



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
Mr Jeremy Hanson MLA (Chair), Mr Michael Pettersson MLA, Ms Suzanne
Orr MLA (Deputy Chair)

Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into Building Quality in the ACT

Submission Number: 46

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Dear Committee Secretary,

We write as the owners of [REDACTED] in Narrabundah [REDACTED] and in support of the group submission made by the Executive Committee of the Crestwood Complex. We support all the points raised in our joint submission but wish to add weight to this by sharing our personal story of how the negligence of [REDACTED], the ACT Government and ACTPLA has impacted our life.

The aforementioned property was purchased from the plan. After a lengthy build process, it was evident early on that the build quality was littered with issues, particularly in regard to finishing practices. Initially we had hoped that the problems were only superficial. With time and further exploration, the seriousness of the building defects became more apparent and they were noticeable throughout the complex and not just individual dwellings.

We purchased this property with due care and trust in the process, as an investment for the future of our very young family. It was a decision we made, not without stress. We have made enduring sacrifices, such as returning to work after maternity leave quickly and not going on family holidays in order to be able to finance our investment. The financial commitment on this poor investment has been an ongoing burden.

When we consider that the property market has shown positive trajectory since our purchase, it is disheartening that this unit has actually lost approximately \$70,000 in value. This is solely attributable to the fact that the builder was negligent in his duty.

Over the years, we have discovered a litany of problems and lack of workmanship and skill, which we have rectified at our own expense. This combined with the increase in fees for remediation works and legal costs has placed significant financial impact towards the quality of life provided to our children and our ability to continue planning for their future. The fact that we are in this position, with countless others, is absolutely unacceptable. Those responsible must be held accountable.

Currently, we find ourselves bogged down with a severe financial liability. We don't have the luxury of waiting years for claims to be processed and we certainly are not in a position to find an extra \$85,000 if the MBFF claim is not successful. We implore the Committee to act justly and swiftly.

Yours faithfully,

Scott and Elizabeth Sherwin

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]