)

#### CCI Migration Services

[www.migration.nt.gov.au](http://www.migration.nt.gov.au)

#### Public Transport

[www.transport.nt.gov.au](http://www.transport.nt.gov.au)

#### Business Directories

[www.whitepages.com.au](http://www.whitepages.com.au)

[www.yellowpages.com.au](http://www.yellowpages.com.au)

## Maps

[www.whereis.com](http://www.whereis.com)

## News

[www.ntnews.com.au](http://www.ntnews.com.au)

[www.abc.net.au/darwin/news](http://www.abc.net.au/darwin/news)

## Jobs

[www.jobseeker.com.au](http://www.jobseeker.com.au)

[www.seek.com.au](http://www.seek.com.au)

## Real estate

[www.realestate.com.au](http://www.realestate.com.au)

[www.domain.com.au](http://www.domain.com.au)

## TRAVEL/SIGHT SEEING/THINGS TO DO

### Accommodation

[www.mantra.com.au](http://www.mantra.com.au)

[www.ichotelsgroup.com/crowneplaza](http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/crowneplaza)

[www.holidayinn.com](http://www.holidayinn.com)

### Holidays

[www.travelnt.com](http://www.travelnt.com)

[www.tourismtopend.com.au](http://www.tourismtopend.com.au)

[www.darwineguide.com](http://www.darwineguide.com)

## DINING

[www.agfg.com.au/guide/nt](http://www.agfg.com.au/guide/nt)

[www.bestrestaurants.com.au/location/darwin](http://www.bestrestaurants.com.au/location/darwin)

## ENTERTAINMENT

[www.darwinentertainment.com.au/boxoffice](http://www.darwinentertainment.com.au/boxoffice)

[www.ticketmaster.com.au](http://www.ticketmaster.com.au)

## Outdoor Cinemas

[www.deckchaircinema.com.au](http://www.deckchaircinema.com.au)

## Cinemas

[www.eventcinemas.com.au/Cinema/Darwin](http://www.eventcinemas.com.au/Cinema/Darwin)

## Kids Activities

[www.australiafamilystyle.com](http://www.australiafamilystyle.com)

[www.arounddarwin.com.au/darwin\\_](http://www.arounddarwin.com.au/darwin_)

[childrens\\_fun.html](http://www.bubhub.com.au/kids-activities-things-to-do-darwin-nt.php)

[www.bubhub.com.au/kids-activities-things-](http://www.bubhub.com.au/kids-activities-things-to-do-darwin-nt.php)

[to-do-darwin-nt.php](http://www.kidspot.com.au)

[www.kidspot.com.au](http://www.kidspot.com.au)

## NETWORKING

### Parent Social Groups

[www.playgroupaustralia.com.au](http://www.playgroupaustralia.com.au)

### Singles/Couples Social Groups

[www.meetup.com](http://www.meetup.com)

### Professional Networks

[www.linkedin.com.au](http://www.linkedin.com.au)

## SHOPPING

### Casuarina Square

247 Trower Rd, Casuarina

89202345

[www.casuarinasquare.com.au](http://www.casuarinasquare.com.au)

## UTILITIES

### Telephone

[www.telstra.com.au](http://www.telstra.com.au)

### Internet / Telephone

[www.iinet.net.au](http://www.iinet.net.au)

### Electricity and water

[www.powerwater.com.au](http://www.powerwater.com.au)

## BANKS/FINANCE

### Commonwealth Bank

[www.commbank.com.au](http://www.commbank.com.au)

### National Australia Bank

[www.nab.com.au](http://www.nab.com.au)

### Westpac

[www.westpac.com.au](http://www.westpac.com.au)

### ANZ

[www.anz.com.au](http://www.anz.com.au)

### St George

[www.stgeorge.com.au](http://www.stgeorge.com.au)

### Tio

[www.Tiofi.com.au](http://www.Tiofi.com.au)

## HEALTH

### Medicare

[www.medicare.gov.au](http://www.medicare.gov.au)

### Medibank Private

[www.medibank.com.au](http://www.medibank.com.au)

### HBF

[www.hbf.com.au](http://www.hbf.com.au)

### BUPA

[www.bupa.com.au](http://www.bupa.com.au)

### Employment and Travel Medicals

[www.capstonehealth.com.au](http://www.capstonehealth.com.au)

## HIRE CARS

### Budget

[www.budget.com.au](http://www.budget.com.au)

### Avis

[www.avis.com.au](http://www.avis.com.au)

### Europcar

[www.europcar.com.au](http://www.europcar.com.au)

### Hertz

[www.hertz.com.au](http://www.hertz.com.au)

### Thrifty

[www.thrifty.com.au](http://www.thrifty.com.au)

# List of schools

This is a list of schools in the Northern Territory, Australia. The Northern Territory education system traditionally consists of primary schools, which accommodate students from kindergarten to Year 6 (ages 5-11), and high schools, which accommodate students from Years 7 to 12 (ages 12-17).

## STATE PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Name	Suburb/Town
Alawa Primary School	Alawa
Alyangula Area School	Alyangula
Anula Primary School	Anula
Bakewell Primary School	Bakewell
Batchelor Area School	Batchelor
Bees Creek Primary School	Freds Pass
Berry Springs Primary School	Berry Springs
Bradshaw Primary School	Gillen
Braitling Primary School	Braitling
Casuarina Street Primary School	Katherine East
Clyde Fenton Primary School	Katherine
Driver Primary School	Driver
Durack Primary School	Durack
Gillen Primary School	Gillen
Girraween Primary School	Girraween
Gray Primary School	Gray
Howard Springs Primary School	Howard Springs
Humpty Doo Primary School	Humpty Doo
Jabiru Area School	Jabiru
Jingili Primary School	Jingili
Karama Primary School	Karama
Katherine South Primary School	Katherine

Name	Suburb/Town
Larapinta Primary School	Larapinta
Larrakeyah Primary School	Larrakeyah
Leanyer Primary School	Leanyer
Ludmilla Primary School	Ludmilla
MacFarlane Primary School	Katherine
Malak Primary School	Malak
Manunda Terrace Primary School	Karama
Millner Primary School	Millner
Moil Primary School	Moil
Moulden Park Primary School	Moulden
Nakara Primary School	Nakara
Nhulunbuy Primary School	Nhulunbuy
Nightcliff Primary School	Nightcliff
Parap Primary School	Parap
Ross Park Primary School	East Side
Sadadeen Primary School	Sadadeen
Stuart Park Primary School	Stuart Park
Wagaman Primary School	Wagaman
Wanguri Primary School	Wanguri
Woodroffe Primary School	Woodroffe
Wulagi Primary School	Wulagi

## STATE HIGH SCHOOLS

Name	Suburb
Barkly College	Tennant Creek
Casuarina Senior College	Moil
Centralian Middle School	Gillen
Centralian Senior College	Sadadeen
Darwin High School	The Gardens
Darwin Middle School	The Gardens
Dripstone Middle School	Tiwi
Katherine High School	Katherine
Nightcliff Middle School	Rapid Creek
Nhulunbuy High School	Nhulunbuy
Palmerston Senior College	Driver
Sanderson Middle School	Wulagi
Taminmin College	Humpty Doo

## Private schools

### CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Name	Suburb
Holy Family Primary School	Karama
Holy Spirit Primary School	Wanguri
Ltyentye Apurte CEC	Ltyentye Apurte
MacKillop Catholic College	Farrar
Murrupurtiyanuwu Catholic School	Nguiu
O'Loughlin Catholic College	Karama
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College	Alice Springs
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart	
Thamarrurr Catholic School	Wadeye
Pungajurruwu School	Wurankuwu
Sacred Heart Primary School	Woodroffe
St Francis of Assisi School	Humpty Doo
Saint Francis Xavier School	Naiyu Nambiyu

Name	Suburb
St John's College	The Gardens
St Mary's Primary School	Darwin City
Saint Michael's School	Wudikapildiyerr
St Joseph's College	Katherine
St Paul's Primary School	Nightcliff
Xavier CEC	Nguiu

### INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Name	Suburb
Alice Springs Steiner School	Ross
Araluen Christian School	Araluen
Darwin Adventist School	Malak
Gāwa Christian School	Elcho Island
Good Shepherd Lutheran College (Primary)	Palmerston City
Good Shepherd Lutheran College (Secondary)	Howard Springs
Kormilda College	Berrimah
Living Waters Lutheran School	Larapinta
Māpuru Christian School	Mapuru
Marrara Christian College	Karama
Milkwood Steiner School	Berrimah
Nhulunbuy Christian School	Nhulunbuy
Nyangatjatjara College	Yulara
Palmerston Christian School	Marlow Lagoon
St Andrew Lutheran School	Leanyer
St Philip's College	Alice Springs
Sattler Christian College	Humpty Doo
The Essington School Darwin	Nightcliff
Tiwi College	Melville Island
Woolaning Homeland Christian College	Woolaning
Yipirinya School	Ciccone
Yirara College	Yirara

