



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–2024

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ms Leanne Castley MLA

Addressed to: Ms Catherine Rule, Director-General, Community Services Directorate

In relation to: Supported Housing for Seniors

Hearing: 18 February 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 29-30

Transcript provided: 20 February 2025

Answer Due: 27 February 2025, 05:00 PM

Ms Rule took on notice the following question(s):

MS CASTLEY: I am wondering, do you have any idea of how many supported housing places are currently used by seniors in the ACT?

Ms Rule: We would have to take that question on notice. I do not have that data available right now, Ms Castley.

MS CASTLEY: Okay. So I will—

Ms Orr: Is that something that could be helped by housing?

MS CASTLEY: It is possible. I am not sure.

Ms Orr: Yes, okay.

MS CASTLEY: Okay.

Ms Rule: We will have to have a look at what data we do have available on that.

MS CASTLEY: And if you have got, just some information about the demand for supported housing places for seniors and what that looks like at the moment? And how many units are required to sort of fully satisfy that for seniors' cohort in Canberra for housing?

Ms Rule: Yes again, I do not have any of my housing officials with me—

MS CASTLEY: No, okay.

Ms Rule: So we can take that question on notice.

Minister Orr: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The ACT Government also works to engage with clients on longer term housing options including both public and community housing.

Housing ACT does not provide supported housing for seniors, however, provides public housing for people over the age of 65.

As at 30 December 2024:

- a) 3,252 people aged 65 years or older are public housing tenants with Housing ACT.
- b) 1,764 properties with Housing ACT are classed as Aged Persons Units.
- c) There are 314 applicants aged 65 years or older on the Housing ACT waitlist.

Through the ACT Government's Housing Assistance programs, the Directorate funds a continuum of services which provide a range of accommodation and supports for clients based on their circumstances. This includes supporting seniors in crisis accommodation through to transition and supported housing options to support people at risk or experiencing homelessness.

Specialist homelessness services funding includes the following programs supporting seniors in the ACT:

- The YWCA Canberra support 8 women over the age of 55 at Betty Searle House.
- Salvo's Housing support up to 23 people over the age of 45, most of them seniors.
- Argyle Community Housing support over 55 years olds in 53 properties in Conder.

The number of older people supported each year through the Specialist Homelessness Sector is outlined below.

AIHW Specialist Homelessness Services Annual Report 2023–24

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-2024
Older people (aged 55 years and over)	294	255	300	361	447

Waitlists are managed by individual services.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:

By the Minister for Seniors and Veterans, Suzanne Orr MLA

Date:

06/03/25