



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
**FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

QToN No. 02

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMY AND GENDER AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY  
Ms Leanne Castley MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Johnathan Davis  
MLA

**Inquiry into Housing and Rental Affordability**

**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**16 September 2022**

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Asked by Mr Johnathan Davis MLA on 16 September 2022: Dr Emma Campbell took on notice the following questions:

[Ref: UPT 16 September 2022, pp 30-31]

In relation to: Increasing land tax liability on unoccupied property.

**MR DAVIS:** *Do you think that it would send an important message to real estate investors, landlords, secondary property owners, to increase the rate of land tax on an inexplicably unoccupied property for an extended period of time?*

*So a vacancy tax using the mechanisms with which we already collect tax on additional properties.*

**Dr Emma Campbell:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Please refer to ACTCOSS's original submission to the inquiry regarding our position on the impact of property vacancies on housing availability.

It is unclear what level of increase would be required to achieve the result of placing empty properties on the rental or sale market.

Any review of land tax including an increase for empty properties should be considered as part of efforts to make taxes more progressive and to deliver sufficient revenue to cover the delivery of public services and other supports targeting those in the ACT on the lowest incomes and who face disadvantage. This might include additional investment to deliver more social and affordable housing.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality

Signature: 

Date: 29/09/22

By the Chief Executive Officer, ACT Council of Social Service

