



Worker Information

Portable Long Service Leave Benefits for the Construction Industry

The *Construction Industry Long Service Leave and Benefits Act* (the Act) commenced on 1 July 2005, enabling building and construction workers in the Northern Territory to benefit from a portable long service leave scheme known as NT Build.

A Government appointed Board of Territory based members, including an independent Chairperson and worker and industry representatives is responsible for administering the Scheme.

What is portable long service leave?

The Scheme enables workers to qualify for long service leave based on their service with the construction industry rather than service with the one employer. The portability extends across state borders under the National Reciprocal Agreement.

What are the benefits?

A registered worker can be credited with a maximum of 220 days of qualifying service each financial year. A total of 6.5 days long service leave credit is accrued for each 220 days of qualifying service.

Once a worker has accrued 65 days' long service leave credit (ie: 10 years' service), they can apply for 13 weeks' (ie: 65 days) long service leave, or with the agreement of their employer, take leave in separate periods of not less than 5 days.

Workers need to accrue a further 32.5 days' long service leave credit before they can apply for further leave.

The Act contains special provisions for workers who die, retire or cease to perform construction work.

Long service leave accrued under the Scheme is funded through a levy imposed on eligible Northern Territory construction projects and is paid directly by NT Build to workers.

Employment Interstate

Every state and territory in Australia has a construction industry portable long service leave scheme.

Under the National Reciprocal Agreement, registered Northern Territory workers are able to have service accrued in any state or territory combined towards a long service leave entitlement.

Eligibility

To be eligible for registration under the Scheme a worker must:

- Be employed to carry out construction work in the Northern Territory;
- Work on a construction site for greater than 50% of their time;
- Work in the private sector (ie: not for the government); and
- Not be working in an administrative, clerical, managerial or professional capacity.

Workers employed full-time, part-time, as a casual, or as a labour only contractor are eligible to register.

Construction work

For the purposes of the Scheme, construction work includes commercial, domestic, industrial and civil construction, and covers (among other things) reclamation, earthmoving, landscaping, repair, maintenance, extension and demolition work.

For more information on the definition of construction work, please visit the NT Build website – ntbuild.com.au or call NT Build on 1300 795 855.

Registration

Workers can join the Scheme by completing the Worker Registration Application Form and delivering it to the NT Build office or emailing it to info@ntbuild.com.au.

Registered workers need to advise their employer that they are a member of NT Build, so the employer is aware of the requirement to report the worker's qualifying service to NT Build.

The employer is required to lodge an Employer Return with NT Build every 6 months. Employment data on this form will be used to update the worker's work history, with qualifying service days credited to the worker's long service leave credit.

Workers can access details of their accrued qualifying service days credited by logging into their NT Build member account, accessed via the NT Build website - ntbuild.com.au.