



Inquiry into Specialist Disability Accommodation service delivery through Housing ACT

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Fiona Carrick MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs

Reference: HCSD

Hearing: 11 May 2026

In relation to: SDA funding - governance

Question received: 16 May 2026

Answer Due: 25 May 2026

Minister, these questions are about the governance of the SDA funding.

1. Who was responsible for SDA implementation between 2017 and 2023, given registration occurred without Ministerial approval?
2. What governance mechanisms were in place to monitor SDA performance, including tracking implementation, performance reporting, funding uptake and risks?
3. Can you provide the implementation plan and the risk register?
4. When was it first identified that SDA was not being operationalised, why was this not escalated to the Minister until 2023?
5. Why wouldn't Housing ACT pass the audit, why was the decision made to deregister, and why wasn't it made until October 2025?
6. What regular reporting or advice did you receive from 2016 on SDA implementation, performance and funding uptake, and what specific questions did you ask to assure yourself that SDA funding was being implemented and not missed?
7. How can you assure the Committee that you exercised appropriate oversight, when SDA funding went unclaimed for years, tenants were unaware of SDA arrangements, and no system existed to identify eligible participants and their needs?

Thank you.

Ms Yvette Berry MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. By virtue of registration as a Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) provider, Housing ACT assumed responsibility for SDA implementation during this time period..
2. While Housing ACT registered to be a SDA provider, it did not operationalise this function and had not sought authority from government to do so. As such, no funding was accessible and no governance mechanisms were in place to oversee the performance as a SDA provider.
3. Refer answer to question 2.
4. Housing ACT had not previously sought a decision by government to operationalise the SDA provider function. It provided me with an update on the work it had been doing to understand the operational, resourcing and policy requirements of being a registered provider, as well as the complex barriers to operationalising the SDA function, in July 2023.
5. Housing ACT's registration as an SDA provider was due to expire in December 2025. Housing ACT advised me that it was required to complete a recertification audit – which ensures providers meet the applicable standards and other requirements prescribed by the NDIS Practice Standards – if it was to renew its registration, with the recertification audit report due no later than 23 November 2025.

Housing ACT noted that while it may be able to achieve some of the audit outcomes based on its existing policies, practices and procedures, there were some fundamental settings that did not exist for Housing ACT to operationalise an SDA function. As such, it was unlikely to pass the audit. Some of these fundamental settings included service agreements with participants, accessibility of agreements, contracts and policies, and incompatibility of means-tested eligibility for public housing and SDA eligibility.

Housing ACT further noted that its decision to become an SDA provider was opportunistic insofar as it sought to maximise the transitional provisions being offered by the NDIA and did not adequately consider the demand, needs or preferences of its current or future tenants. Nor had it considered the necessary administrative structures required to operationalise a viable provider function.

This information informed my decision to agree to the deregistration, noting that by deregistering and gathering the necessary information about need, demand and preferences from people residing in its enrolled dwellings, the ACT Government could subsequently make a more informed decision about its future role in SDA provision and how this function should operate, including considering the fundamental question about which ACT Government entity may be most appropriate to maximise the viability of the service if it was established.

Deregistering also enables the ACT Government to consider its role in the provision of SDA in the context of the reform agenda arising from the Disability Royal Commission, the NDIS Review, the ACT Disability Strategy 2024-33 and the *Disability Inclusion Act 2024*.

6. The SDA provider function had not been operationalised, so there was no regular reporting on implementation, performance and funding uptake.

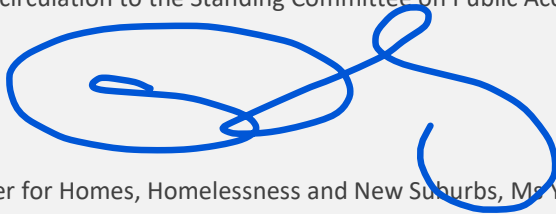
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Since I became aware that Housing ACT had registered for SDA and enrolled dwellings, I have been working to understand and resolve the barriers to properly operationalising SDA.

7. As I indicated in my statement to the Standing Committee on Social Policy at its Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2024-25 on 10 November 2025, the timeframe for Housing ACT's consideration of the operational, resourcing and policy requirements of being a registered provider to inform the government's future decision making around SDA did not meet expectations. As such, I referred the matter to the Auditor-General, who declined to inquire into the matter.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and Administration

Signature:



Date:

02/01/26

By the Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs, Ms Yvette Berry MLA