



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2024-2025

Ms Nicole Lawder MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),
Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked By: Mr Mark Parton MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Homelessness and Housing Services

Reference: Community Housing

Hearing Date: 24/07/2024

In relation to: Community Services Directorate and Occupancy Rates

QON lodgement Date: 26/07/2024

Answer Due date: 02/08/2024

The Productivity Commission's recent mid-year update indicated the ACT has the worst occupancy rate for community housing dwellings (86.4%, compared to 95.9% nationally), while more than one in 20 (5.2%) public housing dwellings were unoccupied as at 30 June 2023.

- (1) Can you please provide the most recent data available for occupancy rates in public housing in the ACT?
- (2) Can you outline
 - (a) the reasons for the ACT's comparatively poor performance on occupancy for social housing
 - (b) why social housing occupancy has steadily declined since 2020 (from 96.6% in 2020);and;
 - (c) what measures are included in the 2024-25 Budget to rectify this issue?

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

Social housing is made up of two types of housing, public housing and community housing. Housing ACT can report on public housing data. Community housing occupancy data is not reported to Housing ACT.

1. The occupancy rate for public housing as at 30 June 2024 is 94.3%.
2. (a) There are numerous factors that impact the occupancy rate including when properties become vacant, when new properties come online, when properties become vacant for repairs and maintenance and the needs and preferences of tenants when accepting an allocated property.
 - (b) The occupancy rate changes as vacant properties are sold, redeveloped, repaired, upgraded, maintained and allocated.
 - (c) In the 2024-25 Budget, the Government has allocated \$108.3 million to support growth, renewal, and repairs of public housing in the ACT. Furthermore, \$29.7 million has been

allocated to electrify all feasible public housing by 2030 and an additional \$28.1 million provisioned over three years from 2028-29. This investment helps Housing ACT to manage public housing stock, have homes which better meet the needs of tenants and can allocate homes to new tenants, based on their level of need, in a timelier way.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2024-2025

Signature: 

Date: 6/8/2024

By the Minister for Homelessness and Housing Services, Rebecca Vassarotti