



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Mr Johnathan Davis MLA (Chair), Mr James Milligan MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

### Inquiry into ACT Budget 2021–22 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

QoN No. 17

MARK PARTON MLA: To ask the Minister for Homelessness and Housing Services

Ref: Housing ACT, Budget Paper G, page 46, Strategic Indicator 1 regarding proportion of housing allocated to those in greatest need. This indicator states that 99% of those in greatest need were allocated a house within 90 days.

1. In relation to Strategic Indicator 1 performance, for the years 2019-20 and 2020-21:
  - a. How many people in total applied for, or sought, or were referred for accommodation assistance;
  - b. From the total of a. above, how many were defined or categorised as being in greatest need;
  - c. What were the numbers categorised as in greatest need that were provided with an accommodation solution;
  - d. How many were unable to be placed within the 90 day period and remained on the greatest needs waiting list at the end of each financial year; and
  - e. How many in greatest need were placed in;
    - (i) Public housing;
    - (ii) Social housing managed by community housing providers;
    - (iii) Other forms of accommodation including emergency accommodation?
2. In relation to Strategic Indicator 1 performance, what are the estimates in terms of Question 1 above for:
  - a. The 2021-22 budget; and
  - b. Each of the Forward Estimate's years?

REBECCA VASSAROTTI MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

#### Question 1

For clarity, Housing ACT Strategic Indicator 1 is described in the Community Services Directorate Budget Statement as "of all new households allocated within three months, the proportion that were in the greatest need."

Strategic Indicator 1 aligns with the ROGS indicator in Table 18A.15 "Greatest need allocations as a proportion of all new allocations - public housing" which shows this proportion for allocations made within 3 months (same as Housing ACT Strategic Indicator 1) and for all allocations (same as HACT Accountability Indicator a).

Given the clarification of the data being reported in Strategic Indicator 1, it is important to recognise that while there is an overlap of people who submit applications in any given year is different from those who are allocated housing in the same year and who may therefore fall within the scope of Strategic Indicator 1. As such, information provided below do not align with the headline figure provided in the indicator results because they are responding to a different datapoint.

The responses to the questions are as follows:

- a. During 2019-20 Housing ACT received 1291 applications for public housing assistance. During 2020-21 Housing ACT received 1159 applications for public housing assistance and three additional applications for community housing assistance.
- b. Of these applications received during each financial year, 583 were also assessed as being in greatest need categories on the public housing waiting list during 2019-20 and 477 were assessed as being in greatest need categories on the public housing waiting list during 2020-21. Two on the community housing register during 2020-21.
- c. Of all applications in greatest need categories on the Housing ACT housing waiting lists, 506 were allocated public housing and one allocated to community housing during 2019-20; 227 were allocated public housing and one allocated to community housing during 2020-21.
- d. Of the 583 applications for housing assistance that were received and assessed as being in greatest need during 2019-20, 409 had by the end of the financial year been waiting for more than 90 days and remained on the housing waiting list. For 2020-21 the equivalent number was 367 of the 477 applications received and assessed as being in greatest need.
- e. During 2019-20, 506 public housing allocations and one community housing allocation were made to applicants in greatest need on the Housing ACT social housing waiting lists. During 2020-21, 227 public housing allocations and one community housing allocation were made to applicants in greatest need on the Housing ACT social housing waiting lists. The Housing ACT social housing waiting lists are not intended to provide emergency accommodation assistance for applicants.

#### Question 2

Housing ACT is unable to predict what number of applications can be expected or what proportion would be in greatest need and allocated housing, however based on the current situation within the community, Housing ACT would expect similar numbers over the next several years.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

Signature: 

Date: 5/11/2021

By the Minister for Homelessness and Housing Services, Rebecca Vassarotti MLA