



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 Disability, Carers and Community Services

Reference: HCSD

Hearing: 15 June 2026

In relation to: SDA - Due Diligence on SDA Barriers

Question received: 20 June 2026

Answer Due: 29 June 2026

Minister, these questions are about the next steps to access SDA

1. What actions are you now taking to ensure people with disability can access appropriate, accessible housing in the absence of SDA delivery by Housing ACT?
2. Will you commit to:
 - a. establishing a disability housing strategy
 - b. clarifying Government's role in SDA
 - c. ensuring SDA funding is accessed through alternative providers?
3. Given the identified barriers, data gaps, legal conflicts, lack of capability and governance, do you accept that more could have been done earlier to operationalise SDA and ensure people with disability in Canberra received appropriate housing?

Thank you.

Ms Suzanne Orr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. Improving housing outcomes for people with disability is a key theme across national and ACT disability reform agendas, including the Disability Royal Commission, the NDIS Review, Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-31, the ACT Disability Strategy 2024-33, and the *Disability Inclusion Act 2024* (ACT). The ACT Government is actively engaged in progressing this reform agenda.

Ensuring access to safe, suitable and affordable housing is critical to achieving our commitment to building a more inclusive ACT, where people with disability can fully participate in all aspects of community life.

Under the First Action Plan of the ACT Disability Strategy, we are:

- a. Investigating options to establish a disability housing information and advisory service to provide a one stop housing hub for people with disability. This work is underway and we are seeking advice from the ACT disability community sector to inform the approach to progressing this action.
 - b. Ensuring new Housing ACT housing stock is meeting or exceeding the minimum accessibility standards under the National Construction Code for all new builds. Whilst this particular action falls under the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs, it is an important reminder that Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) is not the only type of housing suitable for people with disability.
2.
 - a) Under the *Disability Inclusion Act 2024*, the ACT Government will develop a disability inclusion strategy for inclusive homes and communities. The Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs is responsible for this strategy.
 - b) As noted in the ACT Government submission to the Inquiry, the information gathered through engagement with people living in the previously enrolled SDA dwellings, as well as findings from the Standing Committee's Inquiry, will be used to inform future decision making about the ACT Government's future role in the provision of SDA.
 - c) NDIS participants can exercise choice and control to access alternative SDA providers where they meet their needs.
3. Whilst no SDA funding was accessed, the ACT Government submission to the Inquiry noted that Housing ACT continued to maintain, repair and modify its properties to meet the needs of the people residing in its dwellings. I recognise, along with my colleagues, that people with disability are more vulnerable to system failures and welcome the Standing Committee's inquiry into these matters.

OFFICIAL

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

Signature:

Date: 29/06/26

By the Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services, Ms Suzanne Orr MLA