



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2023-2024

Mr Mark Parton MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS

Asked by Mr CAIN on 17 July 2023: Dr Bowles of ACTCOSS took on notice the following question(s):

Ref: Uncorrected Proof Hansard Transcript 17/7/23 PAGE 11

In relation to: Govt housing policy - How do you picture the government's current approach to release of land directly to community housing providers, and how do you think that could be enhanced to provide more affordable housing in the ACT?

MR CAIN: Thank you for your submission on behalf of ACTCOSS. One of your high priority recommendations under housing is to enable and empower community housing providers through access to and release of affordable land, rezoning and rates exemptions, including a few other things. How do you picture the government's current approach to release of land directly to community housing providers, and how do you think that could be enhanced to provide more affordable housing in the ACT?

Ms Robertson: I again am not an expert on that policy area personally, however I do believe that there were some issues around the types of zoning. I think in a broader sense that it is just a matter of bureaucracy and a matter of enablement; that the government could be doing more to enable the relationship between land release, housing construction and housing provision through community housing providers.

Dr Bowles: We will look at the details on that and take that question on notice.

Dr Devin Bowles: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

We have heard from member organisations and through media reports that community housing providers are sometimes challenged by the approvals process for new community housing developments due to third party appeals. ACTCOSS understands the need for the community to have a say in planning decisions, however we would support a review of third party planning appeals to ensure that third party appeals are not frivolous or invalid in substance. In acknowledgement of the current shortfall in the supply of affordable housing in the ACT, we would also be supportive of a proposal to investigate the effectiveness of the current approach to the provision of land to community housing providers, and whether there are areas of reform that could enhance these measures and create more efficient pathways to the construction of affordable community housing.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2023-2024

Signature: 

Date: 31/7/23

By the ACTCOSS CEO, Dr Devin Bowles