



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2022-2023

Mr James Milligan MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair),
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

**ANSWER TO
QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Mark Parton MLA to ask the Minister for Homelessness and Housing Services

Ref: Budget Statement G – Housing Services – Housing applications and placements

Date (Question Lodged by Member): 07/09/2022

Date (Question Sent to DLO): 08/09/2022

In relation to Housing applications, transfer applicants and the placement of these applicants:

- 1. How does ACT Housing allocate properties to different applicants when there is such a variation in quality between different properties and applicant needs?**
- 2. Does ACT Housing have a system where they grade the quality of different public housing properties??**
- 3. When refuges or community advocates assist in applying for public housing on behalf of constituents do, they recommend what quality and requirements of public housing the constituent should receive?**

MARK PARTON
Shadow Minister for Transport

Minister Vassarotti: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

1. Prior to any allocation, all vacant properties being retained go through a thorough vacant process to ensure they are scoped, repaired, upgraded, and inspected to ensure Housing ACT property standards are met prior to allocation. Housing ACT assess the suitability of each property against applicant needs, entitlement and area preferences.
2. Property Condition Assessments are routinely performed, as part of a rolling program, within a four-year period, under the Total Facilities Management contract. These assessments are the foundation for the Planned Maintenance Program and identify the remaining useful life of all property elements to

enable major upgrades to be prioritised appropriately. Priorities are adjusted to accommodate unpredictable upgrades arising from responsive maintenance or damage.

3. Housing ACT is mindful of the needs and vulnerabilities of applicants when assessing their housing requirements. The information provided by support agencies is particularly valuable, as is service engagement when an applicant considers their housing options. Housing requirements include physical need, such as disability accessibility, as well as psychological and safety needs: services are often able to provide information about trauma, vulnerability, or risk of harm that assists Housing ACT to make appropriate housing offers. Services can also assist to manage applicant expectations as housing stock is scarce and demand is high, so it is often in an applicant's interest when a service is able to provide pragmatic advice about the housing options available in the Canberra community.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023

Signature: 

Date: 13/9/2022

By Minister Rebecca Vassarotti, Minister for Homelessness and Housing Services

INSTRUCTIONS FOR LODGING QUESTIONS ON NOTICES (QON):

1. Each QON should be emailed to the Committee Support office in **Word format** and **signed PDF (scanned)** to LACommitteeEstimates@parliament.act.gov.au
2. This should occur within **5 working days of the hearing**. Day 1 of the 5 working days is the next working day after the hearing day. **Example:** *If a hearing was held on Monday, the QON should be submitted by close of business on the following Monday.*
3. * Number assigned by Committee Support office